



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 2018

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Fuel reaching Catfish Creek near Peosta appears limited

MEDIA CONTACT: Brian Jergenson or Tom McCarthy at 563-927-2640 or Brian.Jergenson@dnr.iowa.gov or Tom.McCarthy@dnr.iowa.gov.

PEOSTA – Cleanup of Monday’s diesel spill near Peosta will take weeks or months, but the amount of diesel fuel that reached Catfish Creek appears limited according to the DNR.

“The large BP storage tank is now empty, and most of the diesel fuel was retained in an area around the tank. BP has environmental contractors and cleanup crews working around the clock to recover fuel that was retained at the site,” said Tom McCarthy, DNR inspector.

BP reports they’ve recovered almost 40,000 gallons of the estimated 60,900 gallons of leaked fuel, and that number is expected to climb as recovery efforts continue.

“All indications show that little fuel reached the creek. There are absorbent booms crossing the creek at five different locations downstream. Fuel has been detected at only two of them: at Cottingham Road and near Mines of Spain,” McCarthy said. “You can’t see or smell diesel at either of those locations since the absorbent booms were changed on Monday.”

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and BP have been monitoring water and air quality at the creek.

DNR fisheries biologists say fish in the stream may be safe to eat, but they do not recommend it at this time.

BP staff discovered the leak from an aboveground bulk storage tank at 9:20 a.m. Aug. 6 at their facility on Old Highway Road, Peosta.

The DNR will continue to monitor cleanup activities. DNR will also consider appropriate enforcement action.

Water Summary Update: Dry July for parts of Iowa

MEDIA CONTACT: Tim Hall at 515-725-8298 or Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES — Parts of Iowa experienced a very dry July, with Des Moines receiving only 0.38 inches of rain for the entire month, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

Temperatures across the state were generally near normal, with an average statewide temperature of 73.1 degrees. That's about a half a degree cooler than normal.

"The pattern of wetter in the north and drier in the south for Iowa continued through July, with some parts of southeast Iowa now 15 inches short of rainfall over the past 12 months," said Tim Hall, Hydrology Resources Coordinator for the Iowa DNR. "This is concerning, since average monthly rainfall begins to drop as we move into the fall months."

Streamflow conditions in much of the state remained above normal throughout July.

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, go to www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate.

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

EPC to meet in Des Moines – Contracts and rule changes on the agenda

MEDIA CONTACT: Jerah Sheets at 515-313-8909 or Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES – Water quality improvement projects, land quality grant proposals and amendments to household hazardous waste rules are up for the Environmental Protection Commission's approval Aug. 21.

The meeting is open to the public and begins at 10 a.m. in Room 116 of the State Capitol, 1007 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines. At the discretion of the chairperson, requests

to speak during the business meeting will be limited to comments that specifically address agenda items.

Please submit requests to speak and written comments to Jerah Sheets at Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-313-8909 or c/o DNR, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, IA 50319 by noon the day before the meeting.

A lake restoration project and contract amendments for Geographic Information Systems work are also up for commissioners' approval.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of the Minutes June 19
- Approval of the Minutes July 17
- Monthly Reports
- Acting Director's Remarks
- Contract with Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) – Black Hawk Lake Watershed
- Contract with Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) – Easter Lake Watershed Project
- Environmental Management Systems Grant Award Recommendation
- Adopted and Filed – Amendments to:
 - 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 Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District (Des Moines SWCD)
- Contract Amendment 2 with University of Northern Iowa GeoTREE Center
- Contract Amendment #2 to an existing contract (17ESDLQBSRALS-999) with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for Program Management (PM) and Community Engagement & Risk Communication (CERC) Flood Plain Mapping Services
- Contract Amendment #2 to existing contracts (17ESDLQBSRALS-0001) with a Pre-Qualified Company for Flood Plain Mapping Services
- Contract Amendment #2 to existing contracts (17ESDLQBSRALS-0002 through 0004) with three Pre-Qualified Companies for Flood Plain Mapping Services

- Items for Next Month's Meeting
- Monday, Sept. 17 – EPC Educational Tour – Clayton County
- Tuesday, Sept. 18 – EPC Business Meeting – Clayton County
- Tuesday, Oct. 16 – 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; Rebecca Guinn, Bettendorf, Secretary; Mary Boote, Des Moines; Nancy Couser, Nevada; Howard Hill, Cambridge; Harold Hommes, Windsor Heights; and Bob Sinclair, Sigourney. Bruce Trautman is the acting director of the 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.

Guthrie County

Carolyn Guttenfelder

Revocation of drinking water treatment and drinking water distribution certifications.