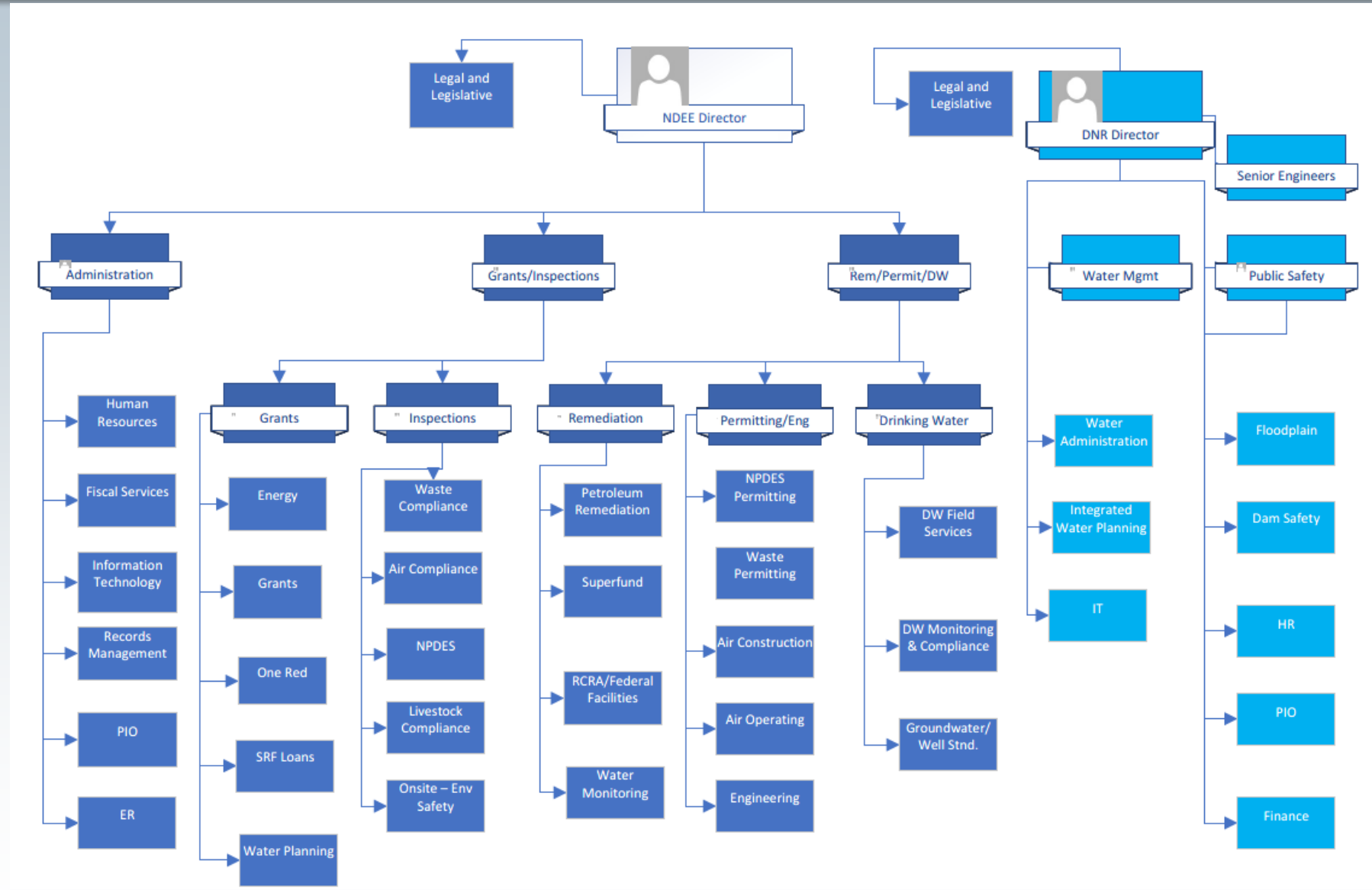


Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy and Nebraska Department of Natural Resources ...Now DWEE

October 1, 2025

Jesse Bradley, Director

Prior Organizational Structures



Director

Jesse Bradley

Legal Services**Deputy Director**

Kevin Stoner

Deputy Director

Steve Goans

Chief Water Officer

Matt Manning

Administrative

Public Information Office
Human Resources
Fiscal Services
Information Technology
Records Management

Permitting & Engineering

Engineering
Waste Permits
Air Construction Permits
Operating Permits
NPDES & State Permits

Monitoring & Remediation

Petroleum Remediation
Superfund/VCP
RCRA/Federal Facilities
Emergency Response

Inspection & Compliance

Livestock & Agriculture
Waste Compliance
Air Compliance
Onsite & Environmental
Safety
NPDES Compliance

Planning & Aid

State Revolving Fund
Weatherization, Waste, &
Air Grants
State Energy Programs &
Dollar Energy Saving Loans
Grants & Incentives

Drinking Water

Drinking Water Monitoring
& Compliance
Drinking Water Field
Services

Groundwater

Water Well Registration &
Permits
Geological Services

Flood Plain Management**Dam Safety****Integrated Water Planning**

Republican & Upper Platte
River Basins
Land Use & GIS
Lower Platte & Missouri
Tributary Basins
Hydrologic Analysis
Water Quality & Planning

Water Administration

Stream Gaging
Surface Water Permits &
Adjudications
Field Offices
Monitoring

DWEE Organization

3 C's to Make Merger Successful

- CUSTOMERS – We are going to ensure we are considering the impact to our customers in everything we do, customers can be internal and external to the agency.
- COMMUNICATION – We are going to ensure that we effectively communicate throughout our organization and with our customers.
- CULTURE – We are going to ensure we have a culture of excellence that promotes teamwork and collaboration with each other and our customers, integrity, science-based decision making, and innovation.

