ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

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The DNR is a regulatory agency with responsibility to ensure compliance with Wisconsin environmental laws.

Staff are expected to address violations, in alignment with program priorities, through the Stepped Enforcement process.
REGULATORY PROGRAMS

- COMPLIANCE
- EDUCATION
- ENFORCEMENT
COMPLIANCE

• COMPLIANCE (Regulations-Licenses and Permits)
  – Annual Land Application Reporting, Logs, Reports, Compliance Audits, Inspections, and Complaint Follow-ups (Permit, License, and Certification requirements in accordance with Regulations)
EDUCATION

• Certification Requirements and Continuing Education Requirements
  – Classes (appropriate for circumstance)
Enforcement actions are initiated to:

- protect public health & the environment
- eliminate competitive advantage
- maintain program integrity
- serve as a deterrent
Stepped Enforcement

- Informal Contacts
- Notice of Noncompliance
- Request for Secondary Enforcement
- Notice of Violation
- Enforcement Conference
- Orders
- Referral to DOJ/DA/EPA
- Prosecution / Citation
ENFORCEMENT TOOLS

• PROGRAM STAFF
  – Compliance audits, letters
  – Notice of Noncompliance (NON)

• ENFORCEMENT STAFF (Enforcement Specialists and Wardens)
  – Notice of Violation (NOV)
  – Enforcement Conferences (EC)
  – Administrative Orders (subject to statutory authority)
  – Citations or Citations with Orders (subject to statutory authority)
  – Referral to Department of Justice
Why do we use it?

• It works

• Most violations are resolved at the NON, NOV and EC level, which highlights the importance of timely notification and response following the detection of violations.

• It makes the best use of limited field, enforcement and legal resources.

• Courts are strained and voluntary settlement and mediation are strongly encouraged before trial.
Questions?

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