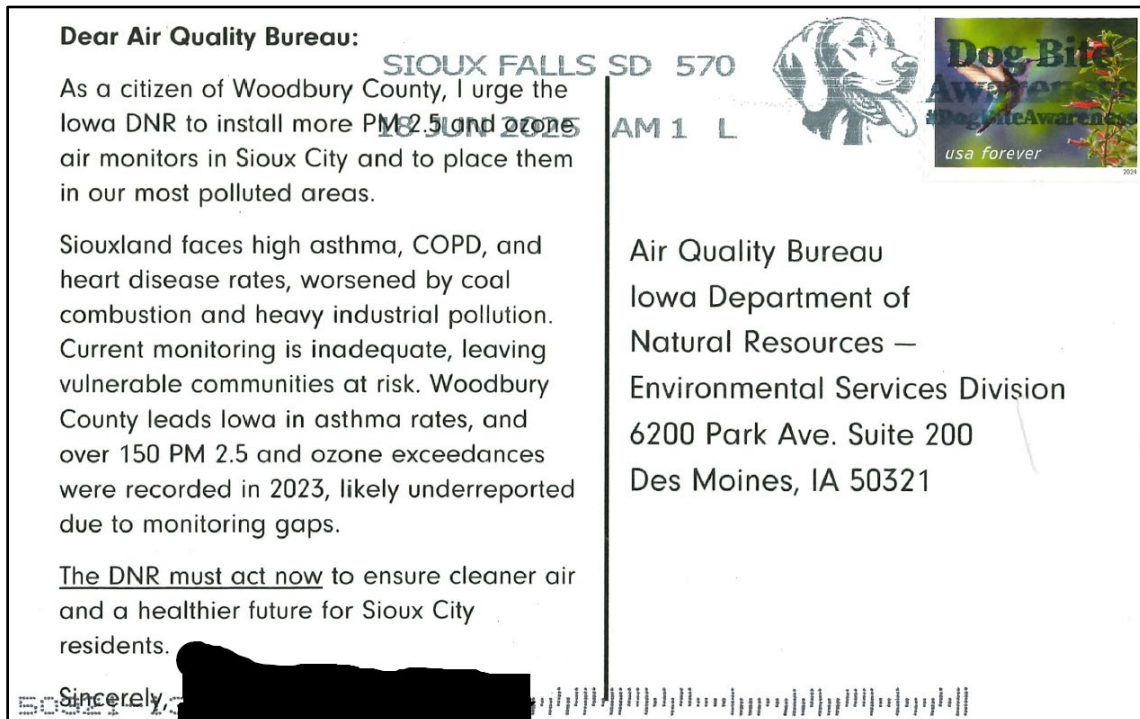


The IDNR received a number of postcards with very similar language requesting additional air monitoring in Woodbury County. A scan of one of these postcards is shown below:



IDNR's Response:

The IDNR received a number of postcards with very similar language requesting additional air monitoring in Woodbury County. It is not clear if these were in response to our 1 year Network Plan, or 5 year Network Assessment, or if they were unrelated to either document. The IDNR appreciates the interest these individuals have in maintaining Iowa's air quality, and offers the following comments in response.

Asthma rankings for an area can vary based on the source of the data. For example, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America produced a report titled "2024 Asthma Capitals™ – Full Ranking List of 100 U.S. Metro Areas". (See <https://aafa.org/asthma-allergy-research/our-research/asthma-capitals/>). Pages 7-9 of this report list the top 100 Asthma Capitals for 2024. Sioux City is not in the list. The only Iowa city that is mentioned is Des Moines; but among the 100 locations, it ranks the very lowest (at 100 exactly) implying less asthma problems than any of the other 99 cities on the list.

The IDNR began to operate an ozone monitor in Woodbury County, at Stone State Park, in March of 2024; so, there is no ozone data available for 2023. The IDNR only operates one regulatory monitor for PM2.5 in Woodbury County, which is located at Irving School. There were two exceedances of the 24-hour standard in 2023 (on May 18 and Sept. 6). The commenter's reference to "150 PM 2.5 and ozone exceedances" may assume shorter averaging intervals than the full midnight to midnight average that the 24 hour PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) utilizes, or may involve confusing an AQI index value for units of micrograms per cubic meter.

Best Regards,

Brian Hutchins

Public Service Manager 1

Air Quality Bureau

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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