

# Making Your Comments Count

The public plays an important role when the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) prepares air quality permits or updates state rules. DNR strives to ensure all projects meet federal and state standards. While DNR staff have the technical expertise, the public may identify other issues—protecting everyone’s air quality.

## KEYS TO AN EFFECTIVE COMMENT



### Point Out Unintended Consequences

Well-intended rules or permitting actions sometimes result in unintended consequences. Thoughtful public feedback may reveal these effects.



### Provide Technical Information

Comments and assumptions supported by technical information are more helpful than general statements or form letters.



### Suggest Alternative Solutions

Explain your concerns as clearly as possible and, if appropriate, suggest alternative requirements or different language.



### Ask Questions

DNR staff welcome your questions. Understanding technical requirements can help you develop a meaningful comment or address your concerns. If you have questions, find DNR’s experts on the [public participation page](#) or call 515-725-8200.

## COMMON COMMENT MISTAKES



### The Comment Process is Not a Vote

One well-supported comment is often more effective than a hundred generic emails or form letters. DNR will respond to similar comments as a group.



### Comments Not Specific to Proposal

Read and understand the proposal you are commenting on. Make sure the comment is relevant to the issue or action the DNR is proposing.



### Comments Beyond DNR’s Authority

You may have a great suggestion to improve Iowa’s air, but it may not be within the authority granted to DNR by the legislature or Governor. The DNR is unable to address issues regarding odor, noise, light pollution and other factors not regulated under federal or state air quality standards.

## READY TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD?

Stay informed by signing up for DNR’s Air Quality Technical listserv. Check the [public participation page](#) regularly to learn about opportunities to become involved and make public comments.

Comment periods and public hearings provide opportunities for you to comment. DNR will not present information or answer questions during the formal part of a public hearing—that’s for your input. However, there may be time for questions before or after the hearing. Your voice improves DNR decisions through public notice and comment.

Iowa has made tremendous progress toward [improving statewide air quality](#) in the last 25 years. Together we can ensure Iowa’s air quality for the future.