



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three Iowa companies win regional pollution prevention award

MEDIA CONTACT: Jeff Fiagle at 515-725-8353 or Jeff.Fiagle@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES—The Iowa DNR is pleased to recognize the 2020 winners of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency award, noting that three of the four companies are from Iowa and have previously worked with DNR's Pollution Prevention program.

Yesterday, EPA announced the four winners of the Region 7 Pollution Prevention Awards, including:

- Clow Valve in Oskaloosa
- Iowa City Veterans Administration Health Care System
- JBS Swift Pork in Ottumwa
- Washington University in St. Louis

“We’d like to congratulate these companies on the significant efforts they’ve made to reduce waste, energy and water using proven pollution prevention strategies,” said Kayla Lyon, DNR director. “Making improvements in their facilities not only reduces pollution today, it contributes toward a more sustainable future.”

The Pollution Prevention Services provides environmental technical assistance to business and industry through assessments, environmental management systems assistance, workshops and webinars, a P2 Resource Library and the Pollution Prevention Intern Program.

The P2 Intern Program offers a challenging, hands-on internship to advanced engineering students, matching their skills and experience with projects submitted by top

Iowa companies. At the end of the 12- or 24-week internship, students present innovative recommendations to company staff. The DNR provides training, coordination and support for the program.

Find out more about [EPA's Region 7 winners](#) and their award-winning projects.

The DNR is proud to share past P2 projects with these Iowa companies:

JBS Swift Pork in Ottumwa

In 2018, a DNR P2 intern conducted a water balance for the steam generation and cooling systems. Specifically, the intern designed recommendations including adoption of an air-cooled condenser to assist in the rendering operation and reduce overall water cooling demand. The intern also recommended water sub-metering and a leak detection and repair program. The 2019 P2 intern recommended projects to significantly reduce energy usage of the facility's compressor system.

Iowa City Veterans Administration Health Care System

The Iowa City VA has won sustainability awards from Practice GreenHealth and a previous P2 Award in 2018. DNR interns worked early on with the VA, and DNR is an ongoing partner.

Clow Valve Company

For more than 130 years, Clow Valve Company in Oskaloosa has manufactured iron waterworks valves and fire hydrants. The company relies on P2 and environmental sustainability and is a partner of the P2 Program. The P2 intern program assisted Clow Valve in the 2000s.

The Pollution Prevention Intern program is a partner with Iowa industry and EPA Region 7 providing environmental technical assistance to industry, institutions and government agencies. Since 2001, we have assisted Iowa companies in saving:

- \$91 million dollars,
- 9 million kilowatt hours of electricity
- 13.1 million therms of energy
- 5.0 billion gallons of water
- 248,956 tons of solid and special waste
- 8,668 tons of hazardous waste
- 294,021 MTCO₂E *

* 1 metric ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the equivalent of 2,205 pounds of carbon air emissions.

EPA's Region 7 includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and nine tribal nations. The regional office is in Lenexa, Kan.

Online information available for Bob White Lake Water Quality Improvement Plan

MEDIA CONTACT: Jeff Berckes at 515-725-8391 or jeff.berckes@dnr.iowa.gov.

ALLERTON – Iowans interested in the results of a DNR study to improve water quality in Bob White Lake in Wayne County can view a presentation on the Iowa DNR’s YouTube channel.

Bob White Lake is on the state’s list of impaired waters for high levels of algae and turbidity and low levels of dissolved oxygen. The current study, or DNR water quality improvement plan, shows how these problems are caused by too much phosphorus in the lake. The problems impact recreation on the lake and aquatic life.

The plan explores the amounts and sources of phosphorus entering the lake and offers potential solutions to reduce those levels and work toward fixing the problem. The document is designed as a guide for local resource agencies, partners, stakeholders and residents to improve the lake.

The presentation is available now at youtube.com/iowadnr through Sept. 14. The full document can be downloaded on the Iowa DNR’s website at the following: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedImprovement/WatershedResearchData/WaterImprovementPlans/PublicMeetingsPlans.aspx>.