Water Quality and Quantity Task Force

Water Quality and Quantity Task Force

- **Protecting Nebraska's Most Vital Resource:** The task force is action-oriented initiative to protect Nebraska's water for future generations by addressing both quality and quantity concerns.
- **Focused on Results, Not More Studies:** Moving beyond conversation, the task force is charged with delivering actionable recommendations for innovative and educational approaches to improve water quality and ensure long-term water sustainability.
- **Targeted Nitrate Reduction:** A key priority of the task force is to develop effective strategies to reduce nitrate contamination in groundwater

Water Quality and Quantity Task Force

- **Statewide Impact:** The task force consists of approximately twenty people throughout the state, others will be invited to present/participate
- **Collaborative and Ongoing Effort:** Over the next 6 months, the task force will meet, with subcommittees working between meetings, to tackle specific issues and shape the final recommendations for the short-term, mid-term, and long-term.

<https://dnr.nebraska.gov/water-quality-and-quantity-task-force>

Financing and Incentives Subcommittee

1. Establish a centralized clearinghouse to inventory, manage, and prioritize water quality and quantity projects across Nebraska along with a process to review the inventory annually
2. Identify and implement sustainable, diversified funding models to support the development, implementation, and maintenance of priority water projects in Nebraska

Nitrate Legacy and Drinking Water Access Subcommittee

1. Develop and consistent education, marketing, and outreach program across the state
2. Develop data and planning to support community water system protections
3. Expand rural water systems and regionalization of water systems

Water Conservation and Quantity Subcommittee

1. Expand metering and measurement across the state
2. Develop strategies to support large water users and continued economic growth
3. Expand water storage opportunities and management of water consumption

Methods and Resources Subcommittee

1. Create standards that ensure proper nitrogen recommendations being provided to farmers
2. Increase the amount of nitrogen that is applied in season
3. Support movement toward sensor- and model-based nitrogen recommendations

ONE RED

Three-Pronged Approach

CI Registry

Regenerative Agriculture

Precision Agriculture

ONE RED *Opportunity for Nebraska: Reducing Emissions & Decarbonization*

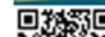
ONE RED Update—November 12, 2024. Nebraska has been awarded \$307 million to implement the measures listed below over a five-year period. Participation in all incentive programs will be strictly voluntary and will not rely on new rulemaking or requirements. Program designs and timeframes for implementation will be worked out over the coming months.

Measure*	Funding	Metric Tons GHG Reduction	
		By 2030	By 2050
Non-Residential Energy Efficiency Program: Projects for industrial, commercial, agricultural, public, and nonprofit buildings and facilities.	\$30.3 MM	536,393	2,933,544
Residential Pre-Weatherization Program: Funding to address critical home repairs for low-income residents to allow eligibility for the Weatherization Assistance Program.	\$4.1 MM	13,103	72,405
ONE RED Irrigation Engine Program: Rebates to farmers to replace diesel irrigation pump engines with electric motors or pumps connected to the electric grid.	\$6.1 MM	14,291	124,901
Rural Community Solar Program: Solar arrays to provide partial power to water and waste-water facilities, reducing energy cost.	\$16.4 MM	9,183	25,148
Non-Residential Solar Program: Funds for solar projects in locations that do not displace other productive uses: industrial, commercial, and municipal rooftops; brownfield community solar; solar canopies over parking lots and cattle feedlots.	\$28.1 MM	12,180	29,481
Ag Registry and Grants Program: Three interdependent strategies: 1) Develop a Carbon Intensity (CI) Score Registry with incentives for participation; 2) Incentives for adoption of Regenerative Agriculture Practices to improve soil health and reduce N fertilizer use; 3) Incentives for Precision Agriculture equipment for more efficient production.	\$160.4 MM	25,128,828	155,051,209
Anaerobic Digester/Biogas Hub Program: Establish a regional biogas cleaning facility near an existing natural gas pipeline, with biogas supplied by digesters at nearby animal feeding operations to benefit multiple producers.	\$57.2 MM	261,907	2,007,957
Biochar Incentive Program: Funding for biochar processing facilities to convert woody organic waste into biochar to store carbon in soil.	\$4.4 MM	12,050	65,608
TOTALS	\$307 MM	25,987,935	160,310,253

* The order of measures in this list does not indicate any NDEE preference or priority.

