



Minnesota Army National Guard

Environmental Compliance

Meeting the Army's Triple Bottom Line



Purpose and Responsibilities

The MNARNG Environmental Compliance Team strives to attain or exceed compliance with all applicable U.S. Army, federal, state, or local laws to prevent pollution of air, land, and water resources that are vital to readiness and mission accomplishment. The Compliance Team is committed to preservation, protection, conservation, and restoration of the environment while providing environmental support to the MNARNG training and testing mission.

Programs

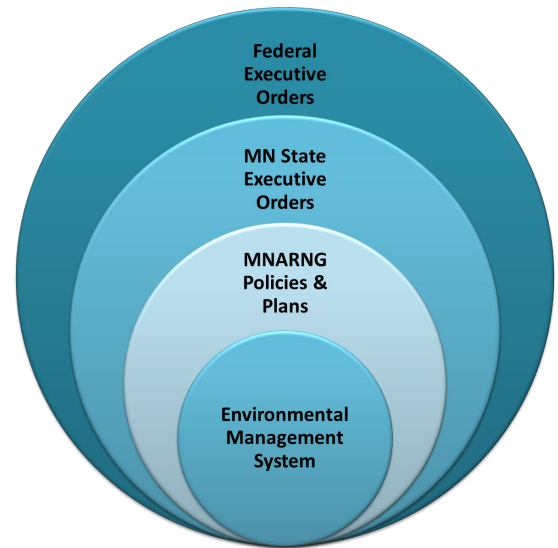
- Env Cleanup & Restoration
- Spill Planning and Training
- Solid Waste Management
- Air & Water Management
- Pest Management
- NEPA and ECP
- Hazardous Waste Management
- Sustainability
- Internal Compliance
- Site Assistance Visits for Environmental Requirements (SAVER)



Environmental Excellence in Compliance

Environmental Management System (eMS)

MNARNG Environmental Compliance is charged with securing the viability, resiliency, and efficiency of a state installation comprising 62 facilities in 58 communities along with the 53,000-acre Camp Ripley Training Center and 1500-acre Arden Hills Army Training Site. This is accomplished through an environmental management system, or eMS, to lessen the environmental impacts of MNARNG activities. The MNARNG sees eMS as a tool for mission accomplishment. Through continual improvement, the Compliance Team works to ensure excellence in complying with the law and preventing pollution. The MNARNG eMS enables standardization, institutionalization, and transferability of environmental programs, and integrates environmental management into other Command elements fostering a culture of sustainability and resilience.



Chemicals of Concern: PFAS

In conjunction with National Guard Bureau (NGB) G9, MNARNG coordinates an ongoing CERCLA investigations of per and polyfluoroalkyl substances with the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the MN Department of Health (MDH). Three facilities in the state, both AASF facilities and Camp Ripley, underwent the Preliminary Assessment (PA) and Site Inspection (SI) phases of CERCLA. The SI results indicate further investigation is warranted for both AASF #1 and Camp Ripley. The first phase of the Remedial Investigation (RI) phase wrapped up at Camp Ripley in November of 2024. During the initial prescriptive phase of the RI, both groundwater and soil samples were collected at multiple locations with the intent to provide a rough location and extent of PFAS contamination in known and suspected release areas.



Additional field work is tentatively scheduled for the summers of FY25 and FY26. The RI phase for AASF #1 is not budgeted at this time for FY2025. In addition, MNARNG conducts regular, statewide PFAS drinking water sampling at all of our facilities to ensure the safety of our Soldiers.

Fiscal Responsibility and Innovation

Lead-Acid Battery Management

The Environmental Quality (EQ) program uses the Six Sigma framework to emphasize continuous improvement using the Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, and Control (DMAIC) model.

To identify priority waste streams for reduction, MNARNG utilizes the DMAIC model to generate Pareto charts. Wet-cell batteries were creating issues for the maintenance shops and budgetary challenges within the organization. With the unreliability of local battery recyclers, the compliance regulations required MNARNG to utilize the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) for disposal at a cost of \$1.25 a pound." Acquisition contracts for batteries did not delineate disposal or return plans. Applying the Six Sigma framework led the EQ program to an alternative: federal auction. The installation began putting excess batteries up for sale on auction sites. In FY 2024 this achieved a cost avoidance of over \$105,000 and diverted more than 84,000 pounds of batteries from the waste stream which generated over \$16,000 into the QRP Program.



Flameless Ration Heater (FRH) Management

Camp Ripley is tasked with the management of multiple hazardous waste streams, and over the past year, the handling of FRH became a challenge. The EPA and the State of Minnesota define large quantities of unused FRH heaters as a reactive hazardous waste. The DLA increased the disposal costs of heaters over 1,537%, with the cost of a single drum of unused FRH heaters rising from \$400 to \$6,150.

The EQ program applied the DMAIC process to determine alternatives that would maintain compliance with hazardous regulations, ultimately finding that the MNARNG could join a take-back program with the heater manufacturer. Using pre-paid freight, the manufacturer of the FRHs would accept all unused FRHs at no charge. The manufacturer uses a process to recycle unused FRHs to manufacture new FRHs. This saves the MNARNG around \$18,000 in disposal costs per year.

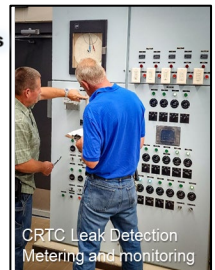


Sustainability and Resilience

Sustainability and resilience is an operational necessity as it is a foundational enabler for all military capabilities. MNARNG has embraced a culture of sustainability and continual improvement to ensure continued excellence in complying with the law meeting our energy, water, and waste goals while preventing pollution. The MNARNG has invested in renewable technologies, promoted energy conservation through outreach and awareness, improved building efficiency through green infrastructure, conserved water through leak detection monitoring and installation of water efficient systems has adopted operations and maintenance best practices at MNARNG facilities statewide. Sustainability initiatives over the past two years focused on increasing waste diversion with an annual recycling challenge and rollout of standardized containers and messaging at all MNARNG facilities across MN.

Sustainability Program Pillars

- ✓ Energy reduction
- ✓ Waste diversion
- ✓ Water conservation



Awards and Accomplishments

Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards

- 2020 Sustainability (Team)
- 2020 Environmental Quality
- 2020 Environmental Stewardship Trophy, CRTC
- 2021 Sustainability (Team)
- 2022 Sustainability (Team)
- 2023 Sustainability (Team)
- 2024 Sustainability Program
- 2024 Sustainability (Team)
- 2024 Environmental Quality

MN Department of Administration Awards

- 2023 1st place, Sustainable Water Use
- 2024 1st place, Sustainability Champion
- 2024 1st place, Sustainable Water Use

