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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 167

01/17/2019 Authored by Lee, Long, Becker-Finn, Wagenius, Hansen and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to environment; providing for offers of supplemental environmental projects
1.3 in conjunction with certain enforcement actions against polluters; proposing coding
1.4 for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. [116.0735] SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have
1.8 the meanings given.

1.9 (b) "Agency" means the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

1.10 (c) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

1.11 (d) "Noncompliance" means:

1.12 (1) violation by a regulated facility of a quantitative pollution emissions limit contained
1.13 in a state or federal statute or rule or in a permit issued by the agency; or

1.14 (2) release of a pollutant or hazardous substance, as defined in section 115B.02.

1.15 (e) "Public health supplemental environmental project" means a supplemental
1.16 environmental project that provides diagnostic, preventive, or health care treatment related
1.17 to the actual or potential harm to human health of persons exposed to pollution as a result
1.18 of a regulated facility's noncompliance. Public health supplemental environmental project
1.19 includes but is not limited to collection and analysis of epidemiological data; collection and
1.20 analysis of blood, fluid, or tissue samples; medical examinations of potentially affected
1.21 persons; and medical treatment and rehabilitation therapy of persons determined to be
1.22 affected by pollution from a noncompliant regulated facility.

2.1 (f) "Supplemental environmental project" means a project that benefits the environment  
 2.2 or public health and that a regulated facility agrees to undertake, though not legally required  
 2.3 to do so, as part of a settlement with respect to an enforcement action taken by the agency  
 2.4 to resolve noncompliance.

2.5 (g) "Supplemental environmental project type" or "project type" means a category of  
 2.6 supplemental environmental project, such as pollution prevention, environmental protection  
 2.7 and restoration, public health, and others, as enumerated in the agency's "Discussion of  
 2.8 Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) as a means to achieve Pollution Prevention  
 2.9 or other Environmental Gains," October 2009, or successor agency guidance documents.

2.10 Subd. 2. **Supplemental environmental project.** Notwithstanding section 16A.151, the  
 2.11 commissioner may offer a regulated facility subject to an agency enforcement action the  
 2.12 option to conduct, or pay for a third party to conduct, a supplemental environmental project  
 2.13 whenever the commissioner determines it to be in the public interest.

2.14 Subd. 3. **Public health supplemental environmental project.** (a) Notwithstanding  
 2.15 section 16A.151, the commissioner must offer a regulated facility subject to an agency  
 2.16 enforcement action the option to conduct, or pay for a third party to conduct, a public health  
 2.17 supplemental environmental project whenever the commissioner determines that pollution  
 2.18 resulting from noncompliance may result in measurable impacts on the health of the  
 2.19 population exposed to the pollution. In making this determination, the commissioner must  
 2.20 consider:

2.21 (1) the extent and duration of the pollution;

2.22 (2) the nature of the pollutant and its potential effect on human health, taking into  
 2.23 consideration its tendency to:

2.24 (i) persist and bioaccumulate in the body;

2.25 (ii) produce adverse human health effects at very low levels of concentration; and

2.26 (iii) be associated with harmful reproductive or developmental impacts;

2.27 (3) the level of concern expressed by the population exposed to the pollutant regarding  
 2.28 potential health effects from exposure;

2.29 (4) the cumulative levels and effects of past and current pollution from all sources on  
 2.30 the exposed population; and

2.31 (5) demographic, economic, and social characteristics of the population exposed to the  
 2.32 pollutant that may impair the population's ability to withstand, respond to, or recover from

3.1 the exposure or that increase the population's likelihood of sustaining an adverse effect from  
3.2 the exposure.

3.3 (b) The requirements of this subdivision do not affect the commissioner's authority to  
3.4 offer other types of supplemental environmental projects for consideration by a regulated  
3.5 facility.

3.6 Subd. 4. **Community participation.** The commissioner must ensure that, before  
3.7 developing the specific activities that must be included in a public health supplemental  
3.8 environmental project, the commissioner and any third party designated to manage the  
3.9 public health supplemental environmental project meet directly with the population  
3.10 potentially affected by the pollution to understand their concerns and incorporate those  
3.11 concerns into the public health supplemental environmental project.

3.12 Subd. 5. **Legislative report.** By January 1, 2020, and each January 1 thereafter, the  
3.13 commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate  
3.14 and house of representatives committees with primary jurisdiction over environmental policy  
3.15 and finance, containing, at a minimum, the following information:

3.16 (1) for the most recent calendar year, and each of the three preceding calendar years:

3.17 (i) the number of enforcement actions taken by the agency against regulated facilities  
3.18 for pollution emissions and the amount of penalties imposed and collected;

3.19 (ii) the number of offers of supplemental environmental projects the commissioner made  
3.20 to regulated facilities, by project type;

3.21 (iii) the number of offers of supplemental environmental projects accepted and  
3.22 implemented by regulated facilities, by project type; and

3.23 (iv) the amount of funds spent on supplemental environmental projects implemented by  
3.24 regulated facilities, reported by range of expenditures and by project type;

3.25 (2) for the most recent calendar year, a summary of the activities of each supplemental  
3.26 environmental project implemented; and

3.27 (3) for the most recent calendar year, for each public health supplemental environmental  
3.28 project conducted, the number of persons:

3.29 (i) from whom data and samples were collected and the results of their analysis; and

3.30 (ii) who underwent medical examinations, treatment, and rehabilitation, each reported  
3.31 separately.

3.32 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.