



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2019

- [DNR releases draft 2018 impaired waters list, open for public comment](#)
- [DNR enforcement actions](#)
- [Air Quality permits under review](#)

## DNR releases draft 2018 impaired waters list, open for public comment

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Roger Bruner, DNR Supervisor of Monitoring and Assessment Section, [Roger.Bruner@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Roger.Bruner@dnr.iowa.gov).

**DES MOINES** -- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is seeking public comment on the [newly released draft impaired waters list](#). Data released by the Iowa DNR today shows 27 impairments are recommended to be removed from the 2018 impaired list, once approved by the EPA.

This report identifies surface waters that do not fully meet all applicable state water quality standards for their intended use and that need a water quality improvement plan. Of the 1,421 water segments studied, which include portions of rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, 363 segments fully met the Iowa water quality standards for their intended use, while 523 segments were identified as waters in need of further investigation and 767 segments did not fully meet the [standards](#) needed for their intended use and were impaired.

“An increase or decrease in impaired waters does not necessarily mean that the water quality in the state is worsening or improving. It often is a reflection of the additional monitoring we are conducting, changes in water quality standards, and changes in assessment methodologies,” said Roger Bruner, supervisor of the DNR’s Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment section. “Impaired segments are often used for recreation and fishing, among other uses, so impairment doesn’t mean that the segments are unusable or that they necessarily will cause illnesses.”

### [3-Step Process for Impaired Waters Study](#)

The DNR uses fixed station river monitoring, lake monitoring and beach monitoring, wadeable stream biological monitoring, fish tissue monitoring and wetland/shallow lakes monitoring. Several other data are also analyzed before determining whether a water segment does or does not meet the requirements like the Iowa DNR’s Fish Kill

Database, along with federal (Army Corps of Engineers and US Geological Survey) and municipal (drinking water supplies) data and surrounding states' data.

The department's process is to compile all available credible data in the correct time frame. The data is then pulled together into a common format. Then the individual results are compared to the appropriate criteria. The assessment for each segment is a compilation of all these results (2,435 assessments in this report).

All Iowa waters are designated for both aquatic life protection and water contact recreation. Others also may include one or both designations for drinking water and human health protection.

"The DNR has a long history of working with Iowans across the state to help address our water quality challenges," said Adam Schnieders, acting DNR Water Quality Bureau Chief. "The importance of this collective, persistent work is clear and will continue to be a priority for the DNR."

Public comment is welcomed now through December 28, 2019 and should be sent to:

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Attn: Dan Kendall Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Section  
Wallace State Office Building  
502 East 9th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

[Email](#)

To obtain the recording or the transcript of the media conference call, please send a request to Alex Murphy, DNR Director of Communications at [Alex.Murphy@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Alex.Murphy@dnr.iowa.gov).

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## DNR enforcement actions

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Kelli Book, DNR, at 515-725-9572 or [Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto: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](http://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.

### Louisa County

Brauns Excavating, LLC.

Remove and properly dispose of remaining solid waste, cease all open burning and improper solid waste disposal, and pay a \$3,370.00 administrative penalty.

## **Lyon County**

Triple G Feedlot, Inc and G&G Farms, Inc.

Operate feedlots in compliance with regulations, do one of the following: cease all discharges and develop a plan of action to prevent future discharges or submit a NPDES permit application, and pay a \$6,000.00 administrative penalty.

## **Story County**

Roger Engstrom

Remove and properly dispose of remaining solid waste, cease all open burning and improper solid waste disposal, and pay a \$3,000.00 administrative penalty.

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## **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.

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](http://www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft).

### **Muscatine County**

KraftHeinz Muscatine, 1357 Isett Ave, Muscatine. The application was submitted to operate their existing Canned Fruits, Vegetables, Preserves, Jams, and Jellies facility. The public comment period ends December 14.