



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 10, 2018

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## Water Summary Update: cool and dry April sets records

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Tim Hall, 515-725-8298, [Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES —As most Iowans noticed, this was an unusual start to spring in April, exceptionally cooler and drier than normal. This April was the coldest on record, and the 13th driest on record, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

April's precipitation of 1.5 inches was about half the normal amount for the month. Previous wetter than normal months have offset this dry month, and the state is within an inch of normal rainfall for the year.

"April was very dry and very cold across the state, but a return to normal rain in May should alleviate most drought concerns going into the summer," said Tim Hall, Hydrology Resources Coordinator for the Iowa DNR.

Concerns remain for shallow groundwater conditions across southern Iowa, and this continued dryness is reflected in below-normal streamflow in several areas in south central Iowa. The month of May begins a stretch of the normally wettest three months of the year in the state, where Iowa normally receives about 14 inches of rain, or about 40 percent of its annual rainfall. This contrasts with December, January, and February, when the state only receives an average of 3.3 inches of precipitation, or about nine percent of annual moisture.

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, go to [www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate](http://www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate).

The report is prepared by technical staff from Iowa DNR, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, IHR—Hydroscience and Engineering, and the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.

## Water monitoring, contracts at Environmental Protection meeting Tuesday

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jerah Sheets at [Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov) or 515-313-8909.

DES MOINES—A presentation on water monitoring will head up the Environmental Protection Commission's May 15 business meeting.

The meeting begins at 10 a.m. in Room 116 of the Iowa State Capitol, 1007 E. Grand Avenue in Des Moines. The meeting is open to the public. Please submit requests to speak to Jerah Sheets at [Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov) or at 515-313-8909. Public comment will follow the presentation.

Several changes to the Iowa Administrative Code dealing with used oil and regional collection centers for household hazardous wastes are up for commissioners' approval. The proposed updates will ensure consistency under Iowa laws and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's rules.

Commissioners will be asked to approve several contracts, including the following designed to:

- Protect drinking water at the source
- Inspect specific small public water supplies in Black Hawk, Cerro Gordo, Johnson, Linn and Scott counties
- Provide manure applicator certification training and testing materials
- Audit participants of the Solid Waste Environmental Management Systems program as they work to reduce the environmental impacts of solid waste disposal.

In other action, DNR will ask commissioners to grant an award to Region XII Council of Governments to deliver the Iowa Waste Exchange program, designed to match unwanted materials with those who can use them.

Commissioners have an appointment at 11:30 a.m. to consider referring Recycling Services LLC of Atlantic, and Jason and David Wright, to the Attorney General's office for enforcement due to alleged illegal disposal of trade wastes and other violations of Iowa law.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Election of Officers
- Approval of the Minutes
- Monthly Reports
- Iowa's Water Monitoring Program Overview
- Public Participation
- Director's Remarks
- Notice of Intended Action: Chapter 119-Used Oil and Used Oil Filters; Chapter 123 – Regional Collection Centers and Mobile Unit Collection and Consolidation Centers; Chapter 144 – Household Hazardous Materials Education; Chapter 211 – Financial Assistance for the Collection of Household Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste from Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators; Chapter 214 – Household Hazardous Materials Program
- Contract with Iowa Association of Soil Conservations District Commissioners, dba Conservation Districts of Iowa
- Contracts with Black Hawk, Cerro Gordo, Johnson, Linn and Scott County Health Departments
- Contract with Iowa State University
- Region XII Council of Governments - Grant Awardee for delivery of the Iowa Waste Exchange program
- Contract Amendment # 2 to Contract 16ESDLQBGOLD1 with Region XII Council of Governments
- Referral to the Attorney General Jason and David Wright, dba Recycling Services LLC
- General Discussion
- Items for Next Month's Meeting
  - June 19 – EPC Business Meeting – Des Moines
  - July 17 – EPC Business Meeting – Des Moines

The complete [agenda and item briefs](#) are available on the DNR website.

Commissioners include: Ralph Lents, Menlo, chair; Joe Riding, Altoona, vice chair; Nancy Couser, Nevada; Mary Boote, Des Moines; Howard Hill, Cambridge; Harold Hommes, Windsor Heights; Rebecca Guinn, Bettendorf; and Bob Sinclair, Sigourney. Bruce Trautman is the acting director of the DNR.

## **Public meeting to discuss wastewater general permit renewal for well services**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Wendy Hieb, DNR, at [Wendy.Hieb@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Wendy.Hieb@dnr.iowa.gov) or 515-725-8405.**

DES MOINES – The DNR will hold a public stakeholder meeting to answer questions and collect public comments on the renewal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater general permit for water well construction and service discharges.

The stakeholder meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. on May 24 in Conference Rooms 4 East and West on the fourth floor of the Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. Ninth St. in Des Moines.

Well Construction and Well Service Discharges General Permit 6 (GP6) will expire on Feb. 28, 2020. The Iowa DNR proposes to initiate rulemaking to renew the permit for a third five-year term. The proposed GP6 is nearly identical to the current general permit except for some clarifications.

A draft showing the proposed changes is available online at [www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/Private-Well-Program/Construction-Discharge-GP6](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/Private-Well-Program/Construction-Discharge-GP6).

People may ask questions on the proposed permits and make oral comments at the public meeting, or may submit written comments through May 31 to Wendy Hieb, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 E. Ninth St. Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034; fax at 515-725-8202; or by email, including the commenter's name, to [Wendy.Hieb@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Wendy.Hieb@dnr.iowa.gov).

## **Air Quality permits under review**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Lori Hanson, DNR, at 515-725-9525 or [Lori.Hanson@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Lori.Hanson@dnr.iowa.gov) for Title V permits; or Sarah Piziali, DNR, at 515-725-9549 or [Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov) for construction 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/titlev-draft](http://www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft).

### **Portable Facilities, No Specific Counties**

Ram Development, A portable Facility.

The initial application was submitted to operate their existing Refuse Systems - Incinerator Operation facility. The public comment periods ends June 9.

### **Linn County**

Diamond V Mills, LLC, 436 G Ave. N.W., Cedar Rapids

The renewal application was submitted to operate their existing animal feed additive manufacturing facility. The public comment period ends June 9.

### **Construction Permits**

DNR engineers review and issue construction permits to facilities before they build new or modified sources of air pollution. The public may review the following air quality construction permits available online at [www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch](http://www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch).

### **Chickasaw County**

Homeland Energy Solutions, LLC, 2779 Highway 24, Lawler

Project No. 18-109, Installation of a wet scrubber and three yeast propagation tanks  
Public comment period ends June 9