



Solid Waste News - Summer 2025

As the saying goes, 'if you don't like the weather, stay around for a minute and it will change'. Same can be said for many other things that we encounter and deal with on a day-to-day basis. So, we provide this newsletter to update you, our stakeholders, on noteworthy items.

DNR Update

The DNR provided an update at the 2025 Iowa Recycling & Solid Waste Management Conference held September in Coralville. Below are some of the highlights from the presentation.

DNR Staff Updates

The Land Quality Bureau (LQB) continues to manage multiple vacancies, including two Environmental Engineers, one Environmental Specialist Senior, two Environmental Specialists, one Program Planner 3 and other key roles. Interim assignments have been made to cover responsibilities for those who have retired (see our [Summer 2025 Newsletter](#) for interim responsibilities and assignments). An Environmental Specialist vacancy in the Underground Storage Tank Section has been posted and an Environmental Engineer position in the Solid Waste Contaminated Sites Section has been approved for posting.

Regarding the budget, the FY2026 Federal Discretionary Budget Request from the President includes the elimination of approximately \$1 billion in grants to states, specifically targeting 19 out of 22 categorical grant programs under the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account. Although these cuts, if implemented, would severely impact many DNR programs, stakeholders should note that Solid Waste Tonnage Fees are not impacted by these federal appropriations.

Programmatic Updates

Groundwater Separation and Underdrains: The DNR is developing a technical framework to allow landfills to make requests to not require groundwater separation in new cells or to shut off existing underdrains. This allowance, which is supported by data showing groundwater impact is generally associated with unlined or clay-lined cells, will be decided on a case-by-case basis and has the potential for substantial cost savings. We hope to have this guidance available yet this fall or early winter.

Special Waste Authorization (SWA) Requests: Remember that SWA requests must include three things: 1) Signatures from both the Generator and the Landfill; 2) Documentation discussing the basis for the waste determination; and 3) The Special Waste Acceptance Criteria (SWAC).

Hazardous Waste Determinations: The Iowa DNR is not authorized to implement RCRA Subtitle C (i.e. Hazardous Waste). This compliance responsibility belongs to U.S. EPA Region 7. The DNR staff will provide support for waste determinations only as they relate to DNR programs, such as Special Waste, and will refer stakeholders to appropriate U.S. EPA officials.

Rulemaking and Executive Order 10

We continue to make significant progress on the Executive Order 10 (EO10) administrative rule process. Specifically, the DNR has removed over 127,000 words, decreased the number of rules by 131, and eliminated over 3,000 restrictive terms, all while ensuring the rules remain equally protective of the environment and public health.

Fall 2025

The proposed rules along with a regulatory analysis were published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on September 17, and public hearings were held on October 7 and 8 with no substantive comments received.

The Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) is expected to issue a Notice of Intended Action in December 2025. Two additional hearings are planned for January 2026, followed by the EPC adopting and filing the rules in Spring 2026. Lastly, the newly revised rules are anticipated to become effective around June 2026.

We recommend that you visit our [EO 10 webpage](#) and bookmark it. Meanwhile, we have a separate newsletter for this process, which you can sign up for through [GovDelivery](#).

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,

Mike Sullivan

515-360-1671

michael.sullivan@dnr.iowa.gov