



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 18, 2022

- [DNR releases latest draft of 303d impaired waters list](#)
- [Livestock Master Matrix adopted in 86 counties](#)
- [Air Quality permits under review](#)

DNR releases latest draft of 303d impaired waters list

MEDIA CONTACT: Tammie Krausman at 515-402-8763
or Tammie.Krausman@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES -- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is seeking public comment on the [newly released draft impaired waters list](#). Data released by the Iowa DNR today shows 48 impairments are recommended to be removed from the 2020 303d impairment list, once the removals are approved by the EPA.

This report identifies surface waters that do not fully meet all applicable state water quality standards for their intended use and that need a water quality improvement plan. Of the 1,382 water segments studied, which include portions of rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands, 15 segments fully met the Iowa water quality standards for their intended use, 321 segments did not have an impairment; while 295 segments were identified as needing further investigation, and 594 segments did not fully meet one or more of the [standards](#) needed for all their intended uses and were impaired.

“An increase or decrease in impaired waters does not necessarily mean that the water quality in the state is worsening or improving. It could be a reflection of the additional monitoring we are conducting, changes in water quality standards, and changes in assessment methodologies,” said Roger Bruner, supervisor of the DNR’s Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment section. “Impaired segments are often used for recreation and fishing, among other uses, so impairment doesn’t mean that the segments are unusable.”

[3-Step Process for Impaired Waters Study](#)

The DNR uses fixed station river monitoring, lake monitoring and beach monitoring, wadeable stream biological monitoring, fish tissue monitoring and wetland/shallow lakes monitoring. Several other data are also analyzed before determining whether a water segment does or does not meet the requirements like the Iowa DNR’s Fish Kill

Database, along with federal (Army Corps of Engineers and US Geological Survey) and municipal (drinking water supplies) data and surrounding states' data.

DNR's process is to compile all available credible data in the correct time frame. The data from many different sources are reviewed and assembled into a standard format. Then, these results are compared to appropriate criteria for each designated use. The final assessment for each segment is a compilation of all these results (2,399 use assessments in this report).

Most Iowa waters are designated for both aquatic life protection and water contact recreation. Others also may include one or both designations for drinking water or human health protection.

"The DNR has a long history of working with Iowans across the state to help address our water quality challenges," said Lori McDaniel, DNR Water Quality Bureau Chief. "The importance of this collective, persistent work is clear and will continue to be a priority for the DNR."

Success stories: Get involved!

To keep the positive momentum moving forward to improve water quality in Iowa, the DNR is encouraging citizens to get involved. The [DNR Watershed Improvement program](#) provides assistance on how to start a water quality effort and seek grant opportunities.

Iowa has several water quality success stories including [watershed improvements](#). To qualify as a success, there must be evidence of water quality improvement that led to an impairment delisting.

Public comment is welcomed now through March 19, 2022, and should be sent to:

Email: IRcomment@dnr.iowa.gov

or

Postal mail: Iowa Department of Natural Resources Attn: Impaired Waters/Segment List Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Section Wallace State Office Building 502 E. Ninth St. Des Moines, IA 50319

A [recording of DNR staff](#) discussing how to read and interpret the 2022 impaired water list is available.

NOTE: The year in last week's Master Matrix press release was incorrect. Please use this version.

Livestock Master Matrix adopted in 86 counties

MEDIA CONTACT: Kelli Book at 515-210-3408 or Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES –Most of Iowa's 99 counties notified DNR in January that they plan to evaluate construction permit applications and proposed animal confinement locations by using the master matrix.

With few exceptions, most counties will use the matrix during the next 12 months. The following counties will not use the matrix in 2022: Benton, Davis, Des Moines, Guthrie, Grundy, Keokuk, Lee, Mahaska, Osceola, Plymouth, Wapello, Warren and Washington.

Additional requirements are required for animal confinement producers who need a construction permit before they can build in counties using the matrix. Producers qualify by choosing a site and using practices that reduce impacts on air, water and the community.

When a county adopts the master matrix, the board of supervisors can provide more input to producers on site selection, and proposed structures and facility management. Participating counties score each master matrix submitted in their county and can recommend DNR approve or deny the construction permit. They can also join in DNR visits to a proposed confinement site.

While all counties may submit comments to DNR during the permitting process, counties that adopt the master matrix can also appeal a preliminary permit to the state Environmental Protection Commission.

The deadline for enrolling in the program is Jan. 31 of each year.

Find more information, including a map of participating counties, on DNR's AFO webpages under [Master Matrix](#).

The master matrix applies only to producers who must get a construction permit to build, expand or modify a totally roofed facility. Generally, these are confinement (totally roofed) feeding operations with at least 2,500 finishing hogs, 1,000 beef cattle or 715 mature dairy cows.

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.

Muscatine County

SSAB Iowa, Inc.—1770 Bill Sharp Boulevard, Muscatine. Project No. 20-059. SSAB Iowa, Inc. makes steel plate and coil from ferrous scrap metals. This project increases

the maximum airflow rate from the stack associated with one of the two baghouses that controls emissions from the EAF/LMF melt shops. The public comment period runs until March 19. Requests for a public hearing must be submitted by March 4.

Grain Processing Corporation—1600 Oregon St., Muscatine. Project No. 22-042. The purpose of this project is to combine the two existing exhaust stacks for Gluten Filters No. 8 and No. 9 into a single new exhaust stack (EP326.0). Project No. 22-043. The purpose of this project is to combine the two existing exhaust stacks for Gluten Filters No. 6 and No. 7 into a single new exhaust stack (EP325.0). The public comment period for both projects ends March 20.

Scott County

Continental Cement Company, LLC (CCC) —301 E. Front St., Buffalo. Project No. 22-036. CCC operates a portland cement plant. This project is for changes to the cement barge loading operation. These changes include the installation of a new filter receiver, the replacement of the control device and stack associated with Emission Point 2601-0, and the update of the height of the stack associated with the cement storage dome dust collector. The public comment period ends March 18. Public hearing requests need to be submitted by March 18.



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