Public comments on the plan must be submitted by Sep. 14 to the following:

E-mail: jeff.berckes@dnr.iowa.gov

Mail: Jeff Berckes, care of Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. Ninth St. Des Moines, Iowa 50319

After gathering Iowans’ comments, the DNR will forward the final plan, also called by its technical name of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

Iowa's water operators show dedication to local communities, clean water

MEDIA CONTACT: Eric Wiklund at 515-725-0313 or Eric.Wiklund@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES – A DNR supervisor calls them, “The angels of our communities.”

Governor Reynolds honors them, proclaiming Aug. 16 to 22 as Water and Wastewater Workers of Iowa Week. The Governor urges Iowans to recognize the valuable role clean water plays in the lives of all Iowans this coming week.

The professionals who train and learn to operate Iowa’s 1,822 public water supplies and 814 wastewater facilities can be easily overlooked. But, to Jessica Montana, supervisor of the DNR’s southwest Iowa field office, “These are angels in a community.”

“As essential workers during COVID-19, they’ve demonstrated their dedication and willingness to do anything—even put their lives on the line—to provide safe drinking water and protect Iowa’s natural resources,” said Laurie Sharp, DNR’s operator certification coordinator.

This dedication to public health and environmental protection is nothing new for this resourceful workforce. When flooding closed Interstate 29 and Highway 2 in southwest

Iowa in March of 2019, towns along the Missouri River struggled to provide safe drinking water and effective wastewater treatment.

As floodwaters encroached on Hamburg and Glenwood, the towns drilled emergency wells to bring drinking water and wastewater services back online. It was essential to test water from potential wells.

“DNR was collecting many samples to evaluate the quality of water from each emergency well,” said Montana. Delivering samples to the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory in Ankeny took about three hours. When the city of Council Bluffs stepped in to analyze water samples in their certified lab, it saved DNR field staff many hours.

Operators working with the Iowa Rural Water Association also assisted DNR by providing tools and technical assistance between communities. “It was an incredible team effort that helped DNR staff direct their energy to flooding efforts,” Montana added.

“The dedication of water and wastewater professionals in each of these communities was humbling,” she said. “Operators in Glenwood and Hamburg worked around the clock, literally, to get the systems back online quickly.”

Iowa has 2,642 certified water operators and 1,771 certified wastewater operators.

“These frontline professionals have once again, in dealing with this week’s storm, earned a kudos for their resourcefulness,” Sharp added. Please thank an operator for the work they do to provide safe drinking water and properly treated wastewater in your community.

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.

For copies of the orders below, contact Kelli Book at Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov. Older actions can be found 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.

Dickinson County

JR, Land LLC and Bridges Bay Resort, LLC

Cease all illegal discharges to waters of the state; apply for National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for all qualifying construction sites and comply with

the terms; timely renew said NPDES permit(s); stabilize disturbed ground consistent with NPDES General Permit No. 2; and pay a \$8,000 administrative penalty.

Get the State Fair Special delivered to your home!

Iowa Outdoors magazine AND a t-shirt for just \$20!

Since we won't see you at the Iowa State Fair this year, we're bringing the popular "[state fair](#)" [magazine special](#) to your door!

Subscribe to [Iowa Outdoors](#) magazine to get **four big issues** filled with beautiful photography, wildlife articles, outdoor destinations, and next year's calendar. You'll get the **state fair t-shirt**, in light-blue 100-percent preshrunk cotton, promoting the 100th anniversary of state parks.

To subscribe, visit the [Iowa Outdoors magazine special page](#), or purchase through the [DNR's online license site](#).

When [subscribing](#), choose your t-shirt size (XXXL cost extra), and you can purchase an additional t-shirt when you order. T-shirts will be mailed by Sept. 30, 2020. The \$20 price includes a one-year subscription, t-shirt and shipping costs.

Hurry! This [offer](#) is only available through August 31, 2020. We hope you enjoy Iowa Outdoors!

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.