SECTORS AFFECTED:

- ☒ Industry
- ☒ Commercial and Residential Buildings
- ☒ Waste and Materials Management
- ☒ Electricity Generation
- ☒ Agriculture/Natural and Working Lands
- ☐ Transportation



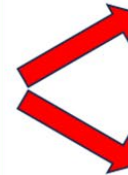
More info:

ONE RED

CI as a Proxy for Economic and Environmental Outcomes

Lower CI Scores driven by:

- **Yield**
- **Efficient Nitrogen Utilization**
 - Lower Use
 - More efficient use
- **Soil Carbon Sequestration**
 - Reduced Tillage
 - Cover Crop Use
 - Manure or Compost Use



Potential Economic Outcomes

- Reduced input costs
- Soil and crop resilience – economic stability
- Access to additional markets and premiums
- Data as a second cash crop

Potential Environmental Outcomes

- Reduced nitrates in groundwater
- Reduced soil & nutrient loss to erosion
- More efficient water use
- Improved crop resiliency to biotic/abiotic stress

Role of the Task Force (TF)

The Ag Registry and Grants Program TF will serve as a strategic advisory body.

Identifying Eligible Practices

- Define and periodically review criteria for regenerative and precision ag practices eligible for grants.

Aligning Policy

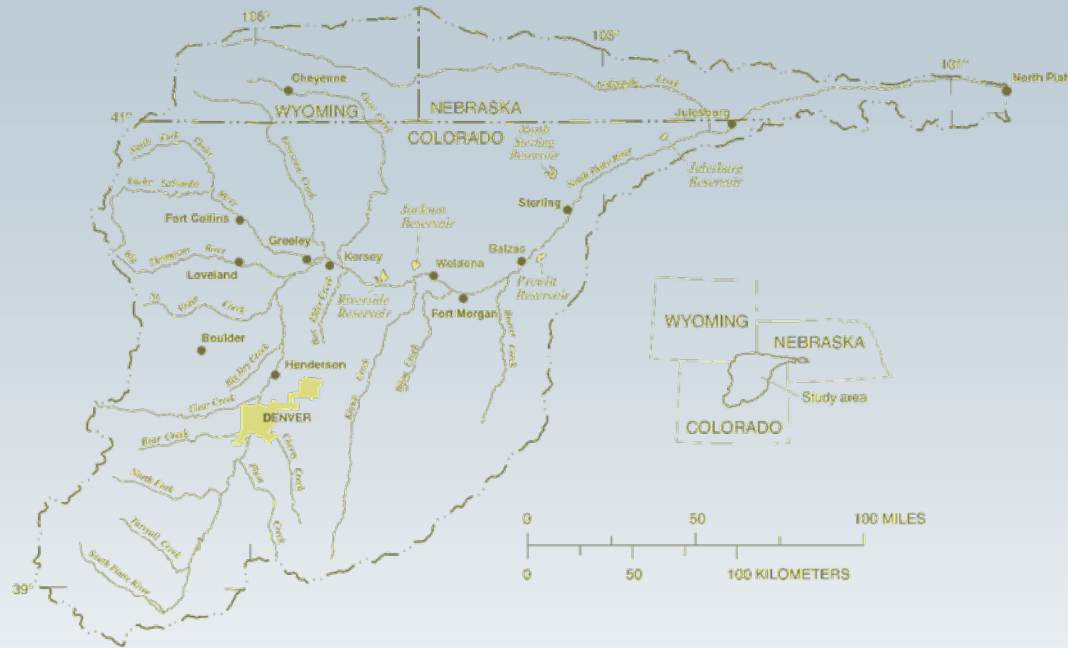
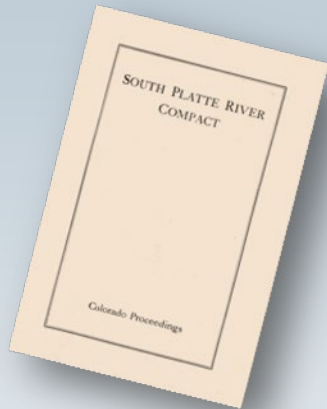
- Coordinate with local, state, and federal policies to ensure consistency and maximize impact.

Providing feedback and input on the various components of the program

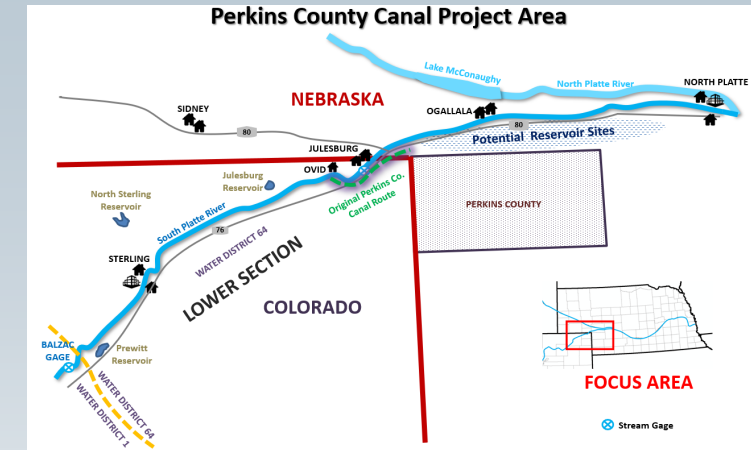
- CI Registry
- Data Security - ensure transparency and farmer trust in data handling.

