

IDNR received multiple versions of an emailed comment from about 122 different individuals across the state that was generated from the IEC website (see link below).

<https://iaenvironment.salsalabs.org/dnrairqualitymonitoring2025/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=5ada53ab-c864-4995-8282-d3ac58bb2495>

These comments were derived from the following suggested and standardized pre-written text (shown in italics below).

I am writing to ask the DNR to improve Iowa's Air Monitoring Network Assessment to better assess air pollution near the places with high populations of susceptible and impacted people.

The network currently has numerous gaps that avoid capturing data near the areas with the highest concentrations of pollutants and asthma rates in Iowa.

Some places, such as Ottumwa, have no ozone or PM 2.5 monitors at all. Other places, like Sioux City, have monitors that are not near the communities with high asthma rates or near facilities that emit known asthma-causing pollutants. DNR is seeking to waive lead monitoring despite coal plant air permits in Council Bluffs that allow lead emissions.

The Clean Air Act requires monitoring air quality to ensure the air meets public health standards. Iowa needs to assess air quality at places with high populations of vulnerable people, like children with asthma. We need additional monitoring to help assess the contribution of air pollution to Iowa's high cancer rates.

Our public health requires more complete data and transparency about air pollution risks. Please prioritize updating the monitoring network to better include places with high rates of asthma to make sure we all have clean air to breathe.

Thank you,

IDNR's Response:

Thank you for your comment regarding Iowa's Five Year Air Monitoring Network Assessment, and your interest in maintaining Iowa's air quality. We received multiple versions of this comment from about 122 different individuals across the state. We also received a 24 page comment jointly written by the Iowa Environmental Council (IEC), Sierra Club (SC), and Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC); which reiterates the concerns identified in your comment, albeit in a more specific and comprehensive way. Iowa DNR feels that the best way we can respond to your comment is by referencing the IEC-SC-ELPC comment, and the DNR response to it.

In the attachments to this email you will find the IEC-SC-ELPC comment and IDNR's response.

Best Regards,

Brian Hutchins

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