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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 30, 2009

1. **Governor's Environmental Excellence Award winners honored**
2. **Public invited to comment on rules for well discharges**
3. **Application deadline approaching for DNR Watershed Planning Grants**
4. **DNR LUST program now accepting proposals for statewide site cleanup**
5. **Southwest Iowa forum added to DNR director's public forum schedule**

GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS HONORED

MEDIA CONTACT: Emily Grover, DNR, at (515) 242-5955 or Emily.Grover@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES – Governor Chet Culver honored 15 Iowa businesses and organizations for their outstanding contributions to the environment in a ceremony on July 29 at the Capitol.

“Their efforts show the bright and optimistic future for our state,” said Culver. “These committed individuals and companies are sending a message through their achievements. They are proving that smart, ‘green growth’ today will benefit Iowa’s economy while protecting our natural resources.”

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.

“Iowa is a land of stunning beauty, and thanks to their efforts, future generations will be able to enjoy Iowa’s lands, lakes, rivers and streams,” Culver said.

The winners included:

Environmental Excellence Award:

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

Special Recognition in Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy:

Buffalo Bill Museum River Pilots' Pier, LeClaire
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)
Holiday Lake Owners' 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's project and the awards program are available at:

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

Please contact Emily Grover, Iowa DNR for photos of the winners at the event:

Emily.Grover@dnr.iowa.gov or (515) 242-5955.

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 Department of Public Health and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

PUBLIC INVITED TO COMMENT ON RULES FOR WELL DISCHARGES

MEDIA CONTACT: Russell Tell, DNR Water Supply Office at (515) 725-0462 or russell.tell@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES – The DNR is inviting public comment on new rules that could annually affect approximately 1,600 well owners.

Required by a change in state law, the proposal will protect Iowa rivers and streams from water that is discharged during maintenance, drilling a new well or performing other well services.

It will require well owners to operate under a new general permit that ensures that discharges would protect water quality. Permit holders would need to develop and use a pollution prevention plan to keep silt and other pollutants out of streams. They would also need to inspect the water discharges.

“We developed a general permit to streamline the process for well owners,” said Russ Tell with the DNR’s private well program. “There are no permit applications or fees involved. However, owners must notify the DNR within 24 hours of starting work.”

Interested people may make oral comments at any of the following public hearings:

- Cedar Falls: 10 a.m., Aug. 4, Cedar Falls Utilities’ Training Room, 1 Utility Parkway.
- Iowa City: 4 p.m., Aug. 4, Iowa City Public Library, Meeting Room A, 123 S. Linn St.
- Mason City: 10 a.m., Aug. 5 North Iowa Area Community College, Muse Norris Conference Center, Rooms 180E and F, 500 College Drive.
- Des Moines: 6 p.m., Aug. 5, Iowa DNR Water Supply Office, 401 SW Seventh St., Suite M.
- Cherokee: 9 a.m., Aug. 11, Cherokee Community Center, 530 W. Bluff St.
- Atlantic: 10 a.m., Aug. 12, Atlantic Municipal Utilities’ Conference Room, 15 W. Third St.

The general permit is a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. General permits authorize discharges from similar facilities or industries where individual, site-specific permits are not needed.

The rule will affect well owners from private households, livestock producers, municipalities and industries if the discharge flows into surface water.

Written comments must be received by 4 p.m. on Aug. 14. Send comments to Russell Tell, DNR Water Supply, 401 SW Seventh St., Suite M, Des Moines, IA 50309; or emailed to Russell.tell@dnr.iowa.gov; or faxed to (515) 725-0348.

More information and the public notice are available on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.gov/epc/09may/12.pdf or www.iowadnr.gov/water/standards/generaluse.html

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APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR DNR WATERSHED PLANNING GRANTS

MEDIA CONTACT: Steve Hopkins, DNR, at (515) 281-6402 or Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES — The DNR is reminding Iowans interested in improving their local lakes, rivers and streams of the Sept. 1 application deadline for DNR Watershed Planning Grants.

The grants offer \$10,000 to \$50,000 to develop Watershed Management Plans that address problems and create solutions for rivers, lakes and streams on the state's impaired waters list. Making changes in the watershed, which is the land that drains to a lake, river or stream, can reduce pollution reaching our waters. With a completed Watershed Management Plan, a local group can then apply for additional funds to put the plan in practice.