Program website: <http://dee.ne.gov/ndeqprog.nsf/onweb/cprg>





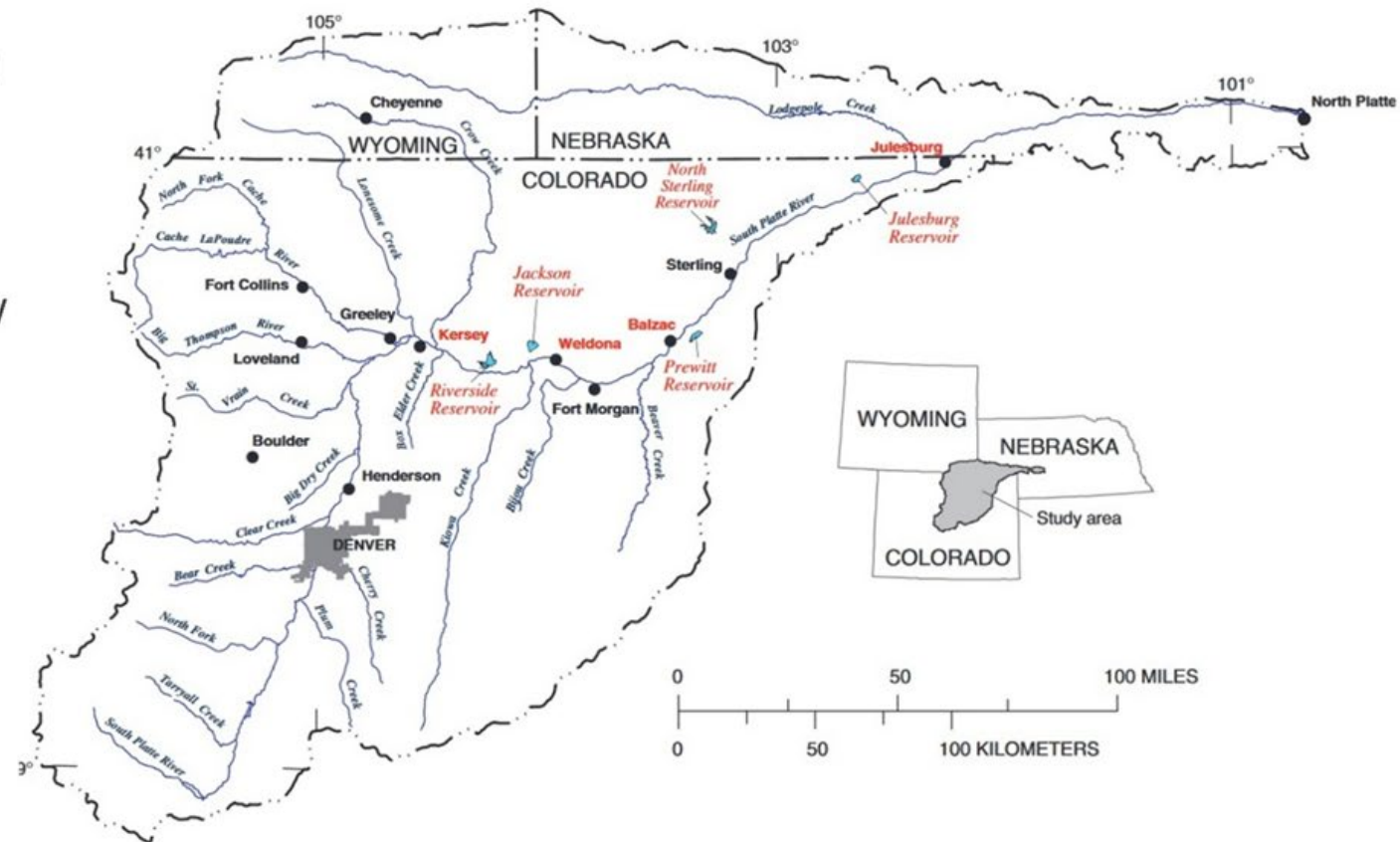
Base from U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Census Bureau digital data, 1974 to 1993



Perkins County Canal Project

South Platte Compact

- Signed in 1923 and passed by Congress in 1926
- Establishes a 120 cfs (47 KAF) minimum flow during the irrigation season (Western Canal)
- Establishes a 500 cfs minimum flow during the non-irrigation season (Perkins County Canal, not currently developed)

