




The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate

Our vision:



Water and energy
for sustainable development

Our goal:

To ensure an integrated and environmentally sound management of Norway's water resources.
To promote a reliable, efficient and environmentally sound energy supply.



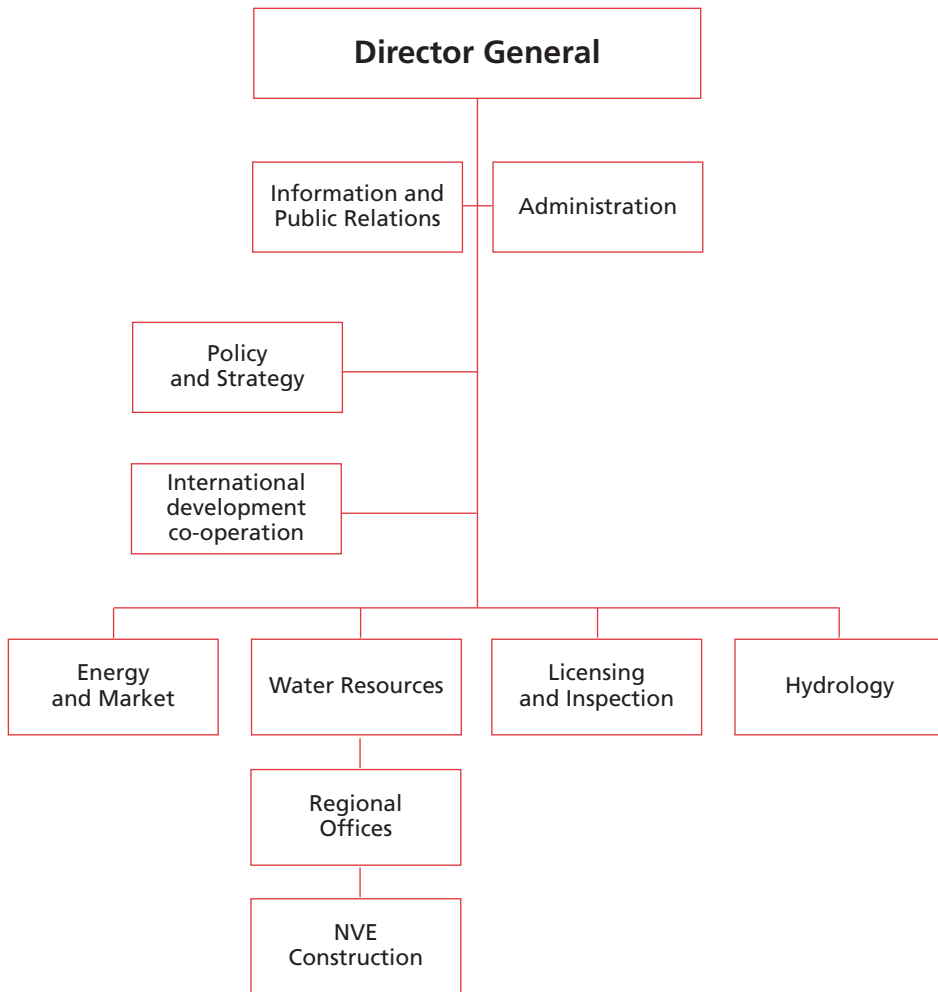
Established in 1921, the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate is a directorate under the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and is responsible for the management of Norway's water and energy resources.

It is the responsibility of the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate to ensure an integrated and environmentally sound management of Norway's water resources, promote an efficient energy market and cost-effective energy

Organization

systems and take initiatives to promote efficient energy use. The Directorate has a central role in national flood contingency planning and has the overall responsibility for maintaining national power supplies.

We are involved in Research & Development and international development co-operation and are Norway's centre of expertise in hydrology. We are a member of the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER). The Directorate has its head office in Oslo and regional offices in Tønsberg, Hamar, Førde, Trondheim and Narvik, with a total of 420 employees.





The Directorate monitors the country's energy systems, including generation, sales, transmission and energy use. We assess economic as well as environmental factors. We are able to make an overall assessment of future needs in the generation and transmission system by cataloguing energy resources, and carrying out power supply system planning and technical and economic analyses. We also regulate the grid companies to ensure that they construct and operate the grids efficiently.

ergy and Market

Since the Energy Act was adopted in 1990, there have been major developments in the energy sector, and customers can now choose their own electricity supplier. The Directorate takes measures to provide for optimal market efficiency by ensuring that all the actors have the best possible market access.

The transmission of power is a monopoly area, and the Directorate protects customers' interests by setting limits on the grid companies' revenues. We measure cost-effectiveness in the individual company and set efficiency targets. In addition, we set requirements with regard to standards of delivery and determine transmission tariffs.

Water Resources





River systems are a fundamental element in the Norwegian natural landscape and the economy. River systems and the areas surrounding them are among our most important areas for recreation and outdoor life, economic activities, settlement and transport. Consequently, the use of river systems involves many conflicting interests.

The Directorate is responsible for weighing these interests against each other when plans for works in watercourses are presented. On the basis of legislation relating to watercourses, the Directorate safeguards and develops all the resources associated with watercourses.

The Directorate aims to prevent damage and improve safety within watercourses by implementing safety measures against flooding, erosion and landslides along watercourses and by mapping of flood prone areas. By mapping flood prone areas and actively cooperating with local authorities, the Directorate encourages local authorities to take flood prone areas into account in their land-use planning.

