



# SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

POLICY | PE\_02.2025

NORTH  
**Dakota** | Water Resources  
Be Legendary.

Effective Date: 05/19/2025

## POLICY OUTLINE

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# 1 POLICY STATEMENT

The Department of Water Resources (Department) has an official presence on social media and other websites in order to keep the public informed on the Department's activities and water resources that affect the state. This policy details the Department's responsibilities and response to interactions with the public on these sites.

## 1.1 POLICY ACCEPTANCE AND DEVIATIONS

The Department reserves the right to change or deviate from policy as deemed appropriate.

## 1.2 DISCLAIMER

All comments left on the Department's social media pages are the responsibility of the commenter. By submitting a comment on the Department's pages, commentors agree that the comment content is their own, and the Department is harmless from any and all repercussions, damages or liability.

## 1.3 DEPARTMENT CONTACT

Please contact the Department's Planning and Education Division at (701) 328-4989 or [dwr@nd.gov](mailto:dwr@nd.gov) for questions regarding this policy.

## 2 SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

The Department enables comments on all social platforms that it has an official presence on. The Department does not endorse the comments posted on these accounts, and the comments do not reflect the official position(s) of the Department, its officers, its staff, or the State of North Dakota.

### 2.1 COMMENT REMOVAL

The Department will moderate comments that are posted on its social media platforms and investigate reports of alleged inappropriate comments.

The Department may remove comments with the following content:

- a. Comments that are unrelated to the subject matter of the post or page being commented on;
- b. Comments that may compromise the safety or security of the public, public systems, or employees;
- c. Comments that disclose information which the agency and its employees are required to keep confidential by law or administrative rule.
- d. Comments that sell a product or solicit commerce;
- e. Comments that infringe on copyrights;
- f. Comments that contain profanity or obscenity. This includes creative spellings of swear words using asterisks or spaces between words;
- g. Comments that contain sexual content, links to sexual content, or nudity in the profile picture;
- h. Comments that are defaming;
- i. Comments that contain threats, hate speech, or harassment;
- j. Comments that are spam;
- k. Comments that promote, foster, or perpetuate discrimination;
- l. Comments that constitute or encourage illegal activity; or
- m. Other comments that the Department deems contrary to law.

### 2.2 DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

The Department may respond to comments from the Department's official account to provide clarifying information, links to the Department's website, or answer simple questions.

If the commenter further engages the Department, the Department will request the commenter to contact the Department through a direct message on the social media platform, email, or phone call to discuss the content in greater detail.

### 2.3 RETENTION

All social media posts by the Department and all comments left on the posts may be retained by the Department in accordance with the Department's records retention policy.

### 3 LINKS

The Department may share links on its social platforms. These links may be to outside sources and are considered referrals only. These links are not an endorsement of the entity or the content. The Department makes every effort to provide links free of viruses and malware but does not guarantee the security of sources outside of the Department's website.

## 4 POLICY HISTORY

**Policy Adopted:** 05/19/2025

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