



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 7, 2023**

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## Water Summary Update: November one of driest months on record

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

DES MOINES -- Preliminary numbers show November to be one of the driest months on record, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

November's preliminary statewide average precipitation was only 0.38 inches, or 1.44 inches below normal. These dry conditions resulted in further degradation of the drought conditions in the southern half of the state, along with the current U.S. Drought Monitor designation of moderate to severe drought.

"We had hoped that November would continue the wetter-than-normal conditions from October, but unfortunately just the opposite happened. A return to below normal rainfall is not what we needed," said Tim Hall, the DNR's Hydrology Resources Coordinator. "Some locations in the state received no rain at all in November, and there were no locations that came close to normal rainfall for the month. As we wind down the fall and head into the winter months we need normal to above normal rainfall. Once the ground freezes up, we have to wait for spring rains."

October's above-average rainfall had resulted in some improvement in drought conditions for most of the state. Despite this, precipitation for the year is still well below normal.

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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## Iowa Nonpoint Source Plan Vision available for public review

**MEDIA CONTACT: Steve Hopkins, DNR, at 515-505-0140**  
or [Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov)

DES MOINES -- Iowa's Nonpoint Source Management Plan Vision document and public presentation are now available for public review and comment on the DNR Watershed Improvement webpage:

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/Watershed-Improvement/Nonpoint-Source-Plan>

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency requires each state to update its Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Plan every five years in order to remain eligible for the federal Clean Water Act Section 319 grant.

In Iowa, the process of updating Iowa's Nonpoint Source Management Plan has been taking place in 2023 through a collaboration between the Iowa DNR, Iowa State University (ISU) Extension, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), and other primary nonpoint source agencies, organizations, and groups.

### **A timeline of 2023 activities to update the NPS Plan is shown below:**

- January-April 2023: Drafting of an updated NPS Plan by interagency committee (Iowa DNR, ISU Extension, IDALS)
- Apr. 27, 2023: Interagency meeting to discuss draft NPS Plan (Iowa DNR, ISU, IDALS, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Iowa)
- July 2023: Preliminary draft of NPS Plan completed
- Sept. 12, 2023: Public meeting presentation by ISU Extension of preliminary draft NPS Plan
- October 2023: Presentation of NPS Plan Vision to DNR Environmental Protection Commission
- Nov. 15, 2023: NPS Plan Vision completed
- December 2023: Public review of NPS Plan Vision
- End of December 2023: Official submittal of NPS Plan Vision to EPA

As of Dec. 1, the NPS Plan Vision document is available for public review on the Iowa DNR website:

- [NPS Plan Vision](#)
- [Public Meeting Presentation](#)
- [Draft EPA Section 319 Guidelines](#)

Public questions or comments on the NPS Plan Vision can be submitted to [watershed.improvement@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:watershed.improvement@dnr.iowa.gov) until Dec. 29.

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## Environmental Protection Commission meeting agenda

**MEDIA CONTACT: Alicia.Plathe at [Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov)**

DES MOINES -- The Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will have their monthly business meeting Dec. 19. The meeting is open to the public.

The meeting starts at 10 a.m. at the Wallace State Office Building, Conference Room 2 North, 502 East 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. Written comments may be submitted up to 24 hours before the meeting to Alicia Plathe at [Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov) or to [502 East 9th St, Des Moines, IA 50319](#).

The agenda for the meeting:

- Monthly Reports
- Directors Remarks
- Environmental Management System (EMS) Program Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report
- Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund-FY 2024 Intended Use Plan Third Quarter Update

Contract decisions:

- HDR Engineering, Inc. - Food Waste Prevention and Management Plan.
- Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area - Iowa Underserved Farmer and Farm Community Subaward Program
- Caring Hands Outreach Center, Inc. - Iowa Underserved Farmer and Farm Community Subaward Program
- Stantec Consulting Services Inc. - Floodplain Management Des Reference Update

Find the complete agenda and more information under the [Environmental Protection Commission](#) section of the DNR's website.

Commissioners include: Harold Hommes, chair, Windsor Heights; Amy Echard, vice chair, Farmersburg; Mark Stutsman, secretary, Hills; Rebecca Dostal, Traer;

Patricia Foley, Huxley; Lisa Gochenour, Logan; Kyle Tobiason, Center Junction, and Roger Zylstra, Lynnville. 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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## DNR enforcement actions

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

### Clayton County

Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.

Retain and maintain the services of a Grade 2 or higher certified wastewater operator at all times the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) is in operation; begin construction on WWTF upgrades no later than August 31, 2028; complete the WWTF upgrades no later than August 31, 2030; and pay a \$10,000 administrative penalty.

### Muscatine County

AgriReNew

Ensure the proper disposal of any solid waste remaining on-site at a permitted landfill and pay a \$5,000 administrative penalty.

### Polk County

Elite Lodge of Ashworth, LLC

Send at least one primary employee to a three-day asbestos inspector course and submit proof of completion; comply with all asbestos regulations in the future; and pay a \$5,000 administrative penalty.

### Polk County

Sunnybrook LE, LLC

Apply for an amendment to its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to reflect the change in ownership; comply with all monitoring requirements in its NPDES permit; make necessary modifications to the facility to comply with the NPDES permit's final effluent limitations; submit semi-annual progress reports that detail progress towards connecting to the Muchikinock Trunk Sewer and/or achieving compliance with the NPDES permit; submit a pilot protocol about its BES Water Solutions' water system that summarizes the system's goals, monitoring protocols, operational procedures, design layout, and other pertinent information; mitigate the impact of *E.coli* to the receiving stream; immediately notify the DNR of a sale or transfer of the facility; and pay a \$5,000 administrative penalty.

### **Scott County**

Century Heights Phase III, L.C.

Comply with all conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, which includes the stormwater pollution prevention plan; and pay a \$5,000 administrative penalty.

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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.

### **Clay County**

Corn Belt Power Coop/Wisdom Generation Station located at 3365 165th Ave.,  
Spencer

The application was submitted to operate their existing Electric Services facility.  
The public comment period ends Jan. 6, 2024.

### **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 <https://idnraqrr.iowadnr.gov/ConPermitSearch> or through the [EASY Air Public Inquiry Portal](#) and then click the Public Notice tab.

### **Clinton County**

ADM Clinton Bioprocessing, [410 18th Ave S, Clinton](#)

Project No. 23-267. ADM Clinton Bioprocessing is in the process of constructing a new "Spiber" production line. This project is to modify the control equipment for the Byproduct Dryer, which includes updates to the stack characteristics, equipment capacity, and emission limits. The public comment period ends Jan. 6, 2024.