



**DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

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February 12, 2010

The Honorable Senator Hunhoff
 Chair, Joint Appropriations Committee
 South Dakota Legislature, Capitol Building
 Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Senator Hunhoff:

At the budget hearing for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Representative Wismer requested that DENR attempt to provide a list of services that were eliminated due to the FTE reductions that occurred in DENR during 1995 through 1997. As we discussed at the hearing, many of these reductions resulted from organizational changes such as combining five divisions into two, eliminating the deputy secretary position, and streamlining the management of the department. In fact, through this consolidation and streamlining effort, at least nine supervisory and management positions were eliminated during 1995 to 1997 to include the deputy secretary, three division directors, one program administrator, one business manager, and three regional office supervisors.

While this did indeed have the positive effect of streamlining our management in the department, it had the negative effect of shifting those supervisory and management responsibilities onto other existing staff with no increase in compensation. Plus it essentially eliminated any "double-depth" capacity in our supervisory and management positions, as we have since found out.

In addition to those nine supervisory and management positions, we were asked to cut another 16.8 FTE during that two year period. While these positions were eliminated about 15 years ago, as requested, we have tried to identify to the best of our collective memories some of the affected services that were either eliminated or scaled back as a result of those reductions.

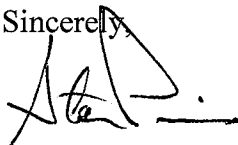
Services Cut or Curtailed in DENR Due to FTE Reductions during FY 1995-1997

1.	Eliminated field investigations to find new ground water supplies for municipalities and rural water systems that either need more water or better quality water to meet standards
2.	Eliminated long-term ground water quality monitoring program to track pesticide and nitrogen levels in the Parker-Centerville, Bowdle, and Delmont aquifers
3.	Eliminated the DENR water chemistry laboratory and capability to run water quality tests in-house
4.	Eliminated the "ACTIVE Cities Program" designed to provide on-site assistance to help small communities with limited resources provide drinking water and wastewater services
5.	Eliminated "Project Save" which was an outreach initiative to provide K-12 teachers with environmental materials to be used in the classroom

6.	Eliminated DENR support of "Water Festivals" which was another outreach initiative to provide K-12 students opportunities to learn about the environment through field activities
7.	Eliminated the DENR newsletter that was regularly published to report on current environmental news and upcoming changes in federal environmental regulations
8.	Eliminated efforts to identify and remediate old abandoned mines in the Black Hills that pose threats to water quality and public safety
9.	Eliminated geologic investigations of selected underground rock materials to identify potential for new economic development
10.	Eliminated all department personnel functions as that became centralized within the Bureau of Personnel
11.	Eliminated all computer support functions as that became centralized within the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications
12.	Eliminated department vehicle maintenance and replacement activities as that became centralized within the Bureau of Administration
13.	Eliminated "Quality Education System" training that was designed to promote continuous quality improvement among DENR staff
14.	Eliminated DENR's participation in the Interstate Council on Water Policy which seeks to influence federal water policies
15.	Eliminated DENR's participation in the Missouri River Basin Association which seeks to find consensus among the seven basin states regarding management of the Missouri River
16.	Eliminated DENR's centralized Tribal liaison activities to provide help on environmental issues to Tribal governments in South Dakota
17.	Eliminated on-site technical assistance services to provide help in reducing the generation of federally listed hazardous wastes
18.	Eliminated new initiatives and on-site assistance to encourage and promote reduction, recycling, and reuse of various wastes statewide
19.	Eliminated separate water quality reviews under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act for surface water discharge permits
20.	Reduced the number of annual inspections conducted to regulate and provide technical assistance to regulated drinking water systems, wastewater treatment facilities, regulated storage tanks, water right permits, and hazardous waste generators

As you will note from the above list, any activity that was not deemed by DENR management at that time to be directly related to our core functions was eliminated. And in fact, we found we cut staff too far and were not able to complete all our core functions adequately, which is why we requested two additional FTE in FY 1999 which the Legislature approved. While DENR has seen essentially no growth in FTE since then, our workloads have continued to increase as we testified during our budget hearing. It is only due to our dedicated and highly experienced employees coupled with the use of new technology that DENR is able to still get the job done with no increase in FTE. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. If you need anything further, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Pirner, PE
Secretary