



# Waste and Hazardous Materials Division

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Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

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**Hazardous Waste Section**  
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Manifest Processing Unit  
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**Radiological Protection and  
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Indoor Radon Program  
800-723-6642

**Storage Tank and Solid Waste  
Section**  
517-335-4035

Solid Waste Management Unit  
517-241-2924

Storage Tank Unit  
517-335-7211

**Enforcement Section**  
517-373-7848

**Low-Level Radioactive Waste  
Authority**  
517-241-1252

The [Waste and Hazardous Materials Division \(WHMD\)](#) administers a diverse number of prevention programs to protect the environment and the public's health through proper management of hazardous products; solid, liquid, and hazardous waste; medical waste; radioactive materials; and radioactive waste. The WHMD is organized into six sections: Hazardous Waste, Radiological Protection and Medical Waste, Storage Tank and Solid Waste, Enforcement, Field Operations, and Administrative Services and includes the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Authority.

## **Hazardous Waste Section**

The hazardous waste program staff reviews construction permits and operating license applications and makes recommendations for the approval or denial of permits and operating licenses for [treatment, storage, and disposal facilities](#) accepting hazardous waste. Public participation in the form of public meetings and submittal of written documentation is part of this review and recommendation process. Staff conducts sampling along with operation and maintenance inspections to ensure a facility is in compliance with its permit specifications. Plans for permanent closure and cleanup of regulated hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities are reviewed and approved by staff. In addition, staff reviews and develops waste determinations and delisting petitions and provides the public and regulated community with interpretations concerning waste recycling, reuse, and proper management requirements. This program also processes [manifests](#) for the tracking of hazardous waste from generation to disposal, permits and registers all [hazardous and liquid industrial waste transporters](#), and administers [hazardous waste user charges](#). This program is responsible for administration of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and [Part 111](#), Hazardous Waste Management, [Part 121](#), Liquid Industrial Wastes, [Part 167](#), Used Oil Recycling, and [Part 171](#), Battery Disposal, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Act 451).

## **Radiological Protection and Medical Waste Section**

The radiological protection program monitors the use of radioactive materials in medical, educational, industrial, and governmental facilities to ensure protection of patients, employees, and the public from unnecessary exposure to ionizing radiation. The medical waste program provides regulations for the handling, storage, treatment, and disposal of medical waste. The section's duties are carried out by two units.

The [Radioactive Material](#) and [Medical Waste Unit](#) is responsible for the registration and inspection of over 500 users of radioactive materials subject to state control under the authority of Part 135, Radiation Control, of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended (Act 368). The unit also responds to incidents involving radioactive materials, such as transportation accidents and radioactive materials discovered at scrap yards or landfills, and oversees the cleanup of sites contaminated with radioactive materials. In addition, about 13,000 generators of medical waste are registered as producing facilities of medical waste under the authority of the Medical Waste Regulatory Act, Part 138, Medical Waste, of Act 368.

The Radiological Assessment Unit is responsible for developing and implementing plans for responding to radiological emergencies at Michigan's nuclear power plants and provides specialized services for assessing radiation in the environment. The unit is responsible for maintaining the Nuclear Facilities Emergency Response Procedures and the radiological aspects of the Michigan Emergency Management Plan. These [nuclear facilities program](#) efforts are conducted in cooperation with other state agencies and under the overall emergency response coordination responsibilities of the Michigan Department of State Police. The unit is also responsible for an environmental monitoring network around each of Michigan's nuclear power plants. The [environmental monitoring](#) program collects several types of samples, including direct radiation, air, surface water, precipitation, and milk from the environs of the nuclear power plant sites and a control site and analyzes these

**DEQ Internet Home Page:**  
[www.michigan.gov/deqwaste](http://www.michigan.gov/deqwaste)  
**Environmental Assistance  
Center:**  
800-662-9278  
**Pollution Emergencies:**  
800-292-4706

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samples in its radiological laboratory. The unit also includes the [indoor radon program](#), an education and outreach program with the purpose of increasing awareness of the health risks associated with exposure to elevated indoor radon levels, encouraging radon testing of homes, and encouraging citizens to take action to reduce their exposure once elevated levels are found. Staff operates a toll-free radon hotline and works with local health departments to make test kits and information materials accessible throughout the state.

### **Storage Tank and Solid Waste Section**

The storage tank program oversees the design, construction, installation, and operations of certain [underground storage tanks](#) to prevent releases of regulated substances (petroleum and hazardous substances) and [aboveground storage tanks](#) storing flammable and combustible liquids, liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, and hydrogen (rules under development) for the purposes of fire safety and preventing releases of regulated materials. Staff also reviews innovative technology proposals; reviews tank testing methodologies, new products and technical standards, and tank lining methods for underground storage tanks; reviews tank installation plans; and performs tank inspections. The program collects and maintains registration forms, tank closure notices, and fees for tanks. This program is responsible for administration of Part 211, Underground Storage Tank Regulations, of Act 451, and the Fire Prevention Code, 1941 PA 207, as amended.

The solid waste program oversees the [construction permits](#) and [operating licenses](#) for municipal and industrial nonhazardous [solid waste disposal facilities](#), including landfills, transfer stations, and processing plants. Staff assists counties with [solid waste planning](#). In addition, this program has oversight of the storage, transportation, and recycling of [scrap tires](#), which includes working with local governments to encourage them to submit applications for funding for the cleanup, removal, and proper disposal or recycling of abandoned scrap tires. This section also provided the Solid Waste Alternatives Program grants that promoted the elimination, reduction, or recycling of waste materials. Staff continues to oversee grant activities and provide technical expertise. This program is responsible for administration of [Part 115](#), Solid Waste Management, [Part 169](#), Scrap Tires, and [Part 195](#), Environmental Protection Bond Implementation, of Act 451.

### **Field Operations Section**

Field staff located in [ten offices](#) throughout the state are involved in compliance and enforcement activities for the hazardous waste, solid waste, scrap tire, underground storage tank, and aboveground storage tank programs. They have primary responsibilities for assessing compliance at regulated facilities, conducting inspections at those facilities, taking steps to resolve noncompliance, and referring escalated enforcement cases to the Enforcement Section. Field staff can be contacted at the following telephone numbers:

Cadillac District Office .....	231-775-3960 ext. 6702	Kalamazoo District Office .....	269-567-3590
Detroit Field Office .....	313-456-4663	Lansing District Office .....	517-335-6136
Gaylord Field Office .....	989-705-3425	Saginaw Bay District Office .....	989-686-8025 ext. 8906
Grand Rapids District Office .....	616-356-0290	Southeast Michigan District Office	586-753-3833
Jackson District Office .....	517-780-7924	Upper Peninsula District Office .....	906-346-8540

### **Enforcement Section**

This section coordinates WHMD efforts to ensure compliance with permit requirements and state or federal laws when the violations are not corrected with Field Operations Section efforts. [Enforcement](#) is done either administratively or through the court systems in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Attorney General.

### **Low-Level Radioactive Waste Authority**

The [Low-Level Radioactive Waste Authority](#) (LLRWA) was created to fulfill state responsibilities under federal law for managing and assuring disposal capacity for the low-level radioactive waste produced in Michigan. Current program goals for the LLRWA include: monitoring waste management activities by Michigan waste generators and developing an annual report to the Legislature; advising the Governor and Legislature on federal and state policies and programs concerning nuclear waste management, transportation, and disposal issues; and serving as a resource for information on federal and state low-level radioactive waste management and programs.