



Waste Management Board Overview

The following information gives an overview of the Waste Management Board's responsibilities, member qualifications and compensation, and board meetings.

Responsibilities

The Waste Management Board (board) is responsible for carrying out the purposes and provisions of the Virginia Waste Management Act and compatible federal provisions. The board has general supervision and control over waste management activities in the Commonwealth of Virginia and primarily considers the adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations at board meetings. The Department of Environmental Quality administers day-to-day activities of the waste programs and has permitting authority.

Activities of the board may include:

- Developing and updating state waste management plans and providing waste management technical assistance
- Promoting the recycling and reuse of waste material
- Adopting regulations specifying requirements for local and regional solid waste management plans
- Developing and implementing a plan for the testing of recycle residues and for the management and transportation of all waste tires in Virginia

The board upholds regulations related to:

- Virginia Waste Management Act and applicable federal acts
- Abandonment of solid waste disposal, transfer and treatment facilities
- Implementing and managing the Reduction of Heavy Metals in Packaging Act
- Commercial transport, loading and off-loading of non-hazardous solid waste, municipal and industrial sludge, and regulated medical waste by ship, barge or other vessel
- Manner and method by which hazardous materials are handled and transported
- Requirements of financial responsibility from owners of abandoned hazardous waste sites
- Hazardous waste site proposals

The board is also responsible for hazardous waste activities, including:

- Possibly requiring facilities that generate, transport, store or dispose of hazardous waste to maintain a manifest and reporting system, and classify hazardous wastes in accordance with federal law
- Entering into agreements with the federal government, other states or interstate agencies relating to the control of radioactive waste and instituting programs to train personnel for this purpose
- Regulating the management of mixed, low-level radioactive waste
- Issuing emergency regulations and administrative orders in the event, or imminent threat, of the release of waste
- Reducing hazards and nuisances dangerous to public health, safety and environment created by improper management of substances within board jurisdiction

Member qualifications

The governor appoints seven Virginia citizens to serve as board members. The selection is based on merit without regard to political affiliation. Members shall, by their education, training, or experience, be knowledgeable of waste management and shall be fairly representative of agriculture, conservation, industry, and public health.

Compensation

Board members receive reasonable and necessary travel expenses as determined by state regulations.

Meetings

The board meets about two times per year. The average length of the meetings is approximately three hours. The meetings usually take place in Richmond. DEQ provides members with agenda materials to help them prepare for the meetings. The board's Public Comment Policy at Board Meetings is available at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/lawsregulations/citizenboards.aspx>.

Information on public meetings and public hearings of the board and DEQ is available on the [DEQ web site](#), the [Virginia Regulatory Town Hall](#) and the [Commonwealth Calendar](#).

Board Regulations and Department of Environmental Quality Guidance

Regulations adopted by the board are available on the DEQ website and the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall. In addition to regulations adopted by the board, there are numerous documents which provide information or guidance of a general nature to agency staff or the public to interpret or implement statutes or regulations. These documents are generally referred to as guidance documents. The guidance documents which address matters of the board are also available on the DEQ website and the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall. The DEQ web address is: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/LandProtectionRevitalization/Laws,Regulations,Guidance.aspx>.