



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Water Summary Update: Rainy September removes all drought designations from the state

MEDIA CONTACT: Tim Hall, Iowa DNR, 515-725-8298 or Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES — Last month was the 15th wettest September on record for Iowa, removing all drought designations from the state, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

"The drier summer months have been offset by a very wet September. These conditions mean that we are headed into winter in good shape from a groundwater perspective," said Tim Hall, DNR's coordinator of hydrology resources.

While these conditions are good for the overall water supply as Iowa heads into the winter, continued saturated soils continue to make the state vulnerable to flooding conditions should fall rains become more pronounced.

Statewide average rainfall totaled 6.17 inches, or 2.79 inches above normal, tying 1887 for the 15th wettest September on record. Precipitation totals for the month varied from 2.44 inches at Sheldon to nearly 14 inches in Dubuque.

Iowa temperatures averaged 68.2 degrees, or 5 degrees above normal, making this September the ninth warmest on record. The highest September temperature was recorded at 93 degrees throughout south central Iowa. Estherville reported the month's lowest temperature of 41 degrees, only 2 degrees below average.

This edition of the Water Summary Update marks the 100th report since its inception in 2012, as the state was facing considerable drought. While 2012 was by far the worst drought conditions the state has experienced over the past seven years, there have been other stretches of localized dry conditions that have come and gone.

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.

Water quality and solid waste contracts on October Environmental Protection agenda

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

DES MOINES – Contracts for a watershed project and household hazardous waste disposal head up the Oct. 15 meeting of the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission.

The business meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. in Room 116 of the Iowa State Capitol, 1007 E. Grand Avenue in Des Moines. The business meeting will be followed by a tour of a contaminated site that has been successfully redeveloped.

Commissioners will be asked to approve a four-year contract for water quality improvements in the Price Creek watershed located in Iowa and Benton counties. The project is designed to reduce bacteria and sediment loading to the creek. Funding comes from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 program designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Also up for commissioners' approval, a contract to upgrade the Cherokee Buena Vista Household Hazardous Waste facility, allowing citizens and small businesses to properly dispose of hazardous waste year round. Funding comes from the groundwater protection fund and permit fees from household hazardous materials retailers.

In other action, an 11 a.m. appointment is set to hear a referral to the Attorney General for two livestock facilities owned by Steven Kerns.

The meeting is open to the public. There is no scheduled public participation. Written comments may be submitted up to one day before the meeting to Jerah Sheets at Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov or to DNR, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, IA 50319.

The complete agenda follows:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

Monthly Reports

Director's Remarks

Referral to the Attorney General – Steven Kerns

Contract with Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)

Household Hazardous Materials Program – Agreement Recommendation

DNR Air Quality Bureau Overview

General Discussion

Items for Next Month's Meeting

- 19 – EPC Business Meeting – Polk County
- 17 – EPC Business Meeting – Polk County

Find more information at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Boards-Commissions>.

Commissioners include: Ralph Lents, Menlo, chair; Harold Hommes, Windsor Heights, vice chair; Bob Sinclair, Sigourney, Secretary; Stephanie Dykshorn, Ireton; Amy Echard, Farmersburg; Lisa Gochenour, Logan; Rebecca Guinn, Bettendorf; Howard Hill, Cambridge; and Tim Kaldenberg, Albia. Kayla Lyon is the DNR director.

Any person attending the public meeting who has special requirements such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments should contact the DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov, and advise of specific needs.

DNR enforcement actions

MEDIA CONTACT: Kelli Book, DNR, at 515-725-9572 or Kelli.Book@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.

Calhoun County

Richard Family Limited Partnership and Eric Richardson

Cease illegal open burning, provide documentation that the material has been cleaned up, and pay a \$2,000 administrative penalty.

Sioux County

Bar K Cattle LLC

Operate feedlot in compliance with laws and regulations, cease all discharges and develop and submit a plan of action to prevent all future discharges, and pay a \$5,000 administrative penalty.

Sioux County

Marcus Wollman dba Pro Pumping Ag Services

Ensure all manure is properly handled and land applied, develop and implement a

standard operating procedure for inspection and testing of manure handling equipment, and pay a \$2,500 administrative penalty.

Air Quality permits under review

MEDIA CONTACT: Lori Hanson, DNR, at 515-725-9525

or Lori.Hanson@dnr.iowa.gov for Title V permits; or Sarah Piziali, DNR, at 515-725-9549 or 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 air quality. DNR's permitting staff review each permit application to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality requirements. We encourage public comments on draft permits, providing help on how to [make effective comments](#). Submit written comments to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. DNR considers public comments before finalizing the permits.

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.

Scott County Scott County Landfill – 11555 110th Avenue, Davenport. The application was submitted to operate their existing Solid Waste Landfill. The public comment period ends Nov. 9.

Cerro Gordo County

Woodharbor Custom Cabinetry – 3277 Ninth St. S.W., Mason City.

The application was submitted to operate their existing Wood Kitchen Cabinets facility. The public comment period ends Nov. 9.

Construction Permits

DNR engineers review and issue construction permits to facilities before they build new or modify existing sources of air pollution. The public may review the following air quality construction permits available online at www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch.

Black Hawk County

John Deere Waterloo Works – Drive Train Operations – 400 Westfield Avenue, Waterloo. Project No. 19-291, Correct emission unit list and remove incorrect reference to an alarm. The public comment period ends Nov. 9.