



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2018

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Be air aware and celebrate improved air quality next week

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or Brian.Hutchins@dnr.iowa.gov.

As temperatures warm and people head outdoors, they can usually count on good air quality. In fact, Iowans especially have something to celebrate. Over the last 25 years, Iowa industries have significantly reduced six major air pollutants while growing our economy.

Iowa's population and many economic indicators have climbed since 1990. Yet two air pollutants that contribute to ground-level ozone and airborne particles—the pollutants that pose the greatest threat to human health—have decreased significantly. Sulfur dioxide emissions are down 60 percent and nitrogen oxides are down 43 percent.

Find out more about air quality trends in Iowa and [your neighborhood](#). Or, explore a few ways to [save money while helping everyone breathe easier](#).

Go ahead. Celebrate air quality improvements during Air Quality Awareness Week, April 30 to May 4.

While there is much to celebrate during Air Quality Awareness Week, there are days when local air quality can pose health risks to sensitive populations. If in doubt or planning outdoor activities, consult the Air Quality Index, www.iowacleanair.gov, to learn about current and local conditions.

The color-coded map summarizes ozone and particulate matter levels. In Iowa, the map is usually green for good air quality.

If pollution is high, the Air Quality Index will show orange areas, cautioning sensitive groups like the elderly, children, and those with heart or lung diseases to limit strenuous outdoor activities.

Athletes and those who love outdoor activities or work outdoors may also be affected by ozone, because the more active they are, the faster and deeper they breathe.

For information concerning current levels of sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide, check the [Polk County](#), [Linn County](#) and [State Hygienic Laboratory](#) websites:

- State Hygienic Laboratory: www.shl.uiowa.edu/env/ambient/realtime.xml
 - Polk County: cms.polkcountyiowa.gov/airquality/pages/CurrentAQI.aspx
 - Linn County: www.linncleanair.org/Content/Current-Air-Quality.aspx
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Air Quality permits under review

MEDIA CONTACT: Lori Hanson, DNR, at 515-725-9525
or Lori.Hanson@dnr.iowa.gov for Title V permits.

DES MOINES – The DNR Air Quality Bureau has the following draft permits up for review. The permits help protect Iowans' health and the air where we live. DNR's permitting staff review the applications to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality standards. The public has the right and is encouraged to comment on draft permits. DNR considers [public comments](#) before finalizing the permits. Submit comments in writing to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the public comment period.

Title V Operating Permits

Title V Operating permits are reviewed and re-issued every five years. Facilities with a Title V permit have the potential to emit large amounts of air pollutants compared to other facilities. The five-year reviews are a federal requirement and ensure adequate monitoring is included in the permit. The DNR plans to issue Title V Operating Permits for the following facilities. Find permit details at www.iowadnr.gov/aioperatingpermits.

Hamilton County

POET Biorefining – Jewell, LLC, 2601 320th St., Jewell.

The renewal application was submitted to operate their existing fuel-grade ethanol manufacturing facility. The public comment period ends May 26.

Des Moines County

IPL - Burlington Generating Station located at 4282 Sullivan Slough Road, Burlington.

The renewal application was submitted to operate their existing electric generating facility. The public comment period ends May 26.

Muscatine County

HNI Corporation - Central Campus located at 600, 601, 700 E. Second St.; 200, 301 Oak St.; 620, 911, 912, 914 E. Fifth St. in Muscatine.

The renewal application was submitted to operate their existing wood and metal office furniture manufacturing facility. The public comment period ends May 26.

DNR enforcement actions

MEDIA CONTACT: Ed Tormey, DNR, at 515-725-8373 or Ed.Tormey@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES – DNR staff work with individuals, businesses and communities to help them protect our natural resources by complying with state and federal laws. This approach is very effective. In the few cases where compliance cannot be achieved, the DNR issues enforcement actions. The following list summarizes recent enforcement actions. Find the entire, original orders on DNR's website at www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

Des Moines County

MK Mini Mart Inc

Comply with UST certified operator and recordkeeping requirements and pay \$3,300 penalty.