



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 3, 2023**

## **Water Summary Update: July 2023 - Drought conditions intensify after another dry month**

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DES MOINES - The month of July ended in dry conditions, with Iowa receiving 3.10 inches of rain, more than an inch below normal. This marks the fifth month in a row of less than normal rainfall. According to the Iowa Drought Plan, 4 of the 5 regions of the state are in “drought watch”. The US Drought Monitor shows that nearly all of Iowa faces some dryness or drought, with over half the state facing moderate drought conditions.

Over the last five months, Iowa has received just over a foot of rain, which is only 67 percent of the expected 18 inches. Although July was below normal for rainfall for the state, southwest Iowa ended the month with normal rainfall of 4.45 inches.

“After a dry spring and early summer the hope was for a return to normal rainfall in July, but that was not the case,” said Tim Hall, Iowa Department of Natural Resources coordinator of hydrology resources. “Normal monthly rainfall declines as we move through summer and into fall, so the opportunities for getting out of drought this year become more limited, but not impossible, as time passes.”

For a thorough review of Iowa’s water resource trends, visit [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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## Air Quality permits under review

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Marnie Stein, DNR, at 515-238-1887

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 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.

### **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) OR through the [Iowa EASY Air Public Inquiry Portal](#) and then click on the Public Notice tab.

**Black Hawk County** Northern Natural Gas Co. – Waterloo Compressor Station located at 1508 E Schrock Road, Waterloo. The application was submitted to operate their existing Natural Gas Transmission facility. The public comment period ends September 2.

### **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.

**Linn County** Biospringer North America Corporation (BSNAC) – 940 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids. Project No. 23-247, BSNAC operates a yeast extract manufacturing plant in Cedar Rapids, IA. BSNAC has applied for a minor modification to two existing Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) sources.

This modification is to replace the two existing dust collectors on two packaging lines with two new dust collectors. This change will not result in an increase in the permitted particulate matter emissions from these packaging lines. The public comment period ends September 1.

**Muscatine County** SSAB Iowa, Inc - Muscatine – 1770 Bill Sharp Blvd., Muscatine. Project No. 23-037, SSAB Iowa requested the use of renewable natural gas (RNG) as an alternative fuel to natural gas in a number of combustion emission units at the facility.

The public comment period ends September 4.

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## DNR Enforcement Actions

**MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-901-3294**  
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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](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.

### **Delaware County**

Randy Less

Cease and desist from unexempted, unpermitted, and/or unreviewed construction work in the floodplain; comply with all floodway and floodplain regulations in the future; submit a floodplain permit application or restore the area to its original condition; and pay a \$2,500 administrative penalty.

### **O'Brien and Sioux Counties**

Kent Nutrition Group, Inc.

Adhere to the compliance plan; conduct compliance tests and, depending on the results, submit either (i) a mitigation modeling analysis and plan or (ii) an alternative particulate control equipment strategy to meet current permit limits; and pay a \$8,500 administrative penalty.

## **Scott County**

Latta Well and Pump Corp

Comply with applicable law during all future well drilling projects, including but not limited to preventing discharges of well drilling mud unless properly permitted and pay a \$4,850 administrative penalty.

### **Administrative Orders**

Responsible parties have 60 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.