



Leading Iowans in Caring For Our Natural Resources

Mike Sullivan – Solid Waste and Contaminated Sites Supervisor
Iowa Department of Natural Resources Update
2026 Iowa Recycling & Solid Waste Management Conference
Davenport, IA
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DNR Update

- Budget
- Staffing
- Legislative Update
- Rulemaking Update (Executive Order 10)
- Programmatic Updates
- Questions

Budget

- President's Fiscal Year FY27 Discretionary Budget Request
 - 52% Reduction in Total Funding to EPA
 - 84% Reduction in State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)
- Federal Appropriation Process: CR Expires December 11, 2026
- Solid Waste Tonnage Fees Not Impacted by Federal Appropriations
- DNR Travel
- DNR Hiring

Staffing

- Positions Filled
 - Environmental Services Division Administrator (Amie Davidson)
 - Land Quality Bureau Chief (Kurt Levetzow)
 - Environmental Engineers (Alexis Slade and Khalid Al Gharrawi)
 - Program Planner 3 (Stephanie Graham)
 - Environmental Specialist Senior (Julie Ritter)
 - Program Planner 2 (Kerry Ellenwood)
- Vacancies
 - Environmental Specialist Senior – Sue Johnson
 - Executive Officer 3 – Tim Hall
 - Other LQB, WQB, AQB, and FSCB Vacancies
- Interim Assignments
- Plans for Filling Positions

Staffing

LAND QUALITY BUREAU – www.iowadnr.gov						
BUREAU	SOLID WASTE & CONTAMINATED SITES		UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS	FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS ASST	FLOOD PLAIN MANGEMENT & DAM SAFETY	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Kurt Levetzow (PSM2) C 515-410-6350 Bureau Chief kurt.levetzow@dnr.iowa.gov Recycling property tax exemption, Angie Clark (MA3) C 515-689-9149 angie.clark@dnr.iowa.gov Bureau support & records steward	Mike Sullivan (EPS) C 515-360-1671 michael.sullivan@dnr.iowa.gov Becky Jolly (PP2) C 515-249-1482 becky.jolly@dnr.iowa.gov Solid waste program support Brian Rath (EES) C 515-537-4051 brian.rath@dnr.iowa.gov Senior staff for MSW and Industrial landfill permits Mike Smith (EES) C 515-229-8356 mike.smith@dnr.iowa.gov Senior staff for MSW landfill permits Alexis Slade (EE) C 515-779-5349 alexis.slade@dnr.iowa.gov MSW and Industrial landfill permits Khalid Al Gharrawi (EE) C 515-388-2122 khalid.algharrawi@dnr.iowa.gov MSW and Industrial landfill permits Theresa Stiner (ESS) C 515-721-7979 theresa.stiner@dnr.iowa.gov Land Application Permits; compost facility permits; administrative rule coordinator; extended producer responsibility programs; legitimate recycling determinations Chad Stobbe (ESS) C 515-201-8272 chad.stobbe@dnr.iowa.gov Senior staff for transfer station/CCC. Beneficial Use program Vacant (ESS) C vacant@dnr.iowa.gov Special waste authorization, Electronics recycling permits, Appliance demanufacturing permits Mary Klemesrud (PP3) C 515-802-8835 mary.klemesrud@dnr.iowa.gov Bottle Bill, landfill financial assurance reports	Brad Davison (ES) C 515-415-1331 bradley.davison@dnr.iowa.gov Closed landfill permitting, contaminated sites, and non-landfill permitting. Mel Pins (EO2) C 515-729-4616 mel.pins@dnr.iowa.gov Iowa Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coordinator, Waste Tires Shelly Nellesen (ESS) C 515-669-5494 shelly.nellesen@dnr.iowa.gov State-Lead Program, Land Recycling Program, Targeted Brownfields, Pre-CERCLA, CERCLA, and Federal Sites. Matthew Graesch (ESS) C 515-250-1923 matthew.graesch@dnr.iowa.gov Superfund, Pre-Remedial program, Land Recycling Program, Registry of Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites, Statewide Standards, and Equipment maintenance. Andrew Carver (ES) C 515-721-7024 andrew.carver@dnr.iowa.gov Review Superfund Pre-Remedial Sites (CERCLA), Iowa Land Recycling (LRP) Sites, and State ConSites. Jake Bucklin (ES) C 515-415-0889 jake.bucklin@dnr.iowa.gov Review Superfund Pre-Remedial Sites (CERCLA), Iowa Land Recycling (LRP) Sites, and State ConSites. Contaminated Sites Lab 515-725-8313	Keith Wilken (EPS) C 515-681-0794 keith.wilken@dnr.iowa.gov Charlotte Richards (PP2) C 515-681-6932 charlotte.richards@dnr.iowa.gov UST/LUST Program Support Groundwater and UST Prof certs. James Gastineau (ESS) C 515-829-2770 james.gastineau@dnr.iowa.gov Fund Administrator, UST technical asst; Reviews UST compliance inspections and financial responsibility documents; UST compliance and enforcement in coordination with FO. Brooke Wasson (ES) C 515-669-5274 brooke.wasson@dnr.iowa.gov UST technical asst; Oversees processes for compliance inspections, leak detection, equipment testing, repair and upgrades; Reviews financial responsibility documents. Lisa Niedermayer (ES) C 515-393-9851 lisa.niedermayer@dnr.iowa.gov UST technical asst; Response to suspected or confirmed releases; Oversees process for tank closures; Reviews financial responsibility documents; Operator training asst. Dawn Santa Maria (ES) C 515-805-6664 dawn.santamaria@dnr.iowa.gov UST Operations, Tank Tags Cody McCoy (ESS) C 515-805-4521 cody.mccoy@dnr.iowa.gov Lead coordinator for cleanup of UST sites Tammy Vander Bloemen (ESS) C 515-401-6239 tammy.vander_bloemen@dnr.iowa.gov Lead coordinator for cleanup of UST sites Kate Meyer (ES) C 515-393-7305 kate.meyer@dnr.iowa.gov Cleanup of UST sites Eleanor Horak (ES) C 515-779-5818 eleanor.horak@dnr.iowa.gov UST / LUST Technical support	Jennifer Wright (EPS) C 515-452-1794 jennifer.wright@dnr.iowa.gov Tom Anderson (EO2) C 515-240-6059 tom.anderson@dnr.iowa.gov Senior staff for SWAP, HHMs & RCCs. Julie Ritter (ESS) C 515-669-8474 julie.ritter@dnr.iowa.gov RCC and HHMs, retailers permit asst. Toxics in Packaging, Auto related wastes, school labs and ag chemicals. Reid Bernel (ESS) C 515-217-7230 reid.bernel@dnr.iowa.gov Technical asst. for recycling, beneficial use and waste management technologies, Derelict Building program, Construction & demolition recycling. Liaison w/ IWE Stephanie Graham (PP2) C 515-782-7116 stephanie.graham@dnr.iowa.gov Comp planning review & asst. Goal progress calculations, Solid Waste EMS Kerry Ellenwood (PP2) C 515-462-7292 kerry.ellenwood@dnr.iowa.gov SWAP support, Mobile education exhibit reservations Jeff Fagle (EO2) C 515-322-9928 jeff.fagle@dnr.iowa.gov EPA performance tracking. P2 grant development/management Amy Wilken (PP3) C 515-322-9815 amy.wilken@dnr.iowa.gov Coordination of P2 Intern Program. Conducts P2 on-site assess. 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Legislative

