



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Supply News

Environmental Services

Memorial Day is May 25th

The DNR offices are closed on Monday, May 25th, for the Memorial Day holiday. On this Memorial Day weekend, please honor and remember the men and women who have died while serving our country in the United States Armed Forces.

Error Correction in both CDC and EPA Guidances for Opening Buildings

From ASDWA, 5/20/2020

“Two federal agencies charged with protecting the health of U.S. residents during the coronavirus pandemic have acknowledged that their guidance for safely reopening buildings that were closed because of state shutdown orders was flawed and that they have revised it.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) incorrectly stated the proper temperature setting for water heaters in offices, hotels, restaurants, schools, and other large buildings with complex plumbing systems.

The errors, now corrected, put people at risk of contracting Legionnaires’ disease, plumbing experts said. Legionnaires’ disease is a deadly respiratory illness that is spread by inhaling contaminated droplets from cooling towers, showers, fountains, hot tubs, and other water fixtures that create airborne particles.

The CDC changed its [guidance](#) last Thursday. The EPA updated its [document](#) on Wednesday, 5/19.”

The hot water temperature was corrected to 140 degrees F.

Two-part Online Training: Asset Management for Iowa Small Water Systems

Dates:

Wednesday, June 17, 2020: Part One: *“Introduction to Asset Management”*

Thursday, June 18, 2020: Part Two: *“Optimizing Asset Life for Sustained Operations”*

Time: 10:00am-11:30am CDT each day

Cost: Free of charge

[Registration](#)

Presenter: Nicholas Willis, Program Manager, Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center

Training Credit Hours: Approved for 3 hours by the Iowa Operator Certification Program

Please Note: In order to receive credit hours, you must register and attend individually. We cannot provide certificates to individuals watching the webinar as a group.

“Description: In this two-part online training series, you will learn about how asset management can benefit your system. Not sure where to begin? We will provide you with the tools you need to get started and will walk you through the process.

With limited revenues, aging infrastructure, and regulatory obligations to meet, a comprehensive approach to managing your system is vital. You may have problems related to unknown meter, valve, or hydrant locations. You may not be sure of which asset(s) to replace given limited funds. Asset Management can help you solve these problems, and more.

In Part One, you will learn how to:

- Identify the 5 core components of asset management
- Develop an inventory of utility components
- Identify critical assets for sustained operations
- Set goals for level of service at a sustainable cost

In Part Two, you will learn how to:

- Make decisions about how to operate, maintain, repair, and replace critical assets
- Identify long-term funding strategies for your system
- Evaluate energy efficiency of assets”

Chapters 9 and 50 Rulemaking Approved by EPC

The Environmental Protection Commission approved the adopted and filed rulemaking for Chapters 9 and 50 at their May 19th meeting. The rulemaking will be published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin and Iowa Administrative Code on June 17th, and will become effective on July 22nd.

Iowa City West High School Students Selected as Grand Prize Winners of EPA's ‘See a Bloom, Give It Room’ High School Video Challenge

From EPA Region 7, May 15, 2020

“...two West High School students in Iowa City, Iowa were recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 as grand prize winners of the “See a Bloom, Give It Room” High School Video Challenge. The competition, supported by EPA’s Office of Research and Development, called for videos from high school students

(grades 9-12) that promoted public awareness of harmful algal blooms through creative filmmaking.

West High School students Shreya Khullar and Caroline Mascardo won the Region 7 grand prize by showing us the dangers of harmful algal blooms through a [stop-motion animation film](#).

“The creativity and enthusiasm these students showcased in the production of their videos demonstrates how influential our youth can be in educating communities on important environmental protection and public safety issues,” said EPA Region 7 Administrator Jim Gulliford. “These students produced creative videos that will help communities across our country learn about the risks of harmful algal blooms and how to spot and steer clear of them, and be safe.”

This challenge called for students to create public safety videos that help the public identify and stay safe around harmful algal blooms (HABs). HABs are a potential danger for people and pets. The contest was open to high school students or teams residing in the states and tribal lands of EPA Regions 7 and 8: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and 27 tribal nations.

The videos were highlighted at the EPA Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Conference, are featured on EPA web and social media channels, and will be used by the Agency and its state environmental partners in HAB safety outreach efforts. ...” The students received a \$6,000 prize for their video.

[Full news release](#)

In Memorium: Stuart Schmitz, State Toxicologist

From Carmily Stone, Chief, IDPH Environmental Health Services Bureau, 5/18/2020

“It is with great sadness that the Bureau of Environmental Health Services is sharing the sudden passing of Stu Schmitz with our local public and environmental health colleagues. Stu not only provided guidance and leadership to programs such as occupational health, childhood lead poisoning prevention, and the Environmental Public Health Tracking program, but he also served as our State Toxicologist and was an invaluable resource on the effects of environmental exposures on human health. The Bureau is going to miss his knowledge and expertise, his calm demeanor even on the toughest of phone calls, his stories, and his sense of humor.”

At DNR, many of us worked with Stu and relied on his technical expertise in our various program areas. He will be greatly missed.

WRF Webinar: Impact of Prolonged Shutdown on Buildings from a Water Quality Perspective

Date: Thursday, May 28

Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm CDT

Cost: Free of charge

[Registration](#)

“... To help slow down the spread of COVID-19, businesses, schools, universities, and other facilities were shut down or are sparsely used. Due to building closures, the water in pipes becomes stagnant and water quality will degrade over time. Water stagnation could cause a variety of water quality issues such as increased risk for regrowth of pathogens, dissipating disinfectant, and increased corrosion of plumbing components in the building systems. While our understanding of water quality impacts due to widespread, long-term building closures is still developing, this webcast will provide current information and recommendations on what water utilities, public health officials, and building owners should consider when buildings reopen.”

A note on Iowa DNR and COVID-19

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is working with state and local officials to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and has transitioned employees to work remotely. DNR offices are closed to the public during this time and only available by appointment.

In another effort to further reduce the spread of COVID-19, the DNR is encouraging the use of the online services for submitting applications, payments and other daily tasks and interaction with DNR staff.

- [Full list of DNR's online services](#)
- [Up-to-date information on DNR services, facilities and events impacted by COVID-19](#)
- [Technical information for regulated businesses in regards to COVID-19](#)

We thank you for your patience and flexibility during this time. If you need to contact DNR staff you can reach them by email or phone or by calling 515-725-8200.