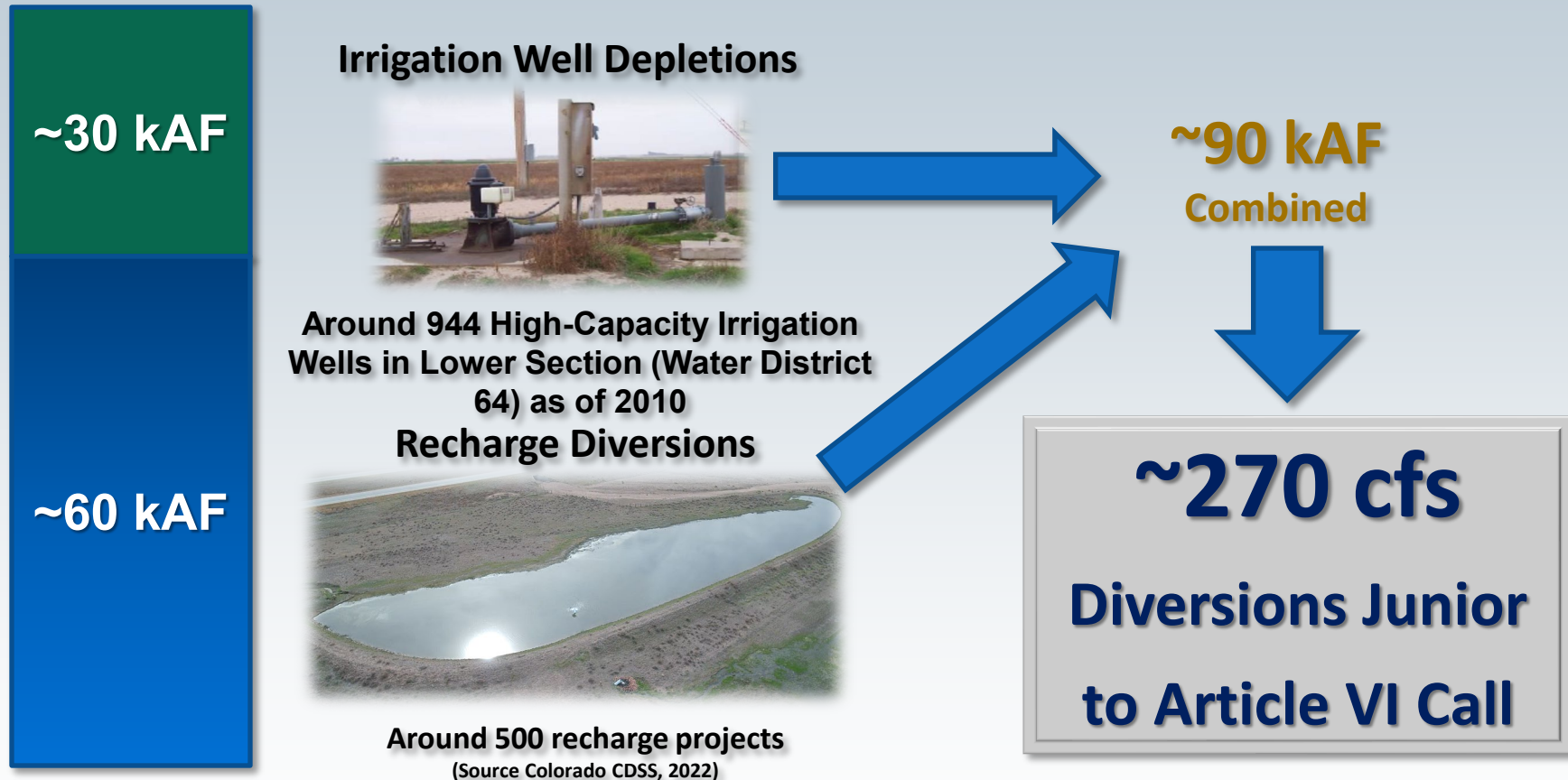


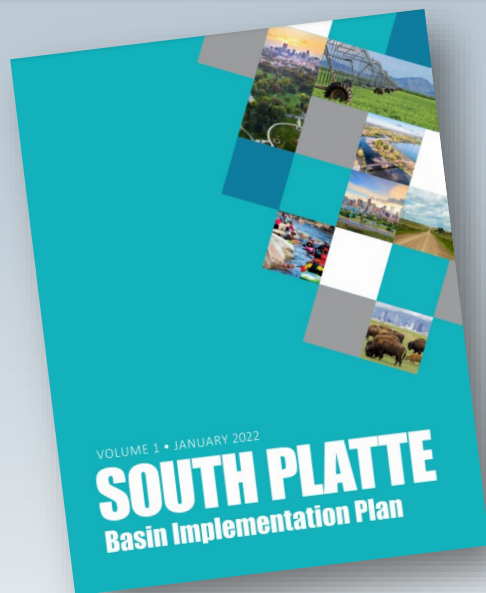
Base from U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Census Bureau digital data, 1974 to 1993