- Special Session – House File 2801 (October 2, 2026)
 - Expanded Tax Incentive Cap: The law amends Iowa's Major Economic Growth Attraction (MEGA) Program.
 - State Oversight: Establishes state oversight on the transferability of tax credits and prohibits passing incentives to entities associated with foreign adversaries.
 - Investment and Employment: Mesabi Metallics (a subsidiary of Essar Group) plans a \$15 billion facility. Projected to generate roughly 6,000 construction jobs and 1,750 permanent high-wage positions in SE Iowa.
- DNR Proposed Bills (None Planned)

Rulemaking Update (EO10)

- Recent Schedule
 - Environmental Protection Commission – December 9, 2025 (Notice of Intended Action).
 - Two (2) Hearings – January 27, 2026 and January 29, 2026.
 - Environmental Protection Commission – May 20, 2026 (Amended Notices of Intended Action).
 - Environmental Protection Commission in July 2026 (Adopted and Filed).
 - Published in Iowa Administrative Bulletin: August 19, 2026.
 - Administrative Rules Review Committee: September 14, 2026.
 - Effective Date: September 23, 2026.
- LQB Metrics for Success (UST, FABA, and Solid Waste and Contaminated Sites)
 - 127,000+ Fewer Words
 - ~131 Fewer Rules
 - 3,000+ Fewer Restrictive Terms
 - Equally Protective of Environment and Public Health
- Update of Application Forms, Reporting Forms, Website, Guidance Documents, etc.
- Next Date: September 23, 2031.

Rulemaking Update (EO10) (cont.)

- Chapter 100: Authority, Definitions, and General Permitting Requirements
 - All definitions and other rules that apply to all SW chapters have been moved to this chapter. Other chapters incorporate these rules by reference.
 - ERRAP has been streamlined to focus on operations since DNR does not have the authority to regulate health and safety.

Rulemaking Update (EO10) (cont.)

- Chapter 101: Sanitary Disposal Projects
 - Division I: Landfill-Specific Requirements
 - Division II: Municipal Solid Waste Landfills
 - Division III: Industrial Landfills
 - Division IV: Coal Combustion Residual Landfills
 - Division V: Solid Waste Transfer Stations
 - Division VI: Solid Waste Incinerator Operator Certification
 - Division VII: Reserved
 - Division VIII: Financial Assurance

Rulemaking Update (EO10) (cont.)

- Chapter 101: Sanitary Disposal Projects (cont.)
 - Industrial Landfill Permit Period Increasing from three (3) to five (5) years.
 - CCCs Changed to Transfer Stations, Opportunity to Streamline Process.
 - Pursue Rescission of SW Incinerator Operator Certification.

Rulemaking Update (EO10) (cont.)

- Chapter 102: Solid Waste Management
 - Division I: Organic Materials Composting Facilities
 - Division II: Land Application of Waste
 - Division III: Landfarming of Petroleum-Contaminated Soil
 - Division IV: Beneficial Use
 - Division V: Waste Tire Management
 - Division VI: Special Waste Authorizations
 - Division VII: Discarded Appliance Demanufacturing
 - Division VIII: Cathode Ray Tube Recycling

Rulemaking Update (EO10) (cont.)

- Chapter 103: HHW and RCC
 - Chapters 123 and 211 were reviewed consistent with EO10.
 - Chapters 123 and 211 rescinded and necessary language placed in Chapter 103.
 - Purpose of Chapter 103 is to implement financial and operating license requirements for Regional Collection Centers (RCCs) and satellite facilities, which provide for the collection and proper disposal of household hazardous materials and hazardous waste from very small quantity generators.

Rulemaking Update (EO10) (cont.)

- Chapter 104: Solid Waste Comprehensive Planning and Environmental Management System Requirements
 - Chapters 101 