



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 12, 2019

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Water quality and solid waste successes on Environmental Protection Commission's agenda

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

DES MOINES—Highlights from DNR's six environmental field offices will kick off the Dec. 17 meeting of the 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.

A contract to reduce bacteria going into Iowa's largest coldwater trout stream, the Yellow River, is up for commissioners' approval.

Commissioners will also be asked to approve the third quarter intended use plans for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, which provide low-interest loans to publicly owned drinking water suppliers and wastewater facilities. Funding helps improve drinking water and control pollution of Iowa's waters.

In other action, commissioners will be asked to approve a final rule change which will change the definition of "common ownership" of animal feeding operations, replacing the word "majority" with "10 percent or more."

Successes from the Environmental Management System program will conclude the meeting, showcasing innovative solid waste projects.

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
- DNR Field Services Bureau Overview
- Final Rule – Chapter 65 – Animal Feeding Operations Definition of Common Ownership
- ~~Contract with P7 Marketing Inc.~~ Moved to Jan. 22, 2020, agenda
- Contract with Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) for Yellow River Headwaters Water Quality Project
- Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund – FY 2020 Intended Use Plan Third Quarter Update
- Environmental Management System Annual Report
- General Discussion
- Items for Next Month's Meeting
 - 22, 2020, at 10 a.m. – NRC/EPC Joint Meeting – Polk County
 - 22, 2020, at 1 p.m. – EPC Business Meeting – Polk County
 - 18, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. – 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.

Water Summary Update: Cooler, wetter autumn than usual in Iowa

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

DES MOINES — Autumn this year in Iowa has been cooler and wetter than normal, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

Temperatures for the fall months (September, October and November) averaged 49.3 degrees, or 0.9 degrees below normal, while precipitation totaled 12.33 inches, or 4.30 inches above normal.

"Despite November being drier than normal, the last 18 months in Iowa have been the wettest on record. Soil moisture and shallow groundwater look good going into the winter

months,” said Tim Hall, DNR’s coordinator of hydrology resources.

Streamflow continues to be above normal for most of the state, while drought conditions are nonexistent. Nationally, there is very little drought across the country, with the exception being the four corners area of the southwest, east into Kansas, and parts of Texas.

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, IHR—Hydroscience and Engineering, and the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.

DNR to host stakeholder meeting on proposed code changes regarding water quality

MEDIA CONTACT: Courtney Cswercko, DNR,
at courtney.cswercko@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-725-8411.

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will hold a stakeholder meeting Dec. 19 to discuss several proposed changes to the Iowa Administrative Code regarding wastewater, drinking water, sludge, and private sewage disposal systems.

The stakeholder meeting will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Meeting Rooms A and B at the Urbandale Public Library, 3520 86th St. in Urbandale.

Changes range from updating language regarding separation distances and removing obsolete forms to updating language to match current permits and adding references to federal regulations. Chapters included in the proposed rulemaking are Chapters 40, 41, 43, 49, 60, 62, 63, 64, 67 and 69.

For details on proposed changes, visit the [Wastewater and NPDES Rules](#). The draft is organized by chapter, and there is a short summary of the reasons supporting each proposed change directly following each rule section.

Please contact Courtney Cswercko at courtney.cswercko@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-725-8411 with any questions on the proposed rule changes or on the stakeholder meeting. Written comments on this version of the proposed rules may be submitted by email at courtney.cswercko@dnr.iowa.gov or may be mailed to Courtney Cswercko, Iowa DNR, 502 East 9th St, Des Moines, IA 50319, until Jan. 10, 2020.

Iowa DNR unveils new online air permit application system

Media Contact: Marnie Stein at 515-725-9555 or Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES—Last week, the Iowa DNR unveiled the latest in online technology-- making it easier to submit air quality permit applications.

Businesses can now submit all construction and Title V air quality permit applications using the Iowa Environmental Application System—Iowa EASY Air.

“We expect this online system to save businesses significant time in preparing applications and receiving permits, while DNR continues to protect air quality for Iowans,” said Kayla Lyon, DNR director.

“We’re excited about EASY Air and the advantages it offers,” she added. “As we bring the latest technology to our permitting process, we see the potential for using similar online applications in our land and water programs.”

This is good news for facilities—as industry testers and others have repeatedly said the new system is intuitive and easy to use, and should speed permit delivery.

The online system comes pre-loaded with information for companies that have previously submitted permits or emission inventories—reducing repetitive data entry. Other features that speed permit delivery include:

- Increasing data accuracy
- Saving time on application preparation and submittal
- Accepting online payments.

The Iowa DNR reviews permit applications to ensure air quality standards are met, enhancing economic opportunities throughout the state. The standards are set to protect Iowans’ public health and safety.

Companies can register for a training webinar on Dec. 12 from 1 to 4 p.m., or find out more on the DNR’s [EAirServices](#) webpage.

Not sure you need a permit? Check for [air permit requirements](#) or call 877-AIR-Iowa for construction permit help.

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.

Marshall County

JBS USA, LLC – 402 N. 10th Avenue, Marshalltown.

The application was submitted to operate their existing meat packing manufacturing facility. The public comment period ends Jan. 11, 2020.

Industrial Energy Applications, Inc. – JBS USA – N. Ninth Avenue, Marshalltown.

The application was submitted to operate their existing electrical services facility. The public comment period ends Jan. 11, 2020.

Woodbury County

Cargill, Inc. – Sioux City – 1016 Clark St., Sioux City.

The application was submitted to operate their existing Soybean Oil Mills facility. The public comment period ends Jan. 11, 2020.