



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 6, 2022

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## Water Summary Update: Water Year ends on a downward trend

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

DES MOINES — After yet another month of below normal precipitation across the state, the water year ended with deteriorating conditions across Iowa, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

The “Water Year” is defined as the period between Oct. 1 and Sept. 30. Precipitation for the 2022 Water Year was 29.51 inches, or 6.04 inches below normal. Drought expansion continues into the fall months, with 85 percent of Iowa in some form of dryness or drought, and more than 25 percent of the state in moderate or severe drought.

“Conditions were improving as the state moved from spring into early summer, but since then things have gotten gradually worse. September marked the sixth month in a row of below normal precipitation,” said Tim Hall, DNR’s coordinator of hydrology resources. “A repeat of last October’s above normal rainfall would help to turn things around for the state, and we are certainly hoping for that to happen.”

The 2022 Water Year was the third water year in a row of below normal rainfall for the state.

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.

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## EPC to review beverage container deposit, air quality rules at Oct. 11 meeting

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Alicia Plathe at 515-313-8909 or [Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov).

**DES MOINES**— The Environmental Protection Commission will review requests to approve two Notices of Intended Action, one to amend Iowa Code relating to beverage container deposits and another to update several chapters of Iowa Code related to air quality rules at its Oct. 11 meeting.

The meeting starts at 10 a.m. in DNR's second floor north conference room, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines. The public can also attend via video conference or by phone. To join by video, connect with <https://meet.google.com/rzo-uidn-tvg>. To join by phone, call 631-618-4607, and enter the PIN code of 484 733 354 followed by the pound (#) sign. The meeting is open to the public. Written comments may be submitted up to one day before the meeting to Alicia Plathe at [Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov) or to Alicia Plathe at DNR, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, IA 50319.

Commissioners will be asked to approve a Notice of Intended Action to amend Iowa Code Chapter 107 relating to beverage container deposits to clarify existing rules and other changes, including allowing for mobile redemption technologies, an increase in the handling fee paid by distributors to redemption centers from one to three cents and an increased time period to pay the refund value to customers, among others.

In addition, commissioners will be requested to approve a Notice of Intended Action to amend several chapters of Iowa Code to adopt new and revised federal air quality standards. The amendments are identical to federal regulations.

Commissioners will be asked to approve these contracts:

- One-year contract with Seneca Companies, Inc./Leslie Nagel to secure environmental services for the DNR needed for the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Project.
- Contract with FYRA Engineering, LLC for a risk analysis on a portion of high hazard dams in Iowa.
- An amendment to a contract with Gresham Smith to extend the current contract for services to the Environmental Management System program and program participants.

Find the complete agenda and more information under [Environmental Protection Commission](#).

Commissioners include: Harold Hommes, chair, Windsor Heights; Stephanie Dykshorn, vice chair, Ireton; Amy Echard, secretary, Farmersburg; Brad Bleam, Rockwell City; Rebecca Dostal, Traer; Patricia Foley, Huxley; Lisa Gochenour, Logan; Ralph Lents, Menlo; and Mark Stutsman, Hills. Kayla Lyon is the DNR director.

Any person participating in the public meeting who has special requirements such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments should contact the DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or [Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov), and advise of specific needs.

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## Public comment period for intent to withdraw Cedar River watershed nitrate TMDL

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Katie Greenstein, DNR, at 515-490-2095  
or [katie.greenstein@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:katie.greenstein@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES -- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public comment on the DNR's intent to withdraw the Cedar River watershed nitrate total maximum daily load (TMDL).

TMDLs include analyses and methods for improving water quality for water bodies on the state's Clean Water Act 303d impaired waters list. In 2006, the DNR finalized a TMDL for nitrate in the Cedar River. The DNR created the Cedar River TMDL due to the nitrate impairment in the segment of the Cedar River which Cedar Rapids uses as a source for municipal drinking water.

The DNR has concluded that for the TMDL to be equitably and accurately implemented, substantial revisions would be necessary to address the design and implementation deficiencies. To ensure the equitable and accurate implementation of Iowa and federal law, the DNR proposes to withdraw the Cedar River TMDL. Because the previously impaired segment is no longer impaired for nitrate, it will not be placed back on the Iowa 303d impaired waters list. The DNR will continue to assess the nitrate levels in segment and will take appropriate action if it becomes impaired again for nitrate.

Written comments regarding the intent to withdraw the TMDL can be submitted until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 7, 2022. Please send written comments via email to [TMDLcomment@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:TMDLcomment@dnr.iowa.gov) or by mail to DNR Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Section, c/o TMDL Program, 502 East 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319.

View the [Public Notice of the Intent to Withdraw the Nitrate TMDL in the Cedar River Watershed](#) on the [DNR Water Quality Improvement Plans website](#).

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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 the DNR's website at [www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions](http://www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions).

### Consent Orders

A consent order is issued as an alternative to an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

#### Davis County

Daniel and Linda Faye Troyer

Properly dispose of any solid waste remaining on site at a permitted landfill; comply with all solid waste and asbestos regulations in the future; and pay a \$4,000 administrative penalty.

#### Johnson County

Iowa Development Group, Inc.

Comply with all conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and pay a \$7,000 administrative penalty.

#### Sioux County

Nate Zuiderveen

Submit a written standard operating procedure (SOP) for operation of the facility, including but not limited to routine monitoring of the tile intakes; immediately implement the SOP upon approval; and pay a \$10,000 administrative penalty.

### **Warren County**

Steger Construction, Inc.

Properly dispose of any solid waste remaining on site at a permitted landfill; comply with all solid waste and asbestos regulations in the future; and pay a \$4,000 administrative penalty.

### **Woodbury County**

Ronald L Lanksink Revocable Trust

Submit a complete original manure management plan; submit filing fee, indemnity fee, and compliance fees; and pay a \$3,000 administrative penalty.

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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; or Peter Zayudis, DNR, at 515-201-4596 or [Peter.Zayudis@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Peter.Zayudis@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 and provide 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).

### **Clinton County**

ADM Clinton BioProcessing, 410 18th Ave. S, Clinton.

The application was submitted to operate their existing Shortening, Table Oils, Margarine, and Other Edible Fats and Oils, NEC facility. The public comment period ends Nov. 5.

### **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 clicking the Public Notice tab.

### **Chickasaw County**

Homeland Energy Solutions, LLC, 2779 Highway 24, Lawler.

Project No. 22-349: Proposed rerouting of the Centrate Tank #2 emissions from Thermal Oxidizer C11 to Thermal Oxidizer C10, because Thermal Oxidizer C11 is not operational. The public comment period ends Nov. 8.