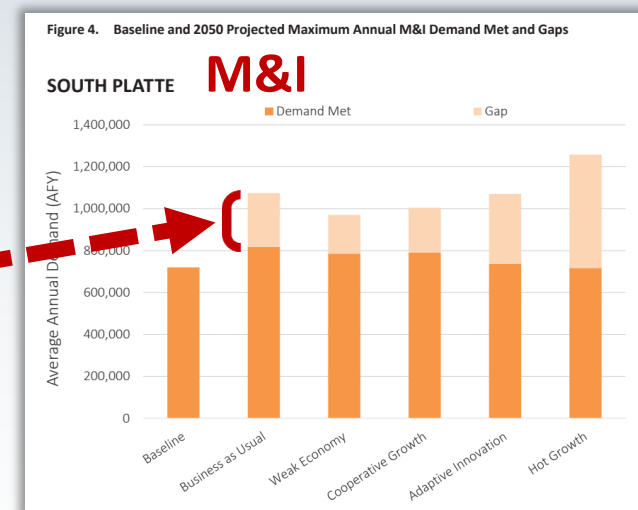
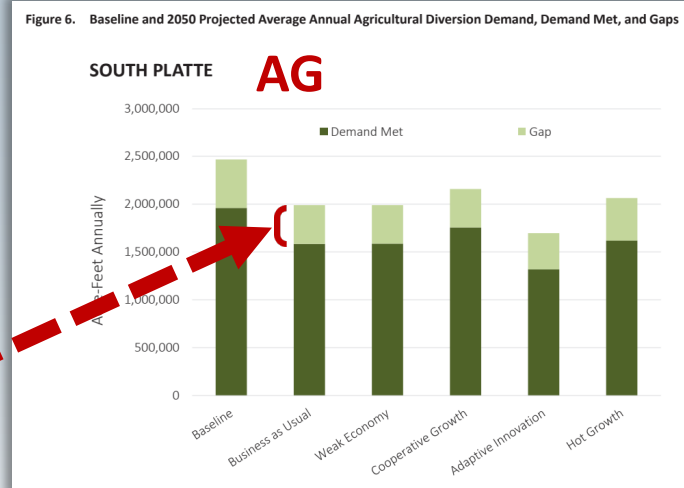
COLORADO ACTIVITIES:

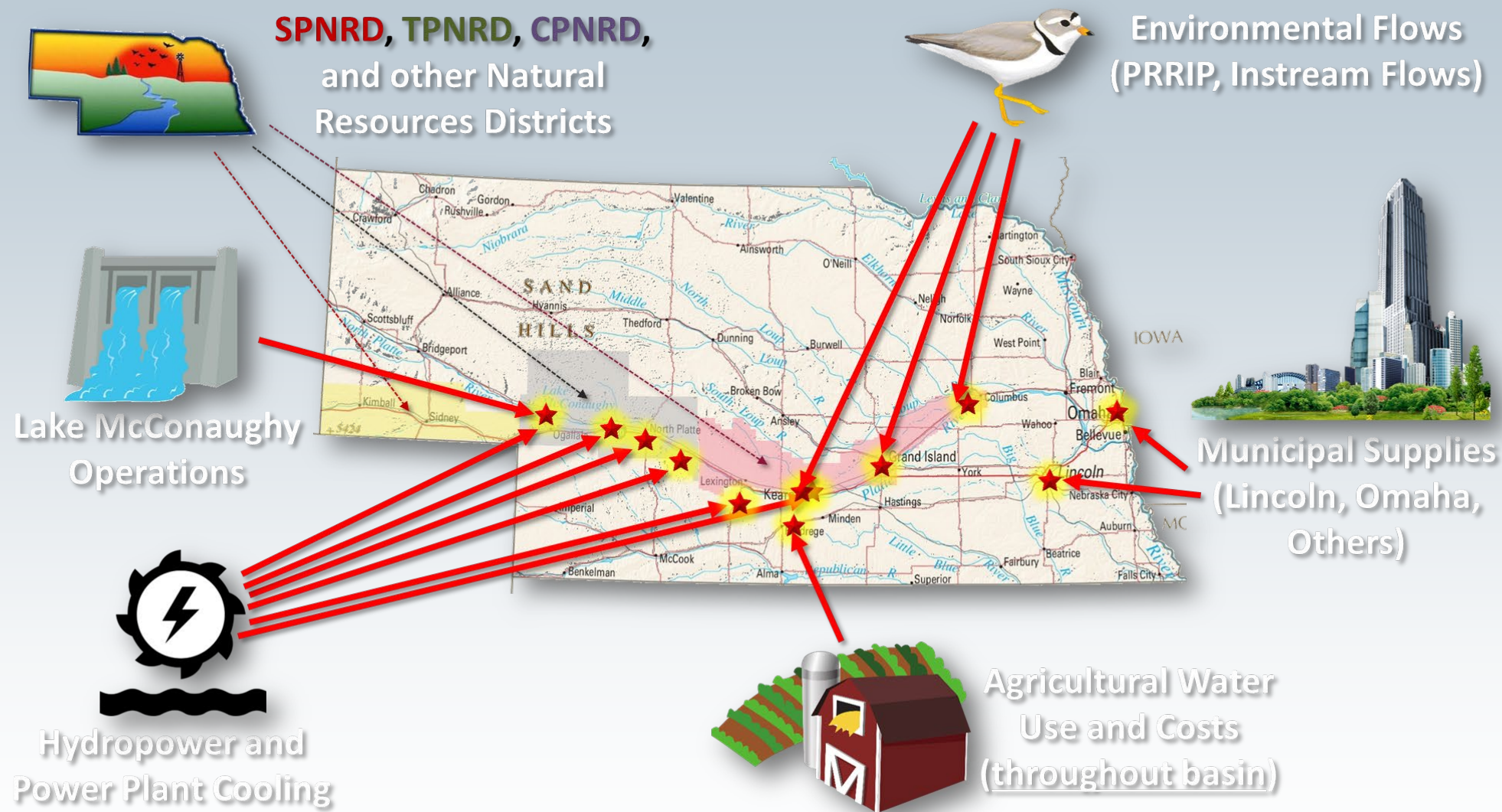
“Junior” Non-Irrigation Season Diversions in Colorado





