

# ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Sept. 12, 2003

For immediate release

1. **Beach advisory posted at Lake of Three Fires; No other advisories**
2. **EPC to consider state revolving funds; air quality petitions**
3. **Energy experts to address winter fuel concerns at forum in Des Moines**
4. **City of Des Moines avoids major wastewater bypass**
5. **Counties must adhere to timeline to review livestock permits with matrix**
6. **Third annual canoe and cleanup volunteer outing planned for Sept. 27**

## **BEACH ADVISORY POSTED AT LAKE OF THREE FIRES; NO OTHER ADVISORIES**

DES MOINES — A swimming advisory has been posted at the Lake of Three Fires beach in Taylor County, but no other advisories have been posted this week.

The Lake of Three Fires beach had an E. coli count of 80, which is within the limits for a one-time test, but its geometric mean of 140 still exceeds the standard of 126 for at least five results taken over a 30-day period. The advisory will remain posted until the mean drops to an acceptable level.

Lake Anita was drained and will therefore not be sampled the rest of the year.

Bacteria levels at beaches typically rise as a result of runoff from rainfall and can return to normal in less than two days with sunny conditions. Samples are collected from the beaches on Monday and Tuesday.

Bacteria levels at Iowa's 35 other state park beaches are within acceptable levels.

The DNR is also advising normal precautions for contact with any surface water in Iowa:

- Avoid swallowing the water
- Avoid the water if you have open cuts or wounds that could become infected by contact with bacteria

- Swimming is not recommended for persons who are very young or very old and may have problems avoiding ingestion of water, and people who have weakened immune systems due to other medical conditions.

Weekly beach monitoring results are posted on the DNR's website every Friday afternoon at <http://www.iowadnr.com/news/beach.html>

**For more information, contact Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395 or Janice Boekhoff, 319-335-1574.**

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## **EPC TO CONSIDER STATE REVOLVING FUNDS; AIR QUALITY PETITIONS**

DES MOINES – Commissioners will be asked to approve proposals that would allow livestock and local water protection projects to apply for low interest loans through the state revolving funds program at the Sept. 15 meeting of the Environmental Protection Commission.

The proposals would expand loan assistance using the state revolving loan fund to existing livestock operations for run-off controls and other water quality improvement projects. Funding for municipal pollution control projects would continue unaffected by the expanded use.

The EPC meeting will be held at 10 a.m., at the DNR office, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Public participation is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

In other business, the EPC will be asked to deny two petitions and endorse a DNR recommendation on air quality around confinement feeding operations.

The DNR recommendation includes establishing a health risk value to use as comparative measurement when analyzing the DNR's air quality monitoring data. The DNR also proposes establishing technical advisory groups to reach consensus on control technologies, dispersion models and techniques to estimate emissions.

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks
- FY 04 Budget Recommendations
- Solid Waste Alternatives Program - Recommendations
- Update on the Iowa Color Infrared Digital Orthophotography Project

- Notice of Intended Action - Amend IAC Chapter 567-111 "Financial Assurance Requirements for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills"
- Final Rule - Chapter 60 - Scope of Title-Definitions-Forms-Rules of Practice, Chapter 62 - Effluent and Pretreatment Standards, Chapter 63 - Monitoring, Analytical and Reporting Requirements
- Final Rule - Chapter 90, Scope of Title - Definitions - forms; Chapter 91 - Criteria for Rating and Ranking Projects for the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund; Chapter 92 - State Revolving Fund Loans for Wastewater Treatment and Water Pollution Control; Chapter 93 – Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Assistance Program
- Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund - 2004 Intended Use Plan
- Contract - Bi-state Regional Commission
- Bin Vent Emissions Testing Contract
- Denial of Petition for Rule Making - Agribusiness Association of Iowa, et al.
- Denial of Petition for Rule making - Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
- Recommendations Regarding Air Quality Standards for Hydrogen Sulfide and Ammonia
- Referrals to the Attorney General
  - a. Mark Buringrud, fdba Carpenter Bar and Grill [Carpenter] - drinking water/penalty.
  - b. Jeremy Mostek, fdba Mitchell Town Pump [Mitchell] - drinking water/penalty
  - c. Kevin Hohbach [Taylor County] - animal feeding operation/penalty.
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion
- Items for Next Meeting

The members of the commission are Kathryn Murphy, Chair, LeMars; Terrance Townsend, Newton; Lisa Davis-Cook, West Des Moines; Darrell Hanson, Manchester; Lori Glanzman, Mt. Pleasant; Jerry Peckum, Jefferson; Heidi Vittetoe, Washington; Francis Thicke, Fairfield; and Donna Buell, Spirit Lake. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

**For more information, contact Karen Grimes, at (515) 281-5135.**

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## **ENERGY EXPERTS TO ADDRESS WINTER FUEL CONCERNS AT FORUM IN DES MOINES**

DES MOINES, IA – In response to concerns about high winter heating bills, energy professionals will gather in Des Moines on Tuesday to discuss fuel prices and supply concerns for the upcoming heating season.

The Department of Natural Resources will hold the 2003 Winter Fuels Forum on September 16th, from 1:30-4:00 p.m. in the auditorium at the Wallace State Office Building in Des Moines, Iowa.

Analysts from the National Weather Service, Iowa/Nebraska Petroleum Council, MidAmerican Energy and the Iowa Propane Gas Association will present information on natural gas, propane and heating oil inventories and price forecasts to help Iowans prepare for the season to come.

