

# WATER QUALITY ADVOCACY

IOWA  
life | changing®

[www.iowalifechanging.com](http://www.iowalifechanging.com)

Assisting Your Business With Environmental Resources

## ► INNOVATIVE WAYS TO IMPROVE IOWA'S ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

### Water Quality Advocacy

Iowa's surface and ground water serves as a precious resource for industries, businesses and communities and provides state citizens and visitors with invaluable cultural and recreational opportunities. While water quality is regulated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), compliance assistance is available through the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) Water Quality Advocacy Program.

The Water Quality Advocacy Program serves as a point of contact between businesses, communities, regulatory agencies and/or expert resources to ensure effective water quality improvements, permitting and compliance with applicable Iowa law and regulations.

#### ► Areas of assistance available through the Water Quality Advocacy Program include:

##### Storm Water Permits

Storm water discharge is generated by runoff from land and impervious areas such as paved streets, parking lots and building rooftops, and/or industrial and construction areas during rainfall and snow events. Storm water runoff may contain heavy metals, oil, grease, fertilizers, industrial site contaminants and/or sediment from construction areas. Contaminants in storm water runoff can adversely impact aquatic life, recreational areas and drinking water sources. Because most storm water discharges are considered point sources, the IDNR NPDES Section regulates storm water discharges through storm water permitting. Most industrial activities are covered under General Permit no. 1. Individual permits, construction activities are covered under General Permit no. 2. Facilities such as asphalt plants, concrete batch plants, quarries, sand and gravel pits and rock crushers are covered under General Permit no. 3.

Additional information regarding storm water permits can be found at <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/stormwater/index.html>



##### National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

The IDNR National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Section issues discharge or operation permits pursuant to the Clean Water Act. An NPDES permit is typically a license for a facility to discharge a specified amount of pollutant into receiving waters under certain conditions. Permits may also authorize facilities to process, incinerate, landfill, or beneficially use sewage sludge. Industrial facilities and publicly owned treatment works (POTW) must have a NPDES permit before discharging wastewater directly to surface waters. An NPDES permit requires compliance with all federal and state standards and may also require additional controls based on local conditions.

Additional information regarding the NPDES permitting can be found at <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/npdes/about.html>



Iowa Department of Economic Development  
200 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309 U.S.A.

International: +1.515.242.4896

Domestic: 1.800.245.4692

[www.iowalifechanging.com](http://www.iowalifechanging.com)

### **Wastewater Construction Permits**

The IDNR Wastewater Construction Section issues wastewater construction permits. Permits are required for the construction of any municipal and industrial treatment and collection facilities that discharge treated wastewater to a river or stream. This section also reviews and issues construction permits for wastewater reclamation projects and non-discharging animal feeding operations.

Additional information regarding wastewater construction can be found at <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/wastewater/index.html>

### **Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program**

The IDNR and the Iowa Finance Authority administer the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program, which offers communities and sanitary districts below-market loans for the construction of wastewater treatment, collection system improvements and stormwater quality projects.

Additional information regarding the State Revolving Fund Program can be found at <http://www.iowasrf.com>

### **Community Development Block Grants**

The IDED administers community development block grants (CDBG) to cities and counties on an annual competitive basis through the Water/Sewer Fund. Assisted activities include water and/or sanitary sewer system improvements, including storm water projects, water and wastewater treatment facilities and rural water connections. Applications are typically due in December and award decisions are announced in March.

Additional information regarding CDBG can be found at <http://www.iowalifechanging.com/community/community/public.html>

### **Water Supply**

The IDNR Water Supply—Water Supply Engineering and Water Supply Operations—are responsible for a diverse group of drinking water programs associated with public water supplies (PWS), systems that serve 25 or more people and private wells.

Additional information regarding the Water Supply Sections can be found at <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/drinking/index.html>

### **Source Water Protection**

Because of increasing pressure from development, pollution, land use changes and growing demands for drinking water, preventing contaminants from entering public drinking water supplies is important. Located within the IDNR's Watershed Improvement Section, the Source Water Protection Program assists priority communities in assessing contaminant levels in the community's water supply by incorporating a nine-step planning process. Through the Source Water Protection Plan, potential risks and the source(s) of contamination are identified and a Best Management Practices plan is developed.

Additional information regarding the Source Water Protection can be located at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/sourcewater.html>

### **Nonpoint Source Pollution**

Nonpoint source pollution is rainfall, snowmelt or irrigation waters running over the land or through the ground picking up and depositing pollutants into streams, lakes or groundwater. Pollutants include excess sediment, bacteria and nutrients, which can come from practically any outdoor area that comes into contact with running water.

Additional information regarding Nonpoint Source Pollution can be located at <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/nonpoint/index.html>

### **Confidential Services**

The Water Quality Advocacy Program services are free, non-regulatory and confidential.

#### **► For More Information Contact**

Jessica Montana

Water Quality Advocate

Iowa Department of Economic Development

200 E. Grand Avenue

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

515.242.4871 or 800.351.4668

[jessica.montana@iowalifechanging.com](mailto:jessica.montana@iowalifechanging.com)

[http://www.iowalifechanging.com/business/environmental\\_issues.html](http://www.iowalifechanging.com/business/environmental_issues.html)

For more information on these and other programs, contact the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED)  
1.800.245.IOWA                      +1.515.242.4896                      [www.iowalifechanging.com](http://www.iowalifechanging.com)