



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Supply News

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DNR Staff Update

Lori Rattay has been promoted to Administrative Assistant 2 in the Mason City Field Office 2. She has been with the department for 14 years as a secretary, and has daily interactions with the region's water and wastewater operators.

Annual Water Use Permit Fee Approved at August EPC Meeting

The annual water use permit fee of \$95.00 was approved by the Environmental Protection Commission at their August 18th meeting. The fee bills will be sent to the permit holders by the end of September, and the fee is due December 1.

2020 WTFAP Grant Application Now Available

From IFA/DNR SRF, 8/10/2020

"The 2020 Wastewater and Drinking Water Treatment Financial Assistance Program (WTFAP) application is now available.

Grants will be awarded to water and wastewater projects based on the following priorities:

- Disadvantaged communities
- Projects that will significantly improve water quality in their watershed
- Projects that use alternative wastewater treatment technologies (all projects proposing alternative technologies must be approved by DNR)
- Communities with the highest sewer or water rates
- Projects that use technology to address nutrient reduction
- Projects that will improve source waters for drinking water utilities."

There is approximately \$2 million available in this program, which is a part of the Senate File 512 legislation. It is not related to the State Revolving Loan Fund projects.

The [application](#) (accessed via the black button mid-page) is due by September 25th.

The grant awardees are determined by a committee consisting of the Secretary of Agriculture (or designee), the Executive Director of the IFA (or designee), and the Director of the DNR (or designee).

Please contact the IFA [Water Quality Team](#) with questions.

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 a process using "remote proctoring" for the examinations. Beginning in early September, an operator will be able to take their Drinking Water or Wastewater certification exam from anywhere on any computer that has a camera and microphone. After the pandemic, operators will have two options for exam delivery: "remote proctoring" and our traditional method of on-line examination at an Iowa DNR Field Office or a community college computer lab.

How does an operator sign up for a remotely proctored exam? All information related to an operator's new testing options will be distributed when we have a more definite start date: sent via letter, included in the Iowa DNR water supply listserv and the water quality (wastewater) listserv, and posted on the [Operator Certification website](#).

General Permit No. 7 Rulemaking: Public Hearing

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater general permit for pesticide discharges, otherwise known as General Permit No. 7 (GP7), will expire on May 17, 2021. The Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) is proposing to renew the permit for a third five-year term. Proposed changes to the permit include formatting and other minor revisions to simplify existing language and improve clarity. The permit's definition for "Waters of the United States" is also being updated to reference the June 22, 2020, federal definition.

A public hearing on the proposed GP7 will be held via conference call at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. Persons who wish to attend the conference call should contact Melinda McCoy via email at melinda.mccoy@dnr.iowa.gov. A conference call number will be provided prior to the hearing. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the conference call public hearing must submit a request to Melinda McCoy prior to the hearing to facilitate an orderly hearing.

Written comments can be submitted until 4:30 PM on Friday, September 4, 2020. Please send written comments via email to Melinda McCoy at melinda.mccoy@dnr.iowa.gov or

by mail to Melinda McCoy, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319.

[View the Proposed GP7](#)

Questions regarding the renewal can be directed to Melinda McCoy at 515-725-8402 or melinda.mccoy@dnr.iowa.gov.

Operator Certification: Continuing Education Opportunities

To find continuing education opportunities, please view the “Training Calendar” at programs.iowadnr.gov/opcertweb/. Training events where Iowa DNR staff will make presentations are listed below. See the listing on the appropriate date on the Training Calendar for registration instructions. Look at the calendar often, as there are new opportunities posted throughout the week.

- September 28-29, 2020, IRWA Fall Water Conference, Okoboji. “IDNR Water Supply Rules Update.” See the [website](#) for the brochure and registration information.
- October 8, 2020, IA-AWWA Region 2 Water and Wastewater Operator Conference, Mason City. “IDNR WS Rules Update.” Registration and agenda to be available soon.
- October 2020, IA-AWWA Virtual Fall Conference, “Iowa DNR Water Supply Rules Update.” Watch the Calendar for the registration information when it becomes available.
- October 26-27, IRWA Fall Water Conference, Dubuque. “IDNR Water Supply Rules Update.” See the [website](#) for the brochure and registration information.

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](#)
- [Current 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.