



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Supply News

Environmental Services

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Field Office 5 Now Back in the Wallace Building

The Field Office 5 move back to the Wallace Building is now complete. Most offices are located on the east side of the fourth floor, with the emergency response offices on the east side of the fifth floor. Visitors should check in at the reception desk on the fourth floor. Parking is available at the ramp on Grand and Pennsylvania (entrances on Grand Ave. and Des Moines Street), and at various on-street sites. Staff phone numbers and email addresses remain the same, including their main number of 515-725-0200, which is answered during normal business hours. For after hours, weekends and holidays, the 24-hour environmental emergency reporting number remains 515-725-8694.

FY 2019 Q4 IUP Update

The fiscal year 2019 Intended Use Plans (IUPs) Fourth Quarter Update for the Clean Water SRF and the Drinking Water SRF are now available for public review and comment at the following locations:

[Clean Water SRF](#)

[Drinking Water SRF](#)

The IUPs cover the period of July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019. Public comments are welcome. Draft quarterly project lists are also available for review.

A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2019 in the Wallace Building Office Building, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines. The meeting will be held in the

Julie Sievers, Senior Environmental Specialist, Field Office 3 - Spencer

During extremely cold weather or during periods of high winds, water tower and tank piping can freeze, preventing water from entering and leaving the tower or tank. To try and prevent this, operators are encouraged to take steps to keep the water flowing in and out of the tower or tank, using the recirculating pump if the tower is equipped with one, and monitoring system pressures. A drop in pressure when the tower or tank does not show adequate water is an indication of ice building up in the piping.

These actions are especially important in storage tanks with industrial or business school connections where the usage drops to very low levels for long periods (such as over a weekend or during snow days). If you encounter a situation where you cannot move water into and out of the tower or storage tank, contact your tower maintenance contractor. Typically hot water or steam is used to thaw out the piping. You may need to request your customers conserve water and reduce usage until the piping can be thawed out. Please notify your local DNR Field Office and appropriate agencies of the situation. If your system is depressurized, they will work with you to get the system back to normal operations.

Note: Look for additional information in the next couple weeks on this subject.

Water Main Breaks

In some parts of the state, the water mains are breaking due to cold temperatures and ground movement because there is less snow for insulation. As a reminder, if your system is depressurized during a repair of the water main, here's a link to the [Water Main Break and Depressurization Guidance](#) (lower right side of page).

National Weather Service's Winter Weather W

From the [website](#):

“This [website](#) is designed to teach you how to stay safe before, during and after a winter storm. You will find information on winter alerts, science and hazards, snow cover maps, and information describing the different types of winter storms.”

Iowa Dept. of Public Health's Winter Weather Website

From the [website](#):

“It is important to listen to weather forecasts regularly and check your emergency

The American Red Cross has a list of tips to prevent and recover from frozen pipes on their [website](#). With the winter season definitely upon us, take a moment to refresh your knowledge.

EPA's Preparedness Planning Checklists for Extreme Cold and Winter Storms

[EPA's Water Sector Incident Action Checklist](#) for extreme cold and winter storms is available on this webpage. These “rip & run” style checklists are designed to facilitate emergency preparedness, response, and recovery actions for water and wastewater utilities.

Incident Action Checklist - Extreme Cold and Winter Storms (PDF) (8 pp, 987K) EPA-817-F-15-003, January 2015

Maine: Wastewater Facility Operations During Winter Weather

Excerpted from WaterOperator.org blog of November 28, 2017

This [2013 presentation](#) (.pdf) by Maine DEP staff was written from a wastewater operator perspective, but much of it also applies to water systems. And, many of our water operators have dual duty as wastewater operators.

“...Preparing for winter weather can be as simple as making sure workers have work clothes, but it also means that every precaution should be taken to keep your water tower off your water tower, which can be not so simple at times. And being prepared means taking a look at all aspects of your operation: hydrants, wells/pumping equipment, storage tanks, backflow, emergency preparedness, trucks/backhoes/equipment needs and emergency stock items. ...”

IDNR WS Staff Speaking Engagements

Iowa DNR staff in the water supply program areas are scheduled to speak at the following events. The date, sponsor and event, location, subject, and contact information are listed.

- February 18-20, 2019. IRWA Annual Conference, Iowa Events Center, Iowa City, IA. “Creston Water Plant Failure and Recovery Process; IDNR WS Update.” [Brochure and registration](#).

Contact Steve Marley at 641-347-5510 for registration.

For other professional development opportunities, see the “Training Calendar” at programs.iowadnr.gov/opcertweb/.