



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2022

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Water Summary Update: Drought conditions improve with March rainfall

MEDIA CONTACT: Tim Hall at 515-452-6633 or Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES — Precipitation for March averaged 2.67 inches, almost a half inch above normal. This above-normal rainfall helped to improve drought conditions across many areas of the state, especially in the southern and eastern parts of Iowa, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

However, at the start of April, about 60 percent of Iowa remains in some form of dryness or drought. Concern continues for water resources in parts of northwest Iowa.

"Precipitation totals in March were above normal, which is just what was needed across the state," said Tim Hall, DNR's coordinator of hydrology resources. "We are now into what is normally the wettest three month period in the state, and if we continue to get above normal rainfall through June we should see a reduction in drought conditions moving into the growing season."

Streamflow levels are normal across much of the state, with lower flows in northern and western Iowa.

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, go to www.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.

DNR seeking public comment on water quality permits

MEDIA CONTACT: Christine Schwake, DNR, at 515-725-8399 or Christine.schwake@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES -- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is soliciting comments for the Section 401 Water Quality Certification of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regional Permits 34, 39 and 11-02.

Regional Permits (RPs) are general permits authorizing certain activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which involve discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

RP 34 authorizes fill material placed in waters of the United States for Conservation Reserve Enhancement and Conservation Reserve Program activities.

RP 39 authorizes the placement of fill materials into waters of the United States for Targeted Water Quality Improvement Constructed/Restored Wetlands.

RP 11-02 authorizes fill material placed in waters of the United States for flood protection measures and restoration, repair, or reconstruction measures activities.

Applicants seeking authorization to discharge to waters of the United States must also have a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the DNR. With a few exceptions, projects permitted using a Regional Permit with DNR certification do not require DNR's individual certification. Exceptions identified in the Antidegradation Implementation Procedure (2010 and 2016) do require individual certification.

Written comments regarding the certification and antidegradation review can be submitted until 4:30 p.m. on May 5. Please send written comments via email to Section401WQC@dnr.iowa.gov or by mail to Iowa DNR, Attn: Section 401 Water Quality Certification, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines IA 50319.

View the proposed certification and antidegradation review under [DNR Public Notices on the DNR Section 401 Water Quality Certification website](#).

Direct questions to Christine Schwake at 515-725-8399 or Section401WQC@dnr.iowa.gov.

DNR enforcement actions

MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242
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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.

Howard County

NLC Energy – Riceville, LLC

Cease all illegal discharges to waters of the state; submit a written plan to properly dispose of the material in the filter bags; assess and remediate soil or groundwater contamination caused by the leaking containment area; timely report all discharges to waters of the state; pay a \$10,000 administrative penalty.