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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 31, 2020

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Drought conditions update

MEDIA CONTACT: Tim Hall, DNR, at 515-452-6633 or Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov and Justin Glisan, IDALS, at 515-281-8981 or Justin.Glisan@iowaagriculture.gov.

DES MOINES—About half of Iowa's population is currently challenged with abnormally dry or drought conditions. To learn more about the potential for drought next year, plan to attend a teleconference from 10 a.m. to noon on Jan. 13.

Sponsored by DNR and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, state and federal experts will provide insight into last year's conditions and discuss the potential for drought continuing into 2021.

A year ago, Iowans faced potential flooding on the Missouri River, after the wettest two years recorded in Iowa. Despite above normal moisture at the beginning of the year, dry conditions set in. As localized rainfall during the 2020 growing season fell eight to nine inches short of normal, some areas in western Iowa experienced reductions in crop yields and reduced drinking water availability.

Specialists will reflect on the droughts of 2020 and 2012, and provide insights on how today's abnormally dry conditions could affect future drought. Experts will discuss streamflow and groundwater conditions, trends in water use and the climate outlook for next year. Weaving this information together will provide projections for 2021.

Find the complete meeting agenda and sign-in information on the [Water Summary](#) page.

Presenters come from Iowa DNR, Iowa DALS, U.S. Department of Agriculture—Midwest Climate Hub and U.S. Geological Survey—Central Midwest Water Science Center.

DNR enforcement actions

MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242 or Tamara.McIntosh@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.

Poweshiek County

Fremont Farms of Iowa, LLP

Operate and maintain all structures at its animal feeding operation in compliance with law; install and maintain retaining walls at the front edge of manure storage buildings; load all trucks inside of the manure storage buildings; construct two new manure storage buildings; use temporary stormwater controls and best management practices in the event of stormwater contamination at the facility; test the stormwater runoff for ammonia in five locations at the facility; and pay a \$4,000 administrative penalty.

Air Quality permits under review

MEDIA CONTACT: Marnie Stein, DNR, at 515-725-9525 or Marnie.Stein@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

Arconic Davenport Works (formerly Alcoa) – 4879 State St., Riverdale. The application was submitted to operate their existing Aluminum Sheet, Plate and Foil facility. The public comment period ends Jan. 31, 2021.

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 OR through the [EASY Air Public Inquiry Portal](#) and then click the Public Notice tab.

Muscatine County

Grain Processing Corporation – 1600 Oregon St., Muscatine. Project No. 20-041, Dryer House 5 (DH5), Dewatering Building Sources: increase PM, PM10 and PM2.5 emission limits, and modify exhaust air flow rate and temperature due to 2019 testing. The public comment period ends Jan. 27, 2021.

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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