

STATE OF MINNESOTA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



MARK DAYTON
GOVERNOR

Executive Order 11-32

Directing the Work of the Environmental Quality Board

I, Mark Dayton, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

Whereas, the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is composed of nine state agency heads, five citizen members, and a governor's representative, who serves as chair;

Whereas, the EQB is directed by law to:

1. Determine which environmental problems of interdepartmental concern to state government it shall consider and initiate interdepartmental investigations into those matters that it determines are in need of study, including but not limited to topics of future population and settlement patterns, air and water resources and quality, solid waste management, transportation and utility corridors, economically productive open space, energy policy and need, growth and development, and land use planning;
2. Review programs of state agencies that significantly affect the environment and coordinate those it determines are interdepartmental in nature, and ensure agency compliance with state environmental policy; and

Whereas, Minnesota's environmental review processes are complex, with multiple policy-setting and governing bodies, and are in need of review and revision to ensure that they respond to the public value of promoting economic growth, while also protecting Minnesota's precious natural resources; and

Whereas, the EQB by virtue of its composition is uniquely able to align state economic, energy and environmental policies to create a sustainable future for the our state, our economy, and our environment; and

Whereas, a well-functioning EQB can advance this Administration's goal to deliver the best services to the public at the best price; and

Whereas, the EQB does not have sufficient dedicated staff resources to undertake these vital planning and policy coordination functions.

Now, Therefore, in order to ensure that the EQB fulfills its policy-making and coordination roles I hereby order that:

1. By November 15, 2012, the EQB shall evaluate and make recommendations on how to improve environmental review, given the changes made in Chapter 4, House File 1, and the recommendations contained in the Office of the Legislative Auditor Environmental Review and Permitting Report.
2. By November 15, 2012, the EQB will evaluate and make recommendations for improved environmental governance and coordination.
3. By November 15, 2012, the EQB shall prepare an environmental and energy report card that identifies metrics which the State of Minnesota can use to measure its performance and progress protecting Minnesota's valuable air, water and land resources. Once initially established, the environment and energy report card shall be an annual report with renewed priorities, initiatives, and goals and an updated report card.
4. By January 15, 2013, the EQB shall organize and host an environmental congress focused on the current state of Minnesota's environment, utilizing the elements in the report card.
5. Each member agency of the EQB shall dedicate to the EQB the staff resources requested by the EQB Chair, for purposes of carrying out the work directed by this Executive Order.

Under Minnesota Statutes 2011, Section 4.035, subdivision 2, this Executive Order is effective 15 days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State and shall remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2011, Section 4.035, subdivision 3.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand on November 16, 2011.



Mark Dayton
Governor

Filed According to Law:



Mark Ritchie
Secretary of State

