



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2020

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Online information available for addendum to Briggs Woods Lake Water Quality Improvement Plan

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

WEBSTER CITY – Iowans interested in an addendum of a DNR study to improve water quality in Briggs Woods Lake in Hamilton County can view a presentation on the Iowa DNR's YouTube channel.

Briggs Woods Lake was previously listed on the state's impaired waters list for high levels of algae and low levels of dissolved oxygen. The DNR conducted a study in 2012 that showed how these problems were caused by too much phosphorus in the lake. The problems impact recreation on the lake and aquatic life.

Subsequent to the 2012 study, the lake was listed on the impaired waters list for pH issues. The addendum explores the relationship between pH and the previous plan's focus on phosphorus and how the two are connected. The addendum is designed to give a more complete story with relationship to listed impairments in order to better serve as a guide for local resource agencies, partners, stakeholders and residents to improve the lake.

The presentation is available now at [youtube.com/iowadnr](https://www.youtube.com/iowadnr) through Jan. 19. 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 Jan. 19 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 addendum to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

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.

Cedar County

City of Clarence

Retain a professional engineer certified by the State of Iowa to analyze wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) influent flows collected between January 1, 2020, and the present to determine whether the city's WWTF can comply with the 180-day retention time required for a controlled discharge facility per the city's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System's permit (NPDES); provide the results of said analysis to the DNR; if compliance with the NPDES permit is not possible, by March 2022 retain a professional engineer certified by the State of Iowa to assist the city with the design and construction of necessary upgrades; by April 2023 submit said plans to the DNR for approval; by April 2024 finalize plans and obtain all necessary permits; and begin construction by April 2025 and complete construction by the end of May 2026.

Mitchell County

JT Enterprises, LTD d/b/a Johnson Brothers

Operate in compliance with applicable law; operate the facility as a Small Animal Feeding Operation with no more than 499 animal units; do not populate above 499 animal units without first submitting a Plan of Action to DNR for approval; retain a licensed professional engineer to conduct an investigation of groundwater levels around the facility's structure and implement a groundwater lowering system if found to be necessary; if groundwater lowering is necessary, for a period of two years conduct weekly visual monitoring of the system for water, and submit said monitoring's results to DNR on a quarterly basis; if water is found to be in the lowering system, once a calendar quarter submit a water sample to a certified laboratory for testing for NH₃-N, NO₃-N, chloride, and E. Coli; and pay a \$10,000 administrative penalty.

Wayne County

John and Cathy Tuttle

Pay a \$1,500 administrative penalty.

Air Quality permits under review

MEDIA CONTACT: 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.

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.

Woodbury County

CF Industries Nitrogen – 1182 260th St., Sergeant Bluff.

Project No. 20-228, Reducing silt content testing for Main Road (EU-29a) (permit 13-A-223-P3), Connector (EU-29b) (permit 15-A-580-P1), and paved portion of the Inner Plant Road (EU-29c) (permit 15-A-581-P3) and granted an extension until Dec. 31, 2021, to pave the rest of the Inner Plant Road (EU-29c). The public comment period ends Jan. 15, 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.

