



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Wastewater News

Environmental Services

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Drinking Water, Wastewater, Sludge, and Operator Certification Final Rules Approved by EPC

Four Final Rules concerning wastewater, water supply, sludge, and operator certification were approved by the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) at their meeting on Wednesday, January 19, 2022. The Final Rules are for:

- Water Supply Rule Cleanup and Modification (Chapters 9, 40, 43, and 49): Bring water supply rules in alignment with a 2020 legislative action that allows public works departments to retain professional engineers; puts more emphasis on construction of water mains; and clarifies well separation distances.
- Wastewater Rule Cleanup and Modification (Chapters 60-64): Update wastewater definitions, add references to federal rules, correct mistakes, and simplify and clarify language.
- Sewage Sludge Rule Cleanup (Chapter 67): Update sewage sludge rules to clarify definitions, bring sewage sludge rules in alignment with federal laws, correct conversion amounts and simplify language.
- Public Wastewater Treatment and Public Water Supply Operators to Add New Grade and Rule Cleanup (Chapter 81): Amend rules to add a new classification grade for public wastewater treatment and water supply operators; clarify definitions, specify operator requirements and remove references to an obsolete grade.

It is anticipated that these final rules will become effective on March 16, 2022. For more information regarding these final rules, please see the DNR's [NPDES Rules](#) page.

Nutrient Smart Recognition Program

The Water Environment Federation (WEF), in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has launched the NutrientSmart (NSmart) program to help reduce nutrient loadings in waterways and recognize the water utilities that are leaders and innovators.

NSmart will begin as a pilot program and encourage the adoption of enhanced nutrient management practices by water utilities and distribute information on tools and methods for lowering nutrients.

NSmart is a voluntary recognition program aimed at reducing nutrient loadings of nitrogen and phosphorus to surface waters. NSmart seeks to: distribute information that will aid in the reduction of nutrients to local and regional watershed and to use tools and methods to reduce the nutrient effluent amounts.

To participate in the NSmart program, utilities must demonstrate intent or actions toward enhanced nutrient management. The program has a component for utility-community engagement through outreach and for reduction of nitrogen, phosphorus, or both. Additionally, the program recognizes utilities implementing an innovative strategy to achieve those reductions.

2022 applications are now being accepted! Please complete the application on the WEF [online portal](#).

For more information, see the [NSmart website](#) or contact pdube@WEF.org

EPA Technical Assistance Webinar Series: Upcoming Nutrient Removal Webinars

This technical assistance webinar series supports the Significant Noncompliance (SNC) Rate Reduction National Compliance Initiative (NCI), which is aimed at improving surface water quality and reducing potential impacts on drinking water by assuring that permittees are complying with their wastewater discharge permits.

At the upcoming webinars on Optimizing Nutrient Removal, the speakers will share case studies on wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) that are operated differently than designed to achieve notable reductions in effluent nitrogen and phosphorus, and explain how listeners might modify day-to-day operations at their WWTPs to realize similar improvements. The case studies will be preceded by a brief overview of biological nitrogen removal and biological phosphorus removal science and technology.

Intended Audience: The webinars are intended for plant operators, municipal leaders, technical assistance providers, and compliance inspection staff from federal, state, tribal and local governments.

For attending live webinars: All registered attendees receive a follow-up email from GoToWebinar 24 hours after the conclusion of the webinar which includes a link to download a certificate of attendance. Acceptance of certificates for CEUs is contingent on state and/or organization requirements—EPA cannot guarantee acceptance. Discuss eligibility of continuing education credits with your state's specific certification authority.

For additional information, contact: [Laura Paradise](mailto:paradise.laura@epa.gov) (paradise.laura@epa.gov) or [Peter Bahor](mailto:bahor.peter@epa.gov) (bahor.peter@epa.gov)

Upcoming Webinars on Optimizing Nutrient Removal:

- Thursday January 27, 2022 (1:00 – 2:30pm Eastern)
[Optimizing Nutrient Removal in Oxidation Ditches](#)
Presenter: Grant Weaver, PE, President Grant Tech, Inc
- Thursday February 17, 2022 (1:00 – 2:30pm Eastern)
[Optimizing Nutrient Removal in Sequencing Batch Reactors](#)
Presenter: Grant Weaver, PE, President Grant Tech, Inc
- Thursday March 31, 2022 (1:00 – 2:30pm Eastern)
[Optimizing Nutrient Removal in Activated Sludge WWTPs](#)
Presenter: Grant Weaver, PE, President Grant Tech, Inc

Technical Assistance Webinar Website: For more information, please see EPA's website at: <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/technical-assistance-webinar-series-improving-cwa-npdes-permit-compliance>

Continuing Education Units (CEUs): Operators who attend these webinars are eligible to receive CEUs. Operators will receive a certificate of completion for each individual session. To obtain CEUs, forward your certificate of completion to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wastewater Operator Certification Program at: opcercustomersupport@dnr.iowa.gov. Please contact the DNR with any questions concerning operator certification training at 515-725-0463.

Operator Certification: Continuing Education Opportunities

Online and virtual training opportunities are being created and offered through community colleges, state industry associations, national industry associations, EPA, and other state industry partners. All operators should continue to monitor their emails and the Training Calendar on the [Iowa DNR Operator Certification Database](#). Look at the calendar often, as there are new opportunities posted throughout the week.

Please contact Laurie Sharp at 515-725-0284 with any questions concerning operator certification training.