



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 6, 2018

- [Water Summary Update: wettest August in 11 years](#)
- [EPC to tour northeast Iowa prior to September 18 meeting](#)
- [Air Quality permits under review](#)

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## Water Summary Update: wettest August in 11 years

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Mike Anderson at 515-725-8298  
or [Michael.Anderson@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Michael.Anderson@dnr.iowa.gov), or Tim Hall at 515-725-8298  
or [Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES — Drought conditions in Iowa changed thanks to the wettest August since 2007, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

Iowa received 6.19 inches of rainfall in August, 1.99 inches above the 30-year climatological average. Northern portions of the state received above normal rainfall, while southern portions received below normal rainfall in the first part of the month, then above average rainfall after that.

As a result, shallow groundwater conditions improved dramatically in the last two weeks over south central and southeast Iowa. Streamflow conditions in much of the state remained in the above and much above normal condition. Many areas have received more than 10 inches of rainfall, but slight drought conditions still exist in Keokuk County and portions of Van Buren, Henry and Des Moines counties. Meanwhile, parts of central, east central and northeast Iowa have dealt with flooding.

Temperatures across the state were slightly warmer than average at 72 degrees, about a half of a degree warmer than normal. The highest temperature recorded during the month was 100 degrees in Lamoni on Aug. 6, and the coolest overnight low was 41 degrees in Cherokee on Aug, 29.

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, go to [www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate](http://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.

## EPC to tour northeast Iowa prior to September 18 meeting

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jerah Sheets at 515-313-8909 or [Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov).

ELKADER—Prior to its business meeting, the Environmental Protection Commission will learn about the unique geology that makes northeast Iowa a trout-fishing destination.

At 12:30, following lunch at Country Rose Café, 112 Commercial St. in Strawberry Point, commissioners will assemble for a tour of the area's unique karst topography, which includes sinkholes and cold water streams. Tour guides come from the University of Iowa's Geological Survey. The public is welcome to attend. Dinner follows at 6 p.m. in the Franklin Hotel Restaurant, 102 Elkader St., Strawberry Point.

Starting at 10 a.m., Sept. 18, commissioners will hold their business meeting at the Osborne Welcome Center, 29862 Osborne Road, Elkader. The meeting is open to the public. At the discretion of the chairperson, requests to speak during the business meeting will be limited to comments that specifically address agenda items.

Budgets for state fiscal years 2020 and 2021 are up for commissioners' approval. Commissioners will also be asked to approve contracts with the University of Iowa Flood Center, the U.S. Geological Survey and several entities proposing solid waste alternative projects.

Annual fees for water use permits and quarterly plans for wastewater and drinking water revolving loan projects are also up for approval.

Please submit requests to speak and written comments to Jerah Sheets at [Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Jerah.Sheets@dnr.iowa.gov) or 515-313-8909, or DNR, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, IA 50319 by noon the day before the meeting.

The complete agenda follows:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

Monthly Reports

Acting Director's Remarks

FY2020- FY2021 Budget Request

Contract Amendment #2 with University of Iowa Flood Center

Solid Waste Alternatives Program – Contract Recommendations

Water Supply – Water Use & Allocation Annual Permit Fee  
Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund - FY 2019 Intended Use  
Plans  
The United States Geological Survey  
General Discussion

- Annual Report New Due Dates

Items for Next Month's Meeting

- Oct. 16 – EPC Business Meeting – Des Moines
- Nov. 20 – EPC Business Meeting – Des Moines

The complete [agenda and item briefs](#) are available on the DNR website.

Commissioners include: Ralph Lents, Menlo, chair; Joe Riding, Altoona, vice chair; Rebecca Guinn, Bettendorf, Secretary; Mary Boote, Des Moines; Nancy Couser, Nevada; Howard Hill, Cambridge; Harold Hommes, Windsor Heights; and Bob Sinclair, Sigourney. Bruce Trautman is the acting director of the DNR.

## 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 the air where we live. DNR's permitting staff review the applications to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality standards. The public has the right and is encouraged to comment on draft permits. DNR considers [public comments](#) before finalizing the permits. Submit comments in writing to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the public comment period.

### 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).

### Marion County

MidAmerican Energy Co. – located at 307 Godfrey Lane, Knoxville. The application was submitted to operate their existing Electric Services facility. The public comment period ends Oct. 6.

**Dubuque County**

Eagle Window & Door, Inc. located at 2045 Kerper Blvd, Dubuque. The application was submitted to operate their existing Millwork facility. The public comment period ends Oct. 6.