



**FY25
Presentation
to the Joint
Finance Committee**

February 22, 2024



Our Divisions



Air Quality

- Air Permits
- Air Monitoring
- Vehicle Emissions
- RGGI



Climate, Coastal and Energy

- Climate and Sustainability
- Coastal Zone
- Energy Efficiency and Renewables
- Federal Consistency for Coastal Projects
- Research Reserve: Blackbird Creek and St. Jones
- Weatherization



Community Affairs

- Environmental Crimes Unit
- Community Ombudsman
- Small Business Ombudsman
- Regulatory Advisory Service
- Public Affairs/Marketing/Communications
- Legislative Affairs

Our Divisions



Fish and Wildlife

- 19 Wildlife Areas, 60 Boat Ramps
- Boat Registration and Boating Safety
- Delaware Bayshore
- Hunting and Fishing Licenses
- Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Officers
- Mosquito Control
- Fisheries and Wildlife Management



Parks and Recreation

- **Gold Medal Winning!**
- 17 State Parks
- 20 Vendors and Concessionaires
- Camping, Cottages and Cabins
- 8 million visitors annually
- Outstanding volunteer support
- Two-time Gold Medal Winning Park System



Waste and Hazardous Substances

- Boiler Safety
- Emergency Response
- Recycling
- Site Remediation, including Brownfields
- Solid Waste Permits
- Storage Tanks

Our Divisions



Water

- Dock and Subaqueous Permits
- Environmental Lab
- Septic Permits
- Wastewater Treatment Systems
- Well Permits



Watershed Stewardship

- Beach Preservation
- Dam Safety
- Drainage
- Dredging
- Tax Ditches
- Water Quality in 45 Watersheds
- Wetlands
- Waterway Marking



