

Build legal services capacity to support environmental programs



Additional capacity will speed permit reviews, support rulemaking, enforcement.

Challenge

The workload for MPCA's legal services team has increased. The MPCA does not have an adequate number of attorneys to meet growing needs. Minnesotans expect their government to ensure environmental laws are up to date and followed, and regulated parties need permits written clearly and quickly. The MPCA needs additional legal services staff to deliver environmental protections envisioned by the Legislature.

Why it's important

MPCA's legal services team is engaged with many types of work, including permitting, compliance, enforcement, and rulemaking. Key legislative priorities, such as rulemaking on cumulative impacts, air toxics, and odor control, require legal support. In addition, the need for attorney-to-attorney interaction with regulated parties has increased demand for legal services time.

Proposal

\$525,000

Environmental Fund - FY2024 onward

Governor Walz recommends an appropriation of \$525,000 in FY2024 and each subsequent year from the Environmental Fund to support MPCA's legal services team at a level that matches the expectations of the Legislature, the regulated community, and the people of Minnesota.



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