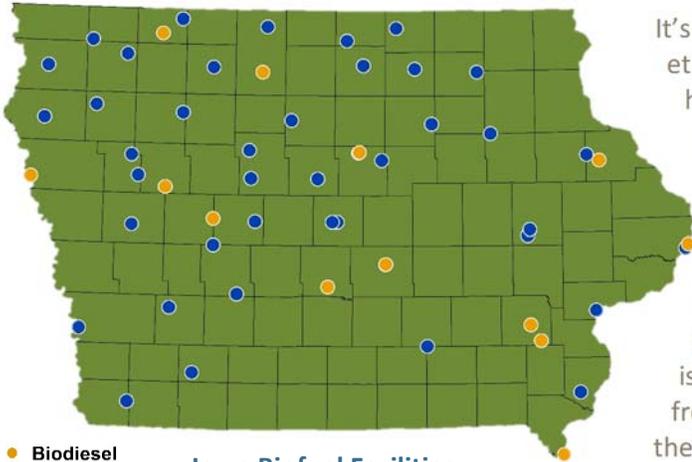




# AIR QUALITY RESPONDS TO THE SPEED OF BUSINESS

## Air Quality Bureau Supports Thriving Biofuels Industry in Iowa



It's no accident that more than 20 percent of roughly 200 U.S. ethanol refineries are located in Iowa. The DNR continues to have some of the fastest air quality construction permit issuance times in the country. Among other factors, Iowa's swift and flexible permitting works to keep Iowa a leader in the biofuels industry, while protecting Iowans' health and welfare.

Since 2003, DNR has led eight process improvements (including the first in state government), striving to improve issuance time and communication. We continually seek input from industries to better understand their needs, incorporating their feedback into a more responsive process.

This ability to respond quickly to changing industry needs with flexible permits—like incorporating the ability to blend on-site E85 and other fuel specifications not yet anticipated into their permits—keeps Iowa attractive to both new and expanding businesses.

## Partnering with Stakeholders to Innovate Permits

With the idea of creating something entirely new, DNR invited industries and their consultants to collaborate and design a new permit option. The design team expanded on the concept originally suggested by stakeholders. The result, called CAP or Collection of Air Permits, consolidates requirements for multiple emission points into one easy-to-use document.

### Design Partners

- 3M Company
- Grain Processing Corporation
- Monsanto Company
- Pella Corporation
- Stanley Consultants

While it sounds simple, for DNR it meant many behind-the-scenes changes. For industry, DNR, and the public, it has resulted in:

- Decreased time to issue
- Shorter permits with less duplication
- Easier to understand language and requirements.



*The opportunity to create a new permit option brought DNR and partners together. Designing flexible permit options lets industries focus on their business.*

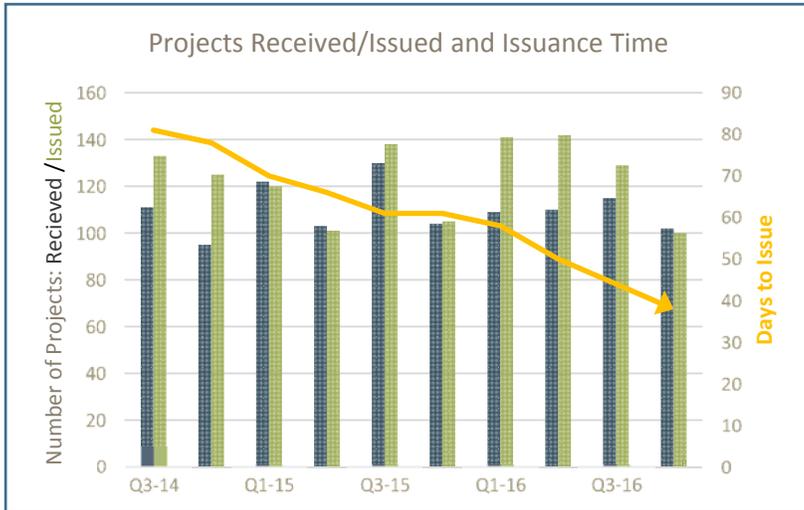
This new option joins a growing list of innovative permits designed to simplify and streamline the permitting process. With our expanding list of options, there's a permit to meet every business's needs.

## More Partnerships and Innovations Coming in 2017

Expect additional innovation in 2017 as we look to bring a new e-Application system online. If implemented, this system has the potential to bring an enormous positive change to our applicants' experience applying for and managing their construction permits. Using this technology would also create significant efficiencies for DNR in managing and issuing the approximately 2,000 permit applications we receive per year.

## Improvement Efforts Lead to Faster Permit Issuance

Our focus on process improvement has paid off. In just two years, we've reduced the average time to issue a construction permit by 43 days or 53 percent. When companies look for a place to locate, the time it takes to obtain an air construction permit can make the difference in whether they choose to build in Iowa.



Reduced permitting time also gives existing Iowa companies an advantage allowing them to make fast changes in their processes.

This reduction is due to several key improvements:

- Revamped application forms
- New business self-assistance tools
- New streamlined permit options
- Focus on permit consistency

DNR's commitment to process improvement allows us to provide better service to businesses, without sacrificing our environmental review, ensuring clean air for all Iowans.

## New Tools Help Industry Make Quick Decisions

Several new tools were created in 2016 to help businesses make decisions. These documents cover dozens of the most common permitting questions – putting the tools they need at their fingertips.

### ✓ Is a Modification To my Construction Permit Needed?

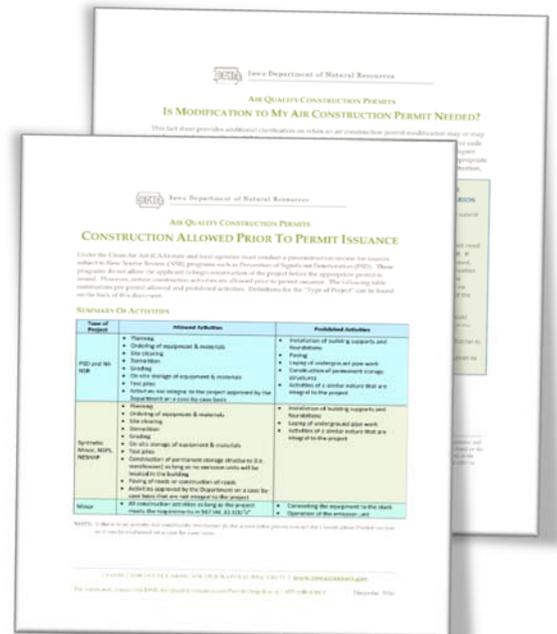
Companies often make changes to equipment or processes after they are permitted, but don't always know when the permit must be modified. This new guide provides clarity on when a change is necessary, addressing 22 common scenarios.

### ✓ Construction Activities Allowed Prior to Permit Issuance

Many businesses want to know what they can start building before their permit is issued. This guide covers common activities companies ask to start constructing before receiving their permit.

### ✓ Change in Facility Ownership FAQ

This guide is for business owners who buy a business that has existing air permits. If the company notifies DNR as outlined in the guide, no permit modifications are needed.



Providing convenient guides to common questions and permitting situations is just one more way DNR works to make complying with air quality regulations as easy as possible.