

Bite-sized Environmental Law: Resources for the Jack of All Trades

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ENVIRONMENTAL LAW EXEMPLIFIES the vastness and complexity of our legal system. No attorney who focuses on environmental matters would claim comprehensive understanding of this entire body of law. Environmental law includes real estate, personal injury, employment, and corporate law. Thus, general and niche practitioners and specialists encounter environmental legal issues.

Many of the following resources will in turn direct you to others that are more specialized, which will help you to tackle the complex issues yourself or to refer your client to someone with more experience.

These resources provide an overview of environmental law. The content of many of these resources overlaps, but each has a different approach. Some are freely available online. Others are available only in print, but can be checked out from most academic law libraries or obtained through interlibrary loan.

Business and Industry Guide to Environmental Permits in Virginia

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/osba/perguide.html>

This guide, issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), describes state and federal environmental requirements that affect businesses and industries in Virginia. It is intended to inform company managers, facility engineers, local economic development officials, and citizens about approvals that must be obtained before a business constructs or operates a facility. (<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/osba/overview.html>) The guide outlines every DEQ permit program. Programs are summarized in terms of applicability, authorizing statutes and regulations, and the permit application process.

Environmental Compliance in Virginia (Business Legal Reports)

<http://www.blr.com/product.cfm/product/FXX/funcode/WI05>

This resource is a digest, designed to help readers quickly determine compliance requirements for a variety of topics. The digest format concisely outlines each compliance issue and applicable requirements. References to primary law and copies of forms are provided. Each section compares state and federal law.

Environmental Law Handbook (Government Institutes)

<http://www.govinstpress.com/Catalog/SingleBook.shtml?command=Search&db=^DB/CATALOG.db&eqSKUdata=0865870241>

Now in its nineteenth edition, each chapter of the handbook is authored by an expert in environmental law. The first two chapters outline the fundamental approach to environmental law in the United States. Each of the remaining chapters describes federal environmental statutes, such as the Clean Water Act and Toxic Substances Control Act, or topics, such as pesticides and underground storage tanks.

Environmental Laws: Summary of Major Statutes Administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (Congressional Research Service)

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL30798_20080107.pdf

This resource provides an overview of each of the major statutes administered by the Environmental Protection Agency. It is updated at the beginning of each session of Congress. The summaries outline the structure, authorization status, legislative history, and major authorized programs for each act.

Virginia Environmental Law Handbook (Government Institutes)

<http://www.govinstpress.com/Catalog/SingleBook.shtml?command=Search&db=^DB/CATALOG.db&eqSKUdata=086587168X>

The *Virginia Environmental Law Handbook* is a primer on Virginia environmental law. Formatted as a fleshed-out outline, the handbook concisely summarizes the major issues for each topic and provides references to primary sources. The fourth edition, written by attorneys from Troutman Sanders LLP, was published in August 2008.

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall

<http://townhall.virginia.gov/>

This website was created to facilitate regulatory tracking and is an excellent resource for regulatory text and interpretations. Guidance documents are organized by secretariat, agency, board, and chapter of the *Virginia Administrative Code*.

Multivolume and Specific Treatises

The resources listed above distill the entire body of environmental law down to a digestible size of a single volume or less. The goal of these resources is to provide an overview of major issues. For specifics, a multivolume or subject-specific treatise is better. Popular treatises include *Rodgers' Environmental Law*, published by West; *Grad, Treatise on Environmental Law*, published by LexisNexis; and *Law of Environmental Protection*, from the environmental law series published by Clark Boardman Callaghan. Additional resources are outlined in Jennifer Sekula's article, "Nothing Dismal About It: Researching Environmental Law Without Getting Swamped," (*Virginia Lawyer*, December 2005, at 41) (<http://www.vsb.org/docs/valawyer magazine/dec05sekula.pdf>).