



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

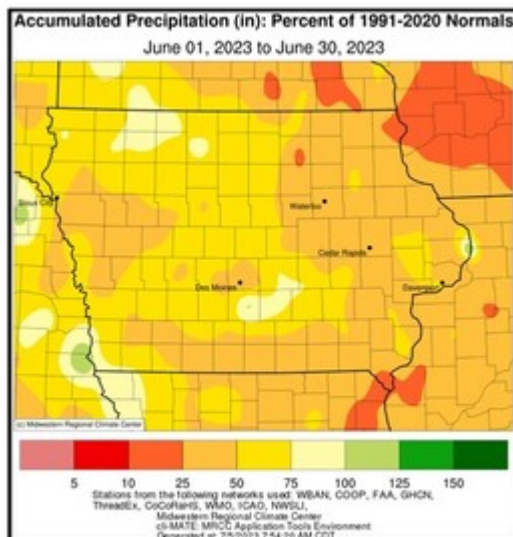
Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 7, 2023

Water Summary Update for June 2023: Drought Conditions Intensify after another dry month

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DES MOINES - The state of Iowa experienced another dry month, with June providing 2.90 inches of rain, only 55 percent of normal. This continues the drier-than-normal trend seen in March, April, and May. The US Drought Monitor shows that nearly all Iowa faces some dryness or drought.

Iowa received 9.16 inches of precipitation from March through June, just 65 percent of the expected 14.20 inches for those four months. This continued lack of

rainfall is causing stream flow and soil moisture impacts across the state. Four of Iowa's Drought Regions are rated as "Drought Watch." Conditions in Drought Region 2 have improved enough to move it back into the normal category.

"June is typically the wettest month of the year, so to have just a bit over half the normal rainfall for that month is troubling," said Tim Hall, Iowa Department of Natural Resources coordinator of hydrology resources. "July and August still have the potential for good rainfall, but monthly averages for moisture continue to decline throughout summer and fall, so the opportunities for getting out of drought this year become more limited as time passes."

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, visit 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.

Air Quality permits under review

MEDIA CONTACT: 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 the air where we live. DNR's permitting staff review the applications to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality standards. The public has the right and is encouraged to comment on draft permits. DNR considers [public comments](#) before finalizing the permits. Submit comments in writing to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the comment period.

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. 23-162, Emission Point 144.0: The purpose of this project is to install a new starch bagging machine as part of the Starch Warehouse Food Grade Bagging. The total capacity will increase from 20 tons per hour starch to 29 tons per hour.

The public comment period ends August 8.