



Solid Waste News - Summer 2025

If you're like me, can bring a mix of emotions. This is especially true when long-time team members retire. Not only are we excited and happy for them as they complete their last duties in serving Iowans and step into retirement, but we also miss them as friends and part of our DNR family.

So, this newsletter is a bit different. First, we thank our team members for their service, and we provide you an opportunity to do the same. And second, we are providing information to you as a stakeholder on who are the interim contacts while we work to fill these roles. Of course, we are also providing some updates on other things as well.

DNR Staff Updates

Mick Leat retired on June 21. Mick worked for the DNR for over 29 years. First, in the Contaminated Sites Section as an Environmental Specialist, and then in the Solid Waste Section and the Solid Waste and Contaminated Sites Section as an Environmental Engineer. Mick's extensive knowledge of geology, solid waste, and engineering will be missed.

Reassignments of Mick's sites have already occurred and will be handled by Mike Smith, Brian Rath, Geoff Spain, and Brad Davison in the interim. For ease of reference: a [list of the reassignments](#), and our [current roster and contact information](#).

Meanwhile, changes to the site assignments and worklist items have already been made in the [Solid Waste Database](#).

Sue Johnson publicly announced her retirement at the ISOSWO Spring Conference and her last day will be July 31. She will be retiring from the DNR after over 19 years of service, you are invited to celebrate her on July 31, 2025, 1pm-3pm, 6200 Park Ave, Des Moines, IA 50321. Please contact Mike Sullivan at (515) 360-1671 or mike.sullivan@dnr.iowa.gov if you plan on attending.

Interim reassignments of Sue's duties have already occurred:

- Special Waste - Mike Smith will be the primary point of contact and will work with the other landfill project officers (Brian Rath, Geoff Spain, and Brad Davison) to manage the Special Waste workload until this position is filled. Please contact Mike Smith at (515) 229-8356 or at mike.smith@dnr.iowa.gov.
- CRTs - Chad Stobbe will be the primary point of contact and will work with Theresa Stiner, Mary Klemesrud, and Mike Sullivan to manage the CRT workload until this position is filled. Chad can be reached at (515) 201-8272 or at chad.stobbe@dnr.iowa.gov.
- Appliance Demanufacturing - Theresa Stiner will be the primary point of contact and will work with Chad Stobbe, Mary Klemesrud, and Mike Sullivan to manage the Appliance Demanufacturing workload until this position is filled. Theresa can be reached at (515) 721-7979 or theresa.stiner@dnr.iowa.gov.
- Hazardous Waste Questions - Mary Klemesrud will be the primary point of contact for questions related to hazardous waste at this time. Mary will respond to these requests and will determine whether the request is related to an existing DNR program (e.g. Special Waste, CRTs, Appliance Demanufacturing, Regional Collection Centers, etc.). If it is, it will be referred to the appropriate lead for that program. If it is not, direction will be provided to other resources that can be utilized to address these questions. Mary can be reached at (515) 802-8835 or at mary.klemesrud@dnr.iowa.gov.

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Our [current roster and contact information](#) is available on our website. Meanwhile, changes to the site assignments and worklist items are being made in the [Solid Waste Database](#).

For the time being, for questions related to Comprehensive Planning or Environmental Management Systems (EMS), please contact Jennifer Wright at (515) 452-1794 or jennnifer.wright@dnr.iowa.gov.

Rulemaking and Executive Order 10

The proposed revisions to all Solid Waste rules have been drafted. The proposed rules and a regulatory analysis are expected to be published in the [Iowa Administrative Bulletin](#) on September 3rd. This will begin a public comment period followed by a public hearing at which time the DNR will accept comments on the proposals. We recommend that you visit the [Solid Waste website](#) and bookmark it. Meanwhile, we have a [separate newsletter](#) for this process.

Stakeholder Impact

As you can imagine and may have noticed, the retirements and Executive Order 10 have placed significant additional workload on our staff. So, in the interim, we have had to prioritize our workload, and we have put on hold the development of webinars, guidance, and other important but non-critical or time-sensitive items.

Further, we are also prioritizing worklist items that you as stakeholders have submitted to us for review. We recognize that you spend a lot of time, effort, and money on these. However, in the interim, critical or time-sensitive items will be given priority in our review process.

We recognize that this will impact the level of service that you have come to expect, and we want you to know that we are working to reestablish our level of service by filling these positions as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, we want to keep the lines of communication open, so please continue to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Feedback

We value your input as a stakeholder and want to ensure our communications are helpful to your needs. If you have any questions, comments, or even topics you'd like to see in the newsletter, please contact Mike Sullivan, Supervisor of the Solid Waste and Contaminated Sites Section. To contact our staff, our [current roster](#) can be found on our website.

Thanks,
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