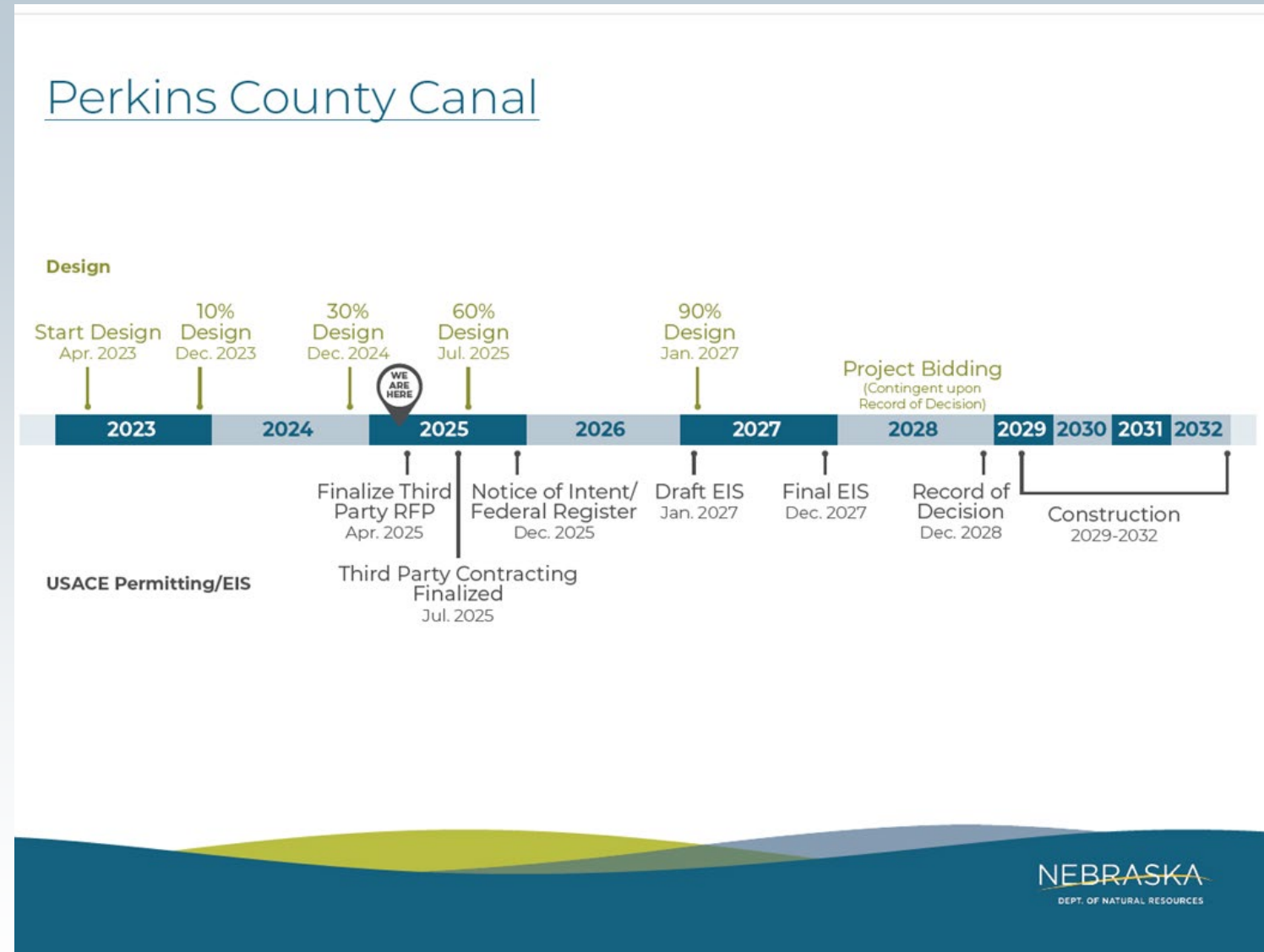
Colorado legislation, policies, and planning documents identify a substantial shortage (over **400 kaf** for agriculture and around **250 kaf** for municipal uses) needed to meet Colorado's 2050 demand in South Platte Basin (Colorado's South Platte Basin Implementation Plan 2022)





Current Activities – 2025

- Design
- Permitting
- Land Acquisition
- U.S. Supreme Court



Air Permitting

Development of Title 129 Proposal

- Necessary corrections highlighted by the EPA during Nebraska's State Implementation Plan (SIP) approval process
- Changes proposed by DWEE to clarify regulatory language, and update permitting and compliance requirements

Rule Changes Being Proposed

- **DWEE proposes to:**
- Shorten the timeframe for Department notification prior to pre-construction activities from 30 days to five (5) days
- Remove the affirmative defense provisions in Chapter 6 to align with federal regulations
- Revise text in Chapter 11 to reflect the use of electronic emissions reporting via SLEIS
- Update NSPS and NESHAP in Chapters 12 and 13 that are applicable to sources in Nebraska

