



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Wastewater News

## Environmental Services

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## SRF FY 21 Third Quarter IUP Updates Approved

The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) approved the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP) updates for third quarter of fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021). The Commission took the action on December 15, 2020 during their teleconference meeting. The IUPs can be viewed on the following webpages:

[Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#)

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#)

For more information, please contact Theresa Enright, SRF Coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-725-0498 or [theresa.enright@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:theresa.enright@dnr.iowa.gov).

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## Update on Operator Certification Examinations

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Iowa's drinking water and wastewater operators took proctored, standardized certification exams either at the DMACC Southridge Computer Lab or by appointment at one of the six Iowa DNR Regional Field Offices. Due to the ambiguity of when, and if, these venues will again be open to the public, Iowa DNR is switching to remote proctoring for the examinations.

An operator is able to take a drinking water or wastewater certification exam on any laptop or desktop computer that has a camera and microphone; this does NOT include tablets, iPads, or phones. Once you log in using the link provided by the testing company via email, your browser is frozen; a proctor can see you through the camera; your surroundings are monitored for extra materials or cheating; and the test session is recorded for future reference if there are any cheating suspicions or accusations. The testing company will provide a YouTube Video and live customer support for any technical issues arising during a remote session.

After the pandemic, operators will have two options for exam delivery: remote proctoring and the traditional method of on-line testing at an Iowa DNR Field Office or Community College computer lab.

**How does an operator sign up for a remotely proctored exam?** To register to take your exam remotely, email the following information to:

[ExamRemoteProctoringRegistrationOpCert@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:ExamRemoteProctoringRegistrationOpCert@dnr.iowa.gov)

1. Name
2. Operator ID#
3. Exam Category and Grade that you have received Iowa DNR approval to sit for. **Remember: you must have been issued an IDNR Eligibility Letter prior to registering to take a remote exam.**

You will receive an automatic reply from the Iowa DNR confirming our receipt of your request.

**Next Step:** Watch for an email from the proctoring service: **PSI Customer Service**([schedule@goamp.com](mailto:schedule@goamp.com)). This email will include the following:

1. Detailed instructions for exam scheduling and procedure;
2. A link for the scheduling and rescheduling of your unique exam(s). You will have complete control over this. Remote Proctoring is offered twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week;
3. A tutorial video; and,
4. An 800 customer service number you can call anytime, 24/7, with any questions concerning the remote proctoring process or for any technical assistance.

**What happens after I complete the remote exam?** Upon completion of your exam, the IDNR will receive and process your score. Please allow 48 to 72 business hours to process and mail the letter.

**If you receive a passing score:** Once the score is processed, the fee can be paid online on the [Operator Certification Database](#) (fastest method), or you can wait for your "pass" letter in the mail and then mail the letter and payment back to the IDNR.

**If you need to retest:** Once the score is processed, you can pay the retest fee online on the [Operator Certification Database](#) (fastest method), or you can wait for your retest letter in the mail and then mail the letter and payment back to the IDNR. Once you have paid your retest fee, you may begin the process of scheduling your retest by following the directions shown above.

This information is also posted on IDNR's [Operator Certification webpage](#).

Please direct any questions to Beth Feilmeier at [elizabeth.feilmeier@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:elizabeth.feilmeier@dnr.iowa.gov) or (515) 725-0463.

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## Operator Certification: Continuing Education Opportunities

The IDNR Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Operator Certification Program is aware that conferences, workshops, and in person training was postponed or cancelled

earlier this year. However, there is still a plethora of quality online and virtual training being created and offered through our community colleges, state industry associations, national industry associations, EPA, and other state industry partners. All operators should continue to monitor their emails and the Training Calendar on the [Iowa DNR Operator Certification Database](#). Look at the calendar often, as there are new opportunities posted throughout the week.

Please contact Laurie Sharp at (515) 725-0284 with any questions.

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## 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.



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