“There is significant potential for price volatility this winter,” said Jennifer Moehlmann, energy analyst with the DNR. “We want to inform state and local government agencies, as well as the public, what they can expect for winter heating bills so they can be prepared.”

**Media are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Jennifer Moehlmann at the DNR at (515) 281-8518; e-mail: [Jennifer.Moehlmann@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Jennifer.Moehlmann@dnr.state.ia.us).**

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## **CITY OF DES MOINES AVOIDS MAJOR WASTEWATER BYPASS**

DES MOINES — Quick action by City of Des Moines employees prevented a wastewater bypass that could have potentially sent almost 20 million gallons of raw sewage a day into the Des Moines River during Labor Day weekend.

“I want to convey our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of these people and the City of Des Moines to protect our river,” said Jim Stricker, supervisor of the DNR Des Moines field office.

City employees reported about four weeks ago that fish and river water were arriving at the wastewater treatment plant, according to Stricker. The problem was located in a 42-inch-diameter sewer line that runs under the Scott Street Dam, carrying sewage from downtown to the treatment plant. City employees found that a common wall between the sanitary sewer and the storm sewer (which outlets into the river) had deteriorated, allowing river water to flow into the sanitary sewer.

If the river’s water level fell, the raw sewage would begin to flow into the storm sewer and enter the river. The bypass, had it occurred, would have entered the river at the Scott

Street Dam and flowed down to Lake Red Rock, surprising Labor Day boaters and anglers.

City employees knew that the problem had to be fixed quickly to avoid a bypass. The sewage normally in the 42-inch sewer pipe was rerouted to a 30-inch sewer line — the only other sewer line that crosses the river — while the former was shutdown, drained, cleaned and repaired. The 30-inch sewer could handle the increased amount of sewage only because of the dry weather, meaning that any new rain could cause a bypass while repairs were underway.

Repairs took three weeks — including many long days and weekend hours — and were completed Sept. 10. The sewer was put back into service Thursday afternoon at 2:30, just hours before rain began to fall in Des Moines.

Municipalities are required to report bypasses caused by mechanical failures to the DNR within 12 hours after the release occurs or is discovered.

"Hard work by the City of Des Moines staff meant that no release had to be reported," Stricker said. "Instead their efforts prevented a large amount of sewage from reaching the river and protected our water quality."

**For more information, contact Jim Stricker at (515) 725-0270.**

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## **COUNTIES MUST ADHERE TO TIMELINE TO REVIEW LIVESTOCK PERMITS WITH MATRIX**

DES MOINES, IA – Iowa counties participating in the master matrix program may be at risk of being dropped from the program if they do not follow a strict 30-day timeline.

Participating in the program allows counties to evaluate construction applications based on the contents of the master matrix, which go beyond minimum state requirements for livestock confinement feeding operations.

After an application for a construction permit is submitted to a county, the county must act immediately on the application, or the county may lose the right to review any further applications until February 2004.

When an application is received, the county must immediately time and date stamp the document, and then submit a copy of the county verification form (part of the producer's application) to the DNR.

Counties must also publish a public notice of the application in at least one general circulation newspaper serving the county within 14 days of receiving the application. The notice must include the following information:

- Name of applicant
- Name of township where structure is to be constructed
- Each type of structure proposed to be constructed
- The animal unit capacity of the confinement feeding operation if the permit were to be approved
- Time and place that the application may be examined by the public
- Procedures for providing public comments to the board of supervisors

Public comments regarding the application, an evaluation of the application using the master matrix, and a detailed written recommendation on the application (either approved or disapproved by the county board of supervisors) must be *received* by the DNR within 30 days. The 30-day limit begins on the date the application was initially submitted to the DNR. Just a postmark within the time period is not sufficient.

There are 12 steps in total that counties need to follow regarding an application. Contact the DNR for more information.

**For more information, contact Reza Khosravi, acting supervisor of the DNR animal feeding operation section, at 515-242-6128.**

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### **THIRD ANNUAL CANOE AND CLEANUP VOLUNTEER OUTING PLANNED FOR SEPT. 27**

DES MOINES, IA – Volunteers of all ages are invited to join local canoe outfitters and the DNR Keepers of the Land Volunteer Program and AmeriCorps members in a cleanup project on the beautiful Upper Iowa River in Winneshiek County.

The outing is planned for the weekend of Sept. 27, predicted to be the peak fall color display in that area. The owners of Chimney Rock Canoe Rental & Campground have offered free camping to volunteers, and they will take care of all shuttling during the canoe trip. Canoes will be supplied free of charge for those who don't have their own canoe or kayak. Participants can plan to camp for no cost Friday evening, Sept. 26, or arrive by 9:30 a.m. for the Saturday morning start on Sept. 27.

Those who wish may also camp for no cost Saturday night and have the option of attending the annual Hawkwatch at nearby Effigy Mounds on Sunday, Sept. 29. Traditionally, participants hold a potluck meal Saturday evening.

For more information and to register, visit [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) and go to "Volunteer Opportunities," or contact Diane Ford-Shivvers, DNR Volunteer Program Director, at (515) 281-0878, or e-mail [Diane.Ford-Shivvers@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Diane.Ford-Shivvers@dnr.state.ia.us) or Chimney Rock Canoe Rental and Campground, (877) 787-CAMP.

Secondly, the Fort Atkinson Rendezvous will be held Sept. 27 and 28 in Fort Atkinson, Iowa. An 1840s camp includes cannon drills and a melodrama presented by the Country Road Players. Instruments, music and kids' games of the period will be presented as well. Friday, Sept. 26 is School and Media Day from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Hours are 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. There is free parking and no admission charge.