



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2010-2011 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET **Water Permit Application Costs** **\$20,000 FY 2010 / \$10,000 FY 2011**

It is needed because

This proposal assures the recovery of costs for the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) evaluation of large water use project proposals that require in excess of 100 million gallons per year. It clarifies that fees are required for the evaluation of proposals that do not result in a permit application because: 1) the proposal is dropped and does not proceed; or 2) the proposal will be supplied by a municipal water system that has an existing permit. It is also needed to recover costs for field inspections and resource monitoring that may be required after environmental review activities are completed and permits have been issued.

Technical changes assure that the required fees are reasonable and in compliance with M.S. 16A.1285.

Major program elements

Costs to evaluate large projects often exceed the normal permit application fee. In 2007, M.S. 103G.301 was amended to require projects using large volumes of water to pay the full cost of permitting and environmental review. The funds collected under this provision were appropriated to the department for FY 2008 and FY 2009. This initiative will continue this appropriation into the future.

This proposal would extend the appropriation of these funds to the department indefinitely and would also appropriate the fees collected for field inspections and monitoring to the department to cover these costs on an ongoing basis.

Priority-setting

DNR is responsible for the development and protection of the state's water resources. These conflicting goals require that water use proposals be carefully evaluated to assure that water resources are

adequate and sustainable for current uses and future generations.

Significant amounts of staff time and resources are required to evaluate large water use proposals. Project proposers should be required to pay the full costs incurred by DNR for the project review.

Project locations

Project locations are statewide.

Key measures and outcomes

Project proposers will pay the full costs for environmental review, permitting, field inspections, and resource monitoring.

Financial implications

There is no net fiscal impact. Fees that are collected will be used to cover expenses incurred.

Contact

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