

This Iowa DNR Water Quality Listserv is a subscription service that you have requested. Its purpose is to deliver timely water quality technical information directly to your email. In this January 29, 2009 issue:

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## **DNR MOVES FORWARD ON STREAM ASSESSMENTS, MEETS WITH CITIES AND INDUSTRIES STATEWIDE**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Lori McDaniel at (515) 281-8094.**

DES MOINES — An upcoming series of meetings will focus on recent DNR stream assessments and the effects they will have on cities and businesses discharging treated wastewater to state streams.

The four meetings across the state provide an important dialogue with communities on how Iowa will implement significant changes to stream classifications in the state's water quality standards. The DNR made the changes in 2006 to meet requirements of the federal Clean Water Act.

The meetings will be held as follows:

### **Guthrie Center:**

Monday, Feb. 2, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Mary J. Barnett Memorial Library, 400 Grand St.

### **Iowa City:**

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Iowa City Public Library, Meeting Room A, 123 South Linn St.

### **Orange City:**

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Orange City Public Library, 112 Albany Ave. SE

### **Waterloo:**

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Waterloo Public Library, Meeting Room A, 415 Commercial St.

The changes in 2006 created a presumption that all streams deserve the highest classification and the highest level of protection. Since then, the DNR has conducted stream assessments in groups to determine what stream classification is most appropriate for those streams. The DNR held a similar round of meetings on the first group of streams in 2007.

These stream studies can change the level of protection on some streams, which will affect how some cities and industries will need to treat effluent being released to Iowa streams.

In the meetings, the DNR will address concerns of cities and businesses that may face stricter permit requirements when new water quality standards go into effect. The meetings will include a short presentation, a general question and answer session, and one-on-one consultations with representatives of industries and municipalities.

“I am looking forward to meeting with Iowa businesses and communities, to work with them to find innovative solutions to the water quality challenges we face as a state,” said Adam Schnieders, who works on water quality standards for the DNR.

Some facilities may need to make minor to major upgrades on their facilities in coming years to meet new permit limits. These new permits will further limit the amount of pollutants entering Iowa’s streams and rivers.

The DNR will begin rulemaking efforts in February to formally make changes to use designations for a number of Iowa streams and rivers.

For more information on water quality standards, visit the DNR’s Web site at [www.iowadnr.gov/water/standards/](http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/standards/) .

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## **DNR RESCHEDULES MEETINGS ON ANTIDegradation POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION RULE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Adam Schnieders at (515) 281-7409 or [adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov)

DES MOINES — The DNR has rescheduled two public meetings on proposed water quality standard rules to implement an antidegradation policy in Iowa.

The meetings were postponed due to winter weather and have been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 3 at:

*Independence:* 10:00 a.m., Falcon Civic Center, 1305 Fifth Ave. NE

*Waukon:* 6:00 p.m., in the Northeast Iowa Community College/Waukon Wellness Center, 1220 Third Ave. NW, Suite 102

The DNR has also extended the public comment period on the proposed rules to March 4.

The antidegradation policy, required by Iowa law, would set minimum requirements for the state to conserve, maintain and protect water quality and existing uses of Iowa’s waterbodies.

Antidegradation policy is one of the three components of water quality standards (i.e. designated uses, water quality criteria to protect those uses, and antidegradation policy). The DNR is proposing a four-tiered approach, including creating a guidance document that establishes procedures for implementing the antidegradation policy.

The changes being proposed include the following:

- Incorporate by reference the document entitled “Iowa Antidegradation Implementation Procedure,” which proposes an approach to be followed in assessing and minimizing degradation of Iowa’s surface waters
- Update antidegradation policy language with four tier approach
- Remove High Quality (Class HQ) and High Quality Resource (Class HQR) designated uses and add several waters to the newly proposed Outstanding Iowa Water (OIW) category.

People can also submit written comments by sending them to Adam Schnieders, Iowa DNR, 502 East 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319, or by e-mail to [adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov). The DNR will accept comments until March 4.

For more information, view the complete rule proposal at [www.iowadnr.gov/water/standards/antidegradation.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/standards/antidegradation.html) or contact Schnieders by e-mail or at (515) 281-7409.