The DNR offers one-on-one assistance to review project ideas and answer questions. Local or regional groups, organizations or agencies (public or private) are eligible. Applications for Watershed Planning Grants are due Sept. 1, 2009 by 4:30 p.m., Central Standard Time. The DNR will notify successful applicants by Nov. 15.

"We strongly encourage anyone considering applying for a planning grant to take advantage of assistance from our staff," said Steve Hopkins, who coordinates DNR Watershed Improvement grants. "We can answer your application questions and review project concepts over phone and e-mail, or we'd be happy to set up an in-person meeting with you."

For application forms, contact information and additional details, visit the DNR's Watershed Improvement Program Web page at www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/planning.html or contact Hopkins at (515) 281-6402 or Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov.

The Section 319 program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides DNR funding for nonpoint pollution programs, including Watershed Planning Grants.

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DNR LUST PROGRAM NOW ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR STATEWIDE SITE CLEANUP



MEDIA CONTACT: Karen Anderson, DNR, at (515) 281.8964 or Karen.Anderson@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is now accepting proposals from qualified service providers for the Iowa Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) Program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The DNR will award four non-exclusive contracts, each in the amount of \$625,000 to provide site-specific plans for LUST cleanup actions through October 2015 at sites selected and assigned to the contractor.

Projects planned will include site assessment, soil excavation, long-term remediation design and implementation, high-risk receptor removal and replacement and other LUST cleanup related activities which may include permanent tank and piping closure.

LUST sites are located throughout Iowa. All work will be completed in accordance with 567 – Chapter 135 (455B) of the Iowa Administrative Code. An emphasis will be placed on performing LUST cleanup activities which can be implemented quickly.

Vendors and consulting firms interested in being considered for the project must submit a letter of intent to propose a project by **Aug. 19, 2009** by mail, e-mail or fax to:

Karen Anderson, Program Planner and Issuing Officer
Underground Storage Tank Section, DNR
502 East Ninth St.,
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034
Fax: (515) 281-8895
Karen.Anderson@dnr.iowa.gov

Completed proposals must be received by **Sept.14, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.** to be considered. Electronic mail and faxed proposals will not be accepted; submit to the address below:

RFP: 2009LUSTka01
Iowa LUST ARRA Project
Karen Anderson, Program Planner
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East Ninth St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034
TO BE OPENED BY ADDRESSEE ONLY

To review the complete Request for Proposals go to
www.iowadnr.gov/land/ust/arra/lustarra.html.

The DNR UST section regulates underground storage tank systems used for storing regulated substances, primarily petroleum products and manages the assessment and cleanup activities at UST sites where petroleum releases are found. All regulated tank systems must be registered with the state. For more information on the DNR LUST program go to
www.iowadnr.gov/land/ust/index.html.

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SOUTHWEST IOWA FORUM ADDED TO DNR DIRECTOR'S PUBLIC FORUM SCHEDULE

MEDIA CONTACT: Tammie Krausman, DNR, at (515) 402-8763 or
Tammie.Krausman@dnr.iowa.gov.

BEDFORD– The DNR has added a public forum in Bedford at Lake of Three Fires to the DNR director's schedule of forums being held statewide this summer.

Richard Leopold, director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, will be holding the forums again this year to discuss natural resource issues with Iowans. The first forum will be held at Honey Creek Resort State Park on Thursday, Aug. 6.

"I really look forward to hearing from Iowa's citizens. Last year, we got great feedback and ideas from more than 300 attendees," said Leopold about the seven forums held last year. "Our relationship with Iowans is something we highly value within the DNR and we will work together on the things most affecting our natural resources."

Each public forum begins at 6 p.m. with Director Leopold outlining the DNR's top priorities, the environmental report card, providing an update on budget cuts and discussing local issues. Another hour-and-a-half will be devoted to answering questions from the public.

Other public forums scheduled for Leopold are as follows, listed alphabetically by city:

Bedford

Lake of Three Fires State Park Lodge
Tuesday, Sept. 8, 6 p.m.

Bellevue

Bellevue State Park Lodge
Thursday, Sept. 3, 6 p.m.

Clear Lake

Clear Lake State Park Lodge
Thursday, Sept. 17, 6 p.m.

Lehigh

Dolliver State Park Lodge
Thursday, Aug. 20, 6 p.m.

Moravia

Honey Creek Resort State Park Lodge
Thursday, Aug. 6, 6 p.m.

Sioux City

Stone State Park Lodge
Thursday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m.

Solon

Lake Macbride State Park Main Lodge
Thursday, Aug. 27, 6 p.m.