



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 9, 2022

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## Water Summary Update: Some improvement in drought conditions despite below normal May rainfall

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

DES MOINES — Iowa's precipitation in May was 3.46 inches, 1.38 inches below normal for the month, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

While there was some improvement in drought conditions, a small area of severe drought remains in and around Woodbury County. Soil moisture, streamflow and groundwater conditions show some improvement as well, but also reflect the dry conditions existing in northwest Iowa.

"Rainfall in Iowa for May should have been close to five inches, but we only ended up with 3.5 inches. Some improvement to drought conditions were seen, but parts of northwest Iowa are still dry," said Tim Hall, DNR's coordinator of hydrology resources. "While the state has received nearly normal rainfall for the year so far, northwest Iowa is running 2.3 inches behind for 2022, which is leading to concern as we enter the months of high water use."

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

## 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.

### **Hardin County**

Opal Eggs, LP  
Pay a \$6,000 administrative penalty.

### **Story County**

David Whitaker  
Cease and prevent illegal open burning of combustible material in the future; cease and prevent the illegal disposal of solid waste in the future; and pay a \$2,500 administrative penalty.

## **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).

### **Cedar County**

Xerxes Corporation—515 West South St., Tipton. The application was submitted to operate their existing reinforced plastics operation facility. The public comment period ends July 9.

### **Guthrie County**

POET Biorefining - Coon Rapids—1015 Grant Ave., Coon Rapids. The application was

submitted to operate their existing industrial organic chemicals, NEC facility. The public comment period ends July 9.

### **Hancock County**

Northern Natural Gas Company - Ventura—2415 270th St., Garner.

The application was submitted to operate their existing natural gas transmission facility. The public comment period ends July 9.

**Wayne County** ANR Pipeline Company - Lineville Compressor—2868 15th St., Lineville.

The application was submitted to operate their existing natural gas transmission facility. The public comment period ends July 9.

### **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.

### **Chickasaw County**

Homeland Energy Solutions, LLC.—2779 Iowa Highway 24, Lawler. Project No. 22-176. Homeland Energy Solutions is a dry corn mill, which produces ethanol, dried distiller's grains and other products from corn. Homeland requested modification of maximum rated capacity of liquefaction flow rate of the Scrubber 1 (EP S40) and Scrubber 2 (EP S41) based on a recent stack test. In addition, HES submitted a permit modification for the replacement of the ethanol loadout flare (EP S22). The public comment period ends July 8.