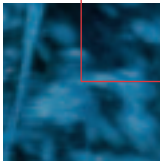
We also assess if new developments within the watercourses will have impacts that make licensing mandatory. The Directorate administers protected watercourses, proposes restoration in connection with former watercourse developments and co-ordinate management duties in accordance with the Planning and Building Act. We also have responsibility for co-ordinating NVEs work in connection with EUs Water Framework Directive.

Licensing and In

The building of power stations, dams and other installations in watercourses, or the construction of major power lines and other energy installations require a permit from the authorities. This permit, or licence, is granted under the terms of the Watercourses and Energy Acts.

The Directorate is particularly concerned to focus on protection of the environment during the planning stages.

The owners of dams and other hydropower installations are responsible for the safety of the installations. The Directorate monitors owners to ensure that they meet this responsibility and that they have prepared an emergency response to deal with abnormal situations in watercourses. The Directorate also supervises power companies' contingency plans against a power failure and ensures that the power industry has the necessary contingency capacity to meet various crises.



spection

The Directorate has the administrative responsibility for the following Acts:

Watercourse Regulation Act of 1917.

Industrial Concession Act of 1917.

Concerning the acquisition of waterfalls, mines and other real estate.

Energy Act of 1990.

Relating to the generation, conversion, transmission, trading and distribution of energy, etc.

Water Resources Act of 2000

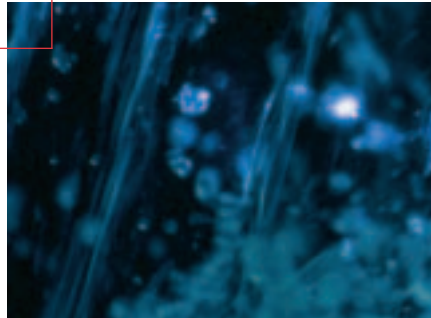
Applies to all use of water resources.

In addition, the Directorate is authorized to issue regulations within the scope of several of these Acts.

Hydrology

As the national centre of expertise for hydrology, the Directorate is responsible for collecting and disseminating information about surface water and ground water. This work also includes conducting studies and providing advice about glaciers, ice and snow conditions, and sediments in watercourses. We carry out research activities and undertake commissioned work to a considerable extent.

The Directorate is also responsible for the national flood forecasting service. Our nationwide network of monitoring stations provides some of the information used by the service. By our emphasis on research and quality assurance, we are able to make constant improvements in our data and prognoses.



Regional offices

The Directorate has five regional offices responsible for planning and carrying out work in watercourses. These offices offer a high level of expertise on water resource management, hydrology, watercourse safety and licensing conditions. This expertise enables them to provide advice and guidance on issues related to watercourses.





Research and development (R&D)

R&D is an important tool for enhancing the Directorate's level of expertise. The Directorate takes part in programmes run by the Research Council of Norway and conducts its own applied research in projects related to water resource and energy management. The dissemination of research results has high priority.

International development co-operation

The Directorate works on commission for the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation in developing countries and establishes institutional contracts directly with the authorities in the individual countries. Our most important mission is to transfer knowledge and play a part in developing modern legislation and institutions so that these countries will in the long run take charge of their own development. Our experts also assess various projects on water resources and energy, and follow up in these projects.

Service declaration

The Directorate wants you to encounter a high standard of service when you contact us.

We aim to provide reliable information and give a thorough explanation of the decisions we take.

We are open

This means that we:

- are available
- respond promptly to enquiries
- ensure efficiency
- practise transparency

We are reliable

This means that the information you receive from us is correct, relevant and easy to understand.

We inform actively

This means that we provide information on a regular basis, rather than waiting for the public to ask us.

Response times

If you write to us, you can expect a written response within a month. If we need more time, you will be notified in writing of when you can expect a final answer. We inform you about your right to appeal when we make our decisions.

Feedback

We want to know what you think of our service and how you think we can improve.

Phone our Administration Department on +47 22 95 93 22, write to us, or use our website:

www.nve.no.

The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate's address:

Head office:
Middelthuns gate 29,
Postboks 5091 Majorstua,
0301 OSLO, Norway

Phone: +47 22 95 95 95
Fax: +47 22 95 90 00

Email: nve@nve.no
Website: www.nve.no

Org. No. : NO 970 205 039 MVA
Bank account No.: 7694 05 08971

Regional offices

Central Region:

Trekanten, Vestre Rosten 81, 7075 TILLER, Norway
Phone: +47 72 89 65 50
Fax: +47 72 89 65 51
Email: rm@nve.no

Northern Region:

Kongensgate 14-18, Postboks 394, 8505 NARVIK, Norway
Phone: +47 76 92 33 50
Fax: +47 76 92 33 51
Email: rn@nve.no

Southern Region:

Anton Jenssens gate 5, Postboks 2124, 3103 TØNSBERG, Norway
Phone: +47 33 37 23 00
Fax: + 47 33 37 23 05
Email: rs@nve.no

Western Region:

Naustdalsvegen 1B, Postboks 53, 6801 FØRDE, Norway
Phone: +47 57 83 36 50
Fax: +47 57 83 36 51
Email: rv@nve.no

Eastern Region:

Vangsvegen 73, Hamar, 2326 HAMAR, Norway
Phone: +47 62 53 63 50
Fax: +47 62 53 63 51
Email: ro@nve.no

WWW

It is important to the Directorate to have a functional and updated Internet service. Visit our website at www.nve.no and read more about:

Wind power, hydropower, gas power, flood zone maps, protected watercourses, glaciers and more. This site also contains updated energy statistics and the latest news from Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate.

You can also search the Directorate's databases on lakes, depth maps and catchment areas.