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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION | WWW.IOWADNR.GOV/NEWS/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 16, 2009

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GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS TO BE HONORED

DES MOINES – Governor Chet Culver will be honoring 14 Iowa businesses, organizations and individuals for their outstanding contributions to the environment in a ceremony on July 29 at the Capitol.

“The efforts of these organizations serve as a model in providing clean air, water and land for all Iowans,” Culver said. “I congratulate them for their outstanding work to protect and enhance our environment.”

The ceremony will take place at 9:30 a.m. in the Kennedy Conference Room G-09.

The awards are the premier environmental honors in Iowa, recognizing leadership and innovation in the protection of Iowa's natural resources. The prestigious Environmental Excellence Award honors organizations with comprehensive environmental ethics and commitment, while special project awards recognize specific environmental improvements.

“These awards recognize companies that have embraced sustainable ways of doing business by keeping our natural resources as a priority,” said Richard Leopold, Director of the DNR. “It proves that as a state we are able to compete economically while also being stewards of the environment.”

The winners were chosen from nearly 40 nominations and include:

Environmental Excellence Award:

Waste Commission of Scott County, Davenport
MidAmerican Energy, Davenport
Vermeer Corporation, Pella

Special Recognition in Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy:

Buffalo Bill Museum, Inc., Le Claire
Curries Division of AADG, Inc., Mason City

Special Recognition in Waste Management:

Muscatine Power and Water, Muscatine
DuPont Nemours E I & Co., Fort Madison

Special Recognition in Water Quality:

City of North Liberty, in partnership with Fox Engineering Associates, Inc. (Ames) and Shive-Hattery, Inc. (Iowa City), North Liberty
Holiday Lake Owner's Association, Inc., Brooklyn

Special Recognition in Air Quality:

Arnold's Body Shop, Davenport
Northern Natural Gas Company, Omaha, Neb.

Special Recognition in Environmental Education:

Recycling and Reuse Technology Transfer Center, Cedar Falls
Alliant Energy, Cedar Rapids
Iowa Storm Water Education Program (Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities), Ankeny

Special Recognition in Disaster Recovery:

Alliant Energy, Cedar Rapids

Complete details about each award winner and the awards program are available at:

www.iowadnr.gov/other/ee/index.html.

The awards were sponsored by the Governor's Office, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Education, the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, the Iowa-Illinois Safety Council and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

Media are invited to attend the event.

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BOIL ADVISORY ISSUED FOR STATE CENTER IN MARSHALL COUNTY

MEDIA CONTACT: Janet Gastineau, DNR, (515) 250-4291.

STATE CENTER — A boil advisory is in effect for the city of State Center in Marshall County after its drinking water system lost pressure Thursday.

The city's water treatment plant lost power during routine water tower maintenance and electrical work near the plant. With the tower drained for maintenance and the power loss, the water distribution system lost pressure, creating the potential for bacterial contamination.

The city has restored power and pressure in the system, but the DNR advises residents to boil water until water testing shows the water is safe to drink.

The DNR recommends that residents boil the water before using it for drinking or cooking, or to use an alternative source of water, due to the potential for bacterial contamination following a loss of pressure.

Residents should boil water used for drinking or cooking, brushing teeth, food preparation or any other purpose involving human consumption. City water may still be used for bathing.

Boiling destroys bacteria and disease-causing organisms, which may be in the water. Water should be brought to a boil, boiled one minute and then allowed to cool before using. More information on disinfecting water is available on the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Residents should continue to boil their water until the city notifies them that water is meeting standards and is safe to drink. The DNR will recommend the city lift the boil advisory after all samples have tested negative for the presence of bacteria.

The city will also flush and disinfect the water lines.

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RAGBRAI'S LANDSCAPE UNCOVERED

MEDIA CONTACTS: Chad Fields, DNR, at (319) 335-2083 or Chad.Fields@dnr.iowa.gov; or Kaylene Carney, U.S. Geological Survey, at (319) 430-2985 (cell) or kfcarney@usgs.gov.

COUNCIL BLUFFS — RAGBRAI enthusiasts can find out what makes up the landscape of the 2009 Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa with the "Learn about the Land" seven-day set of RAGBRAI brochures.

This joint project between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Geological Survey highlights the land, history, rivers and other natural resources that cyclists will cross this month.

The 2009 route stays almost exclusively in the hills of southern Iowa. In addition to describing the origin and extent of southern Iowa's rolling topography, the 2009 "Learn about the Land" brochures highlight Iowa's oil exploration, geodes and rich coal mining history.

Maps and cross sections included in the seven-day series will help participants locate nearby parks, cities and landmarks, and plan for each day's many hills.

To view, download and print copies of the 2009 "Learn about the Land" RAGBRAI brochures, please visit: www.igsb.uiowa.edu or <http://ia.water.usgs.gov>.

U.S. Geological Survey staff will be handing out sets of brochures at campgrounds along the bike route, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service will also have copies at its booths along the ride.

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APPLICATORS CAN CERTIFY AT MIDWEST MANURE HANDLING EXPO

MEDIA CONTACT: Jeff Prier at (712) 262-4177 or jeff.prier@dnr.iowa.gov

BOONE – Manure applicators can see new equipment, watch demonstrations and complete their 2009 annual training at the July 22 Upper Midwest Manure Handlers Expo.

Commercial manure applicators can also meet state certification requirements by attending two educational sessions at the show. For those who have not yet been certified, the training will complete certification requirements for 2009.

Educational sessions are offered from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and from 1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. The sessions will be located at the Central Iowa Expo Center just east of Boone off Highway 30. Gates open at 8 a.m. and the event closes at 6 p.m. Admission is free. However, there is a \$5 per car charge for parking.

"Although the expo has been held in several surrounding states, this is the first time it's been to Iowa, so it's a good chance for people to see how new and innovative equipment performs

in Iowa soils,” said Jeff Prier, who coordinates the applicator certification program for the DNR.

Prier will discuss current land application rules and certification requirements during one of the education sessions.

Gene Tinker, coordinator for DNR’s animal feeding operations, will highlight changes in state and federal law that affect manure application. He will discuss law changes that will affect dry manure storage, and application of liquid manure on snow-covered or frozen ground. He’ll also discuss changes in federal legislation that affect which livestock operations need to apply for a national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit.

Other educational topics include biosecurity, managing hydrogen sulfide safely during pumping and dry manure injection. Research will be presented on manure application on frozen ground, and managing manure application to avoid rapid movement of the liquid to tile lines and nearby waters.

Anyone can attend the educational sessions. However, those who want to become certified must attend both sessions. “They must also sign in and out of these sessions to receive credit,” said Prier. At 3 p.m., applicators can pick up their signed application forms at the Iowa Commercial Nutrient Applicators Association/Iowa State University Booth in tent one.

In addition to the educational sessions, applicators can see equipment at work and demonstrations of emergency spill response.

For more information about the expo, go to www.ag.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/expo_home.htm or www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/communications/EPC/