DESL and EECBG Grants

Dollar & Energy Saving Loan Program (DESL)

- \$16.4M financed for 356 projects

Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)

- Nebraska awarded \$1.1M in 2024
- Eligible projects:
 - Efficient lighting and windows
 - Renewable energy on public buildings
 - Alternative transportation infrastructure
 - Public education programs
- Community Examples
 - Beatrice: efficient lighting at police station
 - Emerson: \$100k solar tracking at wastewater plant
 - Wahoo, Peru, Shickley: efficient streetlights

Grid Resiliency Grants

- Overview
 - Grid Resiliency Grants modernize Nebraska's energy infrastructure for a safer, more reliable future.
 - \$15.6M awarded in 2025 to support grid hardening
 - Improves resilience to severe weather and outages
- Project Types
 - Replacing poles, transformers, substations
 - Installing stronger lines and undergrounding
 - Deploying advanced monitoring technologies
- Community Examples
 - Ansley: upgraded system to 12.5kV
 - Falls City: underground cabling for critical services
 - Fremont: 3-mile transmission relocation

HOMES/HEAR GRANTS – Coming Soon!

Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES) — Whole-Home Efficiency Upgrades

- Designed to support “**whole-house**” **retrofit projects** that achieve a quantifiable energy savings threshold.
- Rebates are tiered based on how much energy is saved (for example, deeper savings yield larger rebates).
- Eligible upgrades include measures such as insulation, air sealing, upgraded windows/doors, duct sealing, HVAC improvements, ventilation systems, and more.
- Income-based incentives: households at or below certain income levels (e.g. $\leq 80\%$ of area median income) may receive a larger share (sometimes up to 100%) of the rebate, while others receive a partial rebate.
- Nebraska's allocation is **~\$45M**

Home Electrification & Appliance Rebates (HEAR / Appliance & Electrification)

- Focuses on electrification of home systems and efficient appliances
- Income targeting: low- and moderate-income households are emphasized; for very low-income households (e.g. under $\sim 80\%$ of area median), the program may cover up to 100% of the costs.
- Nebraska's allocation is **~\$45M**

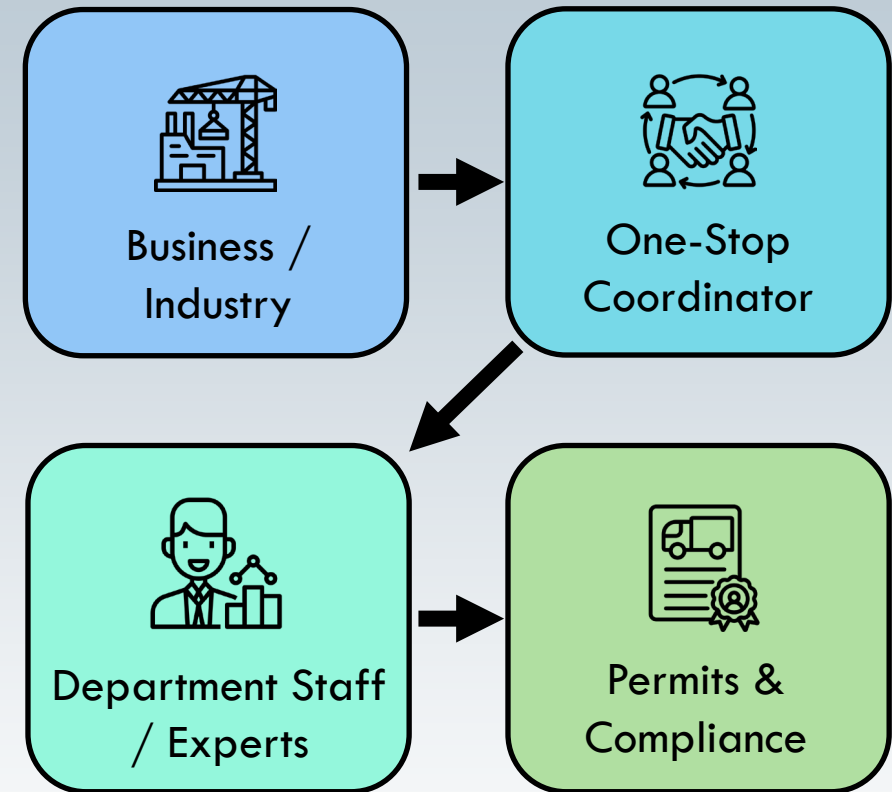
Next Steps:

DWEE is in the process of hiring a vendor/contractor who will design and implement both programs.

A program launch is anticipated in 2026, pending completion of program design, federal approvals, and vendor onboarding.

One-Stop Permit Assistance

- Coordinator connects inquiries to the right staff
- Ensures timely, coordinated responses
- Works with state, federal, and local partners for comprehensive assistance



Helping businesses navigate permitting with clarity, speed and confidence.

We're here for you.

Call DWEE early and often

More info on One-Stop
Permit Assistance:



For assistance or to request a One-Stop Meeting:

- 402-471-2786 (DWEE mainline)
- 402-471-8697 (Env. Assistance Coordinator)
- dwee.assistance@nebraska.gov

THANK YOU

DWEE.Nebraska.org