



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2021

- [Water Summary Update: Some rain in June, but drought spreads](#)
- [DNR enforcement actions](#)
- [Air Quality permits under review](#)

## Water Summary Update: Some rain in June, but drought spreads

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

DES MOINES — The month of June saw 3.31 inches of rain in Iowa, almost two inches less than normal. The lower than normal rainfall, combined with warmer than normal temperatures, resulted in an expansion of drought conditions across the state.

Severe drought now covers nearly 38 percent of the state, up from less than 8 percent at the beginning of June. Since the first of June, severe drought conditions have expanded from 12 counties in northwest Iowa across nearly all of northern Iowa, and as far south as Dallas County. Severe drought conditions now cover all or parts of 45 counties. The last time that the overall statewide drought conditions were worse than this week was in early September 2020.

This dryness is reflected in decreasing streamflows in central and northwestern Iowa, and continued concern for shallow groundwater supplies in some areas of the state.

"The hope was for normal rain in June, but we ended up almost two inches short for the month. Some rain was good, but more is needed to reverse the trend toward drier conditions in the state," said Tim Hall, DNR's coordinator of hydrology resources.

"Unfortunately, we are entering the time of the year when water demand goes up, so more rainfall is needed in the weeks ahead."

Since the last water summary update, streamflow conditions across approximately half of the state remain in the below normal condition.

Soil moisture levels across the state have continued to decline. One year ago, 16 percent of subsoil moisture in Iowa was rated as short or very short. As of July 6, that number is now 63 percent.

In the Missouri River basin, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has enacted water conservation measures for the second half of the navigation season, which began on July 1. Very dry conditions continue to impact the upper Missouri River Basin above

Sioux City. The forecasted runoff for 2021 could be the tenth lowest runoff in the upper basin since 1898.

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, IHR—Hydroscience and Engineering, and the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.

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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.

#### Floyd County

S&V LLC and Bill Vorhes

Comply with all separation distance requirements for future land applications of manure and pay a \$4,500 administrative penalty.

#### Lee County

City of Keokuk

Properly operate and maintain the leachate tank system; maintain logs regarding leachate hauling dates and volume and, upon request, submit to the Department for review and pay a \$6,500 administrative penalty.

### Administrative Orders

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

### Amendments

#### Palo Alto County

City of Emmetsburg

Complete construction of a well field, install piping, and discharge point by Aug. 1, 2022.

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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.

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).

### **Marion County**

Pella West Substation – 1875 Washington St., Pella

The application was submitted to operate their existing Electric Services facility. The public comment period ends Aug. 7.

### **Pottawattamie County**

Bunge Corporation – 19560 Bunge Ave., Council Bluffs

The application was submitted to operate their existing Soybean Oil Mills facility. The public comment period ends Aug. 7.

### **Union County**

ZFS Creston, LLC – 1310 E. Howard St., Creston

The application was submitted to operate their existing Soybean Oil Mills facility. The public comment period ends Aug. 7.