



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2019

- [Protect sensitive people from heavy fireworks smoke; dispose unused fireworks safely.](#)
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Protect sensitive people from heavy fireworks smoke; dispose unused fireworks safely

MEDIA CONTACT: Brian Hutchins at 515-725-9550 or Brian.Hutchins@dnr.iowa.gov.

As much as we love fireworks displays, drifting smoke can cause breathing problems for some.

“If your family or friends suffer from asthma or respiratory difficulties, it’s important for them to stay upwind, a safe distance from fireworks smoke,” says Brian Hutchins, DNR air quality supervisor. “The elderly and children are also vulnerable to higher levels of smoke.”

Sensitive people are most likely to have trouble breathing when air is stagnant. With no breeze, fine particles can be trapped near the ground and build to unhealthy levels.

Smoke contains fine particles and gases, which can be hard on the lungs. Fine particles in fireworks’ smoke are produced from black powder used to shoot fireworks skyward along with the metals that produce brilliant colors.

Those unable to avoid areas of dense smoke should limit outdoor activity and contact their health care provider if they experience difficulty breathing.

In 2017, Fourth of July fireworks in Des Moines gave rise to fine particle levels that exceeded national standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Learn more about [fine particles \(PM2.5\)](#) and how [fireworks displays](#) can affect sensitive populations.

Finally, play it safe and [dispose of your unused fireworks](#) safely.

DNR enforcement actions

MEDIA CONTACT: Kelli Book, DNR, at 515-725-9572 or Kelli.Book@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.

Adair County

Orient Area Betterment and Improvement Corporation

Dispose of all demolition waste as asbestos containing material at a designated landfill or if the testing indicates less than 1% asbestos, then the material can be disposed of as construction waste, submit testing and disposal receipts, and pay an administrative penalty in the amount of 5,000.

Greene County

Neese, Inc.

Operate in compliance with applicable DNR rules and regulations; develop and implement a Standard Operating Procedure to ensure proper applicator certification; and pay an administrative penalty in the amount of \$500.

Louisa County

Cat-Nip Ridge Manure Application, Inc

Ensure proper transportation and application of manure; develop and implement a Standard Operating Procedure for equipment inspection and maintenance; and submit discharge reports.

Webster County

Michael Pearson

Cease all illegal discharges, Obtain an NPDES permit, Install sediment and erosion controls, Obtain NPDES permits for all construction activities in the future, and pay an administrative penalty in the amount of \$5,000.

Administrative Orders

Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

Muscatine County

Vitalix, Inc

Cease illegal discharges; Comply with wastewater and stormwater regulations; Submit a written plan to prevent future releases; and Pay an administrative penalty in the amount of \$5,500.

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 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.

Webster County

POET Biorefining - Gowrie located at 1562 320th St., Gowrie.

The Significant Modification application was submitted to operate their existing Industrial Organic Chemicals, NEC facility. The public comment period ends July 20.

Construction Permits

DNR engineers review and issue construction permits to facilities before they build new or modified sources of air pollution. The public may review the following air quality construction permits available online at www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch.

Muscatine County

Grain Processing Corporation, 1600 Oregon St., Muscatine

Project 18-402, Permit modification for DH5 Building Sources to install Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer. Public comment period ends July 20.



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