

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.

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FINAL WASTEWATER RULES APPROVED BY THE EPC

The Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) approved the final rules for Chapters 60, 62, 63 and 64 on February 17, 2009. The revisions to the wastewater rules included changes to the wastewater definitions, bypass rules, monitoring tables, and NPDES permitting rules, in addition to complying with the Federal Code of Regulations. The rules will be published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on March 11, 2009, and can be viewed at

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/BulletinSupplement/bulletinListing.aspx>. The new rule will be effective April 15, 2009, and can be downloaded from the Iowa Administrative Code at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/IAC.html>.

The final rules and a Responsiveness Summary addressing public comments is available on the NPDES rulemaking page at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/npdes/rulemaking.html>. Please contact Courtney Cswercko at 515-281-7206 or courtney.cswercko@dnr.iowa.gov for more information.

DNR RESCHEDULES MEETINGS ON ANTIDegradation POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION RULE

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

FEDERAL STIMULUS AND THE STATE REVOLVING FUND

Attached to this listserv are two documents that contain preliminary information on the use of federal economic stimulus funds for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs. The first attachment outlines the stimulus requirements and current funding situation (Stimulus Funding Fact Sheet.pdf (58KB)). The second attachment is a call for projects to meet the "green" criteria in the stimulus (Call for Green Projects.pdf (62KB)).

Updates to the SRF Intended Use Plans with more details on project funding and procedures will be provided for public comment in early March. A public hearing is scheduled for March 18, 10:00 a.m., at the DNR Water Supply office at 401 SW 7th Street, Suite I, Des Moines, IA 50309.

Please disseminate to anyone that might be interested. For more information, please contact Patti Cale-Finnegan, 515-725-0498, patti.cale-finnegan@dnr.iowa.gov.