



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Federal Clean Water Act celebrates 50 year anniversary

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The Clean Water Act, created and passed in response to a nationwide movement advocating for the improvement and restoration of the country's waters, is celebrating 50 years October 18, 2022.

Passed in 1972, the Clean Water Act made it a priority to prevent water pollution and clean up industrial and municipal sewage. The act regulated the disposal of wastes and provided funding for communities to build sewage treatment plants with grants.

Through the Clean Water Act, wastewater standards were established and other pollution control programs were implemented that, along with the dedication of states, communities and industries to improve the quality of water sources, have made a significant difference in the health of communities and waterways.

Before the Act, some waters in Iowa were so hazardous that they were deadly to fish. The Cedar River had levels of E. Coli and other bacteria hundreds of times the modern limit. Polluted waters that caused eye and skin infections made fishing and recreation dangerous.

Today, Iowa's wastewater treatment facilities are continually improving to meet modern standards. Since 2011, more than 115 Iowa communities have constructed wastewater treatment technologies that now remove more than 1 million pounds of ammonia annually from more than [41 billion gallons of wastewater](#). Additionally, 191 communities constructed technology that disinfects 86 billion gallons of effluent annually to reduce bacteria in waterways. That means a cleaner environment for fish and a safer experience for Iowans to swim, fish and boat in rivers and lakes.

The wastewater infrastructure in Iowa and across the country is impressive, and expensive to build and maintain. One way the Iowa Department of Resources, in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and local communities, supports these significant community investments is with the [Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#). The fund supports wastewater treatment, sewer rehabilitation and stormwater

quality improvements, as well as several other water quality improvement projects. Loans are available for publicly owned treatment facilities for construction projects, planning and design costs.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund program also offers public and private entities and landowners affordable financing for a variety of water quality projects. Since 1990, the Iowa CWSRF has provided over \$3 billion in cumulative assistance to meet Iowa's wastewater, stormwater and sewer needs.

The DNR's Watershed Improvement Program, focused on how drainage from land affects water sources, has funded nearly 630 local, regional and statewide clean water projects since 1990. Local staff work with landowners and officials to track improvements in water quality, and its projects in Iowa have totaled \$113 million through implementation of Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

To learn more about Iowa water quality programs go to: www.iowadnr.gov/waterquality. To learn more of national Clean Water Act success stories, visit the Association of Clean Water Operators website at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7d0f08ced7114279a76ac501d30ef3b7>

DNR enforcement actions

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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.

Dallas County

Hudson Heights, LLC

Comply with all conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and pay a \$5,000 administrative penalty.

Hancock County

Mike Hejlik

Pay a \$2,000 administrative penalty.

Jefferson County

Buch Farms, LLC

Comply with all effluent land application laws and pay a \$4,500 administrative penalty.

Polk County

City of Altoona

Comply with all conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and pay a \$4,000 administrative penalty.

Air Quality permits under review

MEDIA CONTACT: Marnie Stein, DNR, at 515-725-9525 or Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov for Title V permits; or Peter Zayudis, DNR, at 515-201-4596 or 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, 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.

Black Hawk County

PPG Cedar Falls, 312 Savannah Road, Cedar Falls

The application was submitted to operate their existing Coating, Engraving, and Allied Services, NEC facility. The public comment period ends Nov. 12.

Wapello County

American Bath Group, 2908 N Court St., Ottumwa

The application was submitted to operate their existing Plastics Plumbing Fixtures facility. The public comment period ends Nov. 12.

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

Grain Processing Corporation, 1600 Oregon St., Muscatine

Project No. 22-298, Emission Point 319.0: The purpose of this project is to decrease the exhaust air flow rate and the emission limit for particulate matter from a gluten railcar loading operation. This is due to a stack test conducted in April 2022. The public comment period ends Nov. 11.