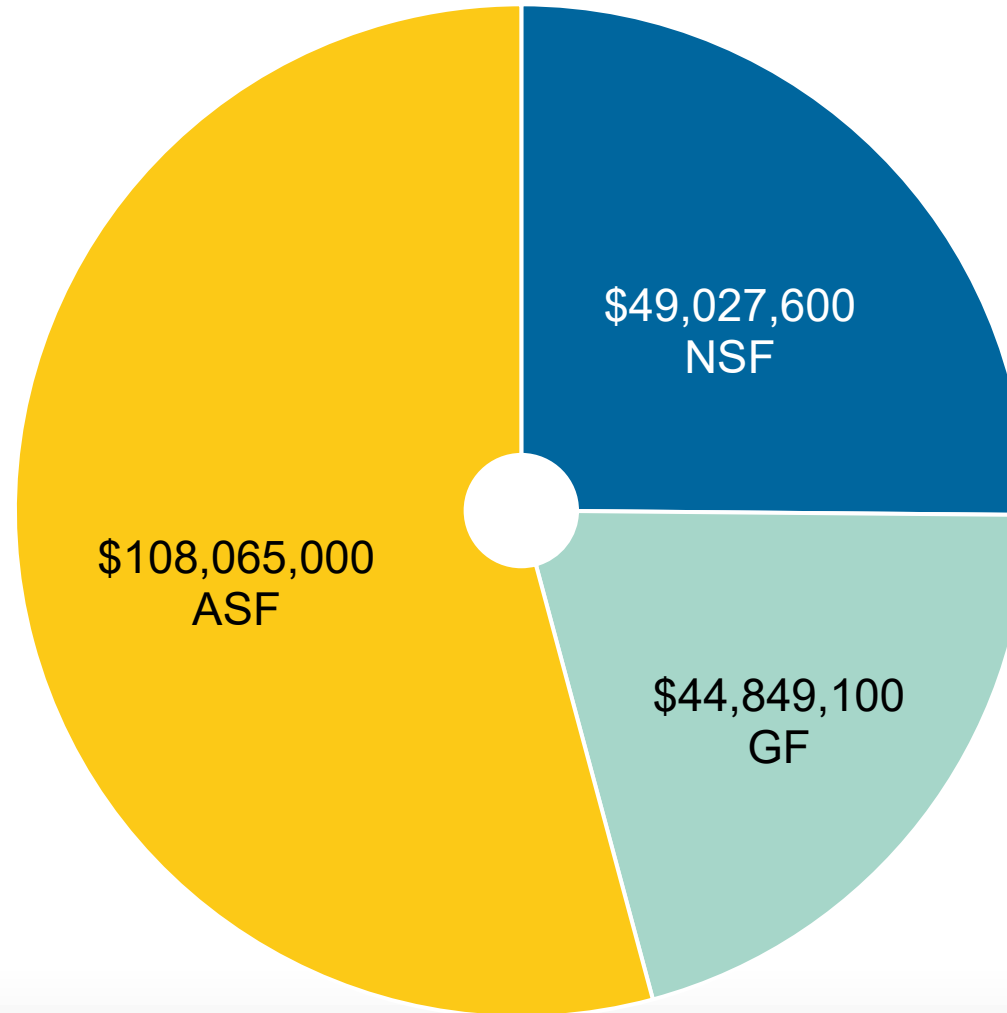
Office of the Secretary

- Environmental Finance
- Fiscal Management
- Innovation and Technology Services
- Human Resources
- Operations
- Environmental Justice Office

FY25 Operating Budget: Funding Sources

54% Appropriated Special Funds

Collected revenues, fees, and other charges by DNREC for services within spending limits set in the state budget



24% Non-Appropriated Special Funds

Primarily federal funds, with other non-recurring revenues, such as penalty funds, wetland mitigation/restoration settlements and donations

22% General Funds

State funds allocated by the General Assembly and Governor as part of the state budget

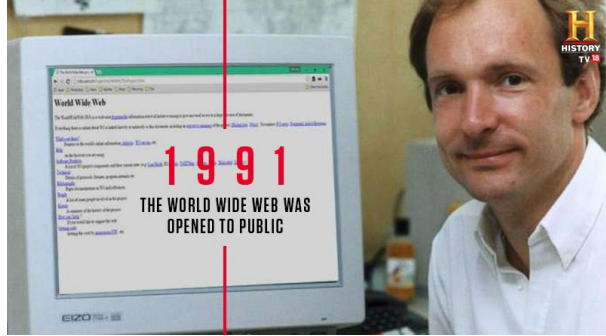


DNREC Priority Moving Forward

Fee Increases


- DNREC is largely self-funded (22% of our budget is General Fund)
- Many DNREC permit and licensing fees have not been increased since 1991
- IIJA and IRA projects will require permits and must be completed on time to maintain funding
- Without fee increases, DNREC will not be able to afford state pay policy increases and will likely reduce services, including building a backlog of permit requests

The last time many of DNREC fees were increased was 1991





DNREC Proposed Fee Updates

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- DNREC proposes 155 changes:
 - 101 Increases
 - 45 New
 - 9 Decrease
 - DNREC must cover required salary increases for positions that are not funded by the General Fund.
 - Investments in technology allow us to serve our permittees better but also create responsibilities in maintaining tools and equipment that did not exist 32-plus years ago.
 - New issues emerge that require additional attention and analysis such as climate change, emerging contaminants, and enhanced support for underserved and overburdened communities.

DNREC Priorities in FY25 and the Future

- Fee Increases
- Climate Change
- Environmental Justice
- Clean Water Trust Fund/SRF
- Recruiting and Retaining Great Employees

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FY25 Operating Budget: GRB Items

Natural Resources Police Captain

- The passing of House Bill 206 requires every police agency in the state to be accredited by the Delaware Police Accreditation Commission by July 1, 2028.
- Manage the Departments 3 Natural Resource Police Units administrative responsibilities to include acquiring and maintaining state accreditation, maintaining and updating enforcement policy and procedures.

Requested: \$110,100 GF

Environmental Justice Community Providers

- Will enhance awareness and engagement through community outreach, capacity building, and program development.
- Manage organize and coordinate programs to assist community organizations and individuals with enhancing their understanding of the department's environmental decisions.

Requested: \$169,500 GF

FY25 Operating Budget: GRB Items

Paid Internship Program

- Will provide opportunities for qualified students and career-focused graduates to apply learned theory and experience to practical situations and to observe an organization first-hand.
- DNREC is currently losing volunteer interns and future recruits to private and public paid internship programs.

Requested: \$115,600 GF

ePermitting Digital Support

- Will support the technical coordination needed to implement federally mandated activities such as the NPDES e-Reporting Rule.
- Manage the coordination with EPA to resolve data transfer issues from the state's data reporting systems to the federal reporting systems.

Requested: \$201,618 GF

DNREC Holistically



We love our volunteers



DNREC
employees do
all they can
to support
the public
health,
natural
resources
and the
environment



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Thank you

