

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
REQUEST TO ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
February 18, 2010**

**BACKGROUND**

In December 2009, the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) completed its effort to develop a new model for environmental and resource management in Michigan. The resulting "Roadmap" presents a series of observations on our current structure for natural resources and environmental management and provides eight broad sets of recommendations. These recommendations call for focusing efforts on desired outcomes agreed upon with affected interests, devoting government and private resources to clear priorities, increasing collaboration and partnerships, encouraging innovation and voluntary stewardship, and developing a broad-based legal and funding structure for environmental and natural resources management.

In January 2010, the Department of Natural Resource and Environment (DNRE) was created from the former Departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality. Created by Executive Orders 2009-45 and 2009-54, the DNRE itself evidences the need to adopt an integrated human health and ecosystem approach to environmental and resource management. The DNRE Transition Report presented to Governor Jennifer M. Granholm in January 2010 explicitly recognizes the need to implement the EAC's recommendations in the structuring and administration of the DNRE.

**REQUEST**

The DNRE requests that the EAC review, advise, and help formulate how the Roadmap can be incorporated into the operations of the new DNRE during 2010. Specifically, the DNRE requests that the EAC:

1. Identify a small number of benchmarks that can be conveyed to staff and outside parties as goals of the transition process to be completed by December 2010.
2. Review the DNRE's current use of outcome based performance measures, advise on the improvement of those measures, and recommend a process for development of further outcome based measures.
3. Advise on identified DNRE process re-engineering efforts.
4. Recommend a process for increasing public involvement opportunities related to environmental programs.
5. Advise on specific efforts at program integration.
6. Identify, evaluate, and prioritize innovative mechanisms for encouraging improved environmental performance.