



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2021

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## Water Summary Update: Drought conditions improving after rainy, warm March

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Tim Hall, Iowa DNR, 515-452-6633 or [Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES — Drought conditions are improving across the state, thanks to more precipitation than usual during March, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

In March, 2.62 inches of precipitation fell across the state, 0.5 inches above normal. Almost 60 percent of the state is now free from any dryness or drought designation, an improvement from conditions that existed a month ago.

"After a colder than normal February, many Iowans were glad for the warmer than normal March," said Tim Hall, DNR's coordinator of hydrology resources. "The rainfall that occurred during March was above normal by a half inch, and has helped to improve drought conditions."

Drought and abnormally dry conditions improved across Iowa during March as above-average precipitation helped ease dryness. Conditions at the beginning of March showed 52 percent of the state in dryness or drought and 41 percent at the end of the month.

March was a warmer than normal month, a reversal of the colder than normal February. Overall, the statewide average temperature was 42.3 degrees, or 6.4 degrees above normal. March's statewide average maximum temperature was 52.5 degrees, while the average minimum temperature was 32 degrees. Desoto reported the month's high temperature of 78 degrees on March 29, 21 degrees above average. Elkader reported the month's low temperature of 7 degrees on March 2, 9 degrees below average.

Current streamflow conditions across most of the state remain in normal conditions.

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

The report is prepared by technical staff from Iowa DNR, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, IIHR—Hydroscience and Engineering, and the U.S.

Geological Survey, in collaboration with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.

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## Air Quality permits under review

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Marnie Stein, DNR, at 515-725-9525 or [Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov) for Title V permits; or Sarah Piziali, DNR, at 515-725-9549 or [Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto: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.

### 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).

#### Mahaska County

Clow Valve Company – Machine Shop – 902 S Second St., Oskaloosa.  
The application was submitted to operate their existing Valves and Pipe Fittings, NEC facility. The public comment period ends May 8.

#### Des Moines County

United States Gypsum – 13425 210<sup>th</sup> St., Mediapolis.  
The application was submitted to operate their existing Gypsum Products facility. The public comment period ends May 8.

#### Dubuque County

Dubuque Metropolitan Sanitary Landfill – 14501 US Hwy. 20 W, Dubuque.  
The application was submitted to operate their existing Refuse Systems facility. The public comment period ends May 8.

### 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](http://www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch) OR through the [EASY Air Public Inquiry Portal](#) and then click the Public Notice tab.

#### Grundy County

Cargill Incorporated – 17540 Monroe-Wapello Road, Eddyville.  
Cargill Incorporated operates a wet corn mill in Eddyville. In project 21-085, Cargill requested to replace some of the separation equipment in the solvent extraction process in the citric acid plant. The public comment period ends at 4:30 p.m. on May 7.

**Muscatine County**

Grain Processing Corporation – 1600 Oregon St., Muscatine.

Project No. 21-058, Permit modification for Maltrin Spray Dryer #6 (EU3116.0) to install new low emissions burner system (EU3116.1). The public comment period ends May 8.

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**DNR enforcement actions**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242**  
or [Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto: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](http://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.

**Dallas County**

Ram Development, LLC

Immediately cease operation and, within 30 days, request rescission of its air quality and Title V construction and operation permits; cease all illegal solid waste disposal activities and illegal open burning and comply in the future with applicable laws; remove and properly dispose of all solid waste currently on-site; pay an administrative penalty of \$2,500, with \$2,000 of said penalty going towards a supplemental environmental project in Dallas County.

**Linn County**

Perfection Property Restoration, Inc.

Pay a \$6,500 administrative penalty.

**Webster County**

Savage Sanitary District

Upgrade its wastewater treatment facility by Aug. 31, 2022 so as to bring the facility into compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit; and pay a \$5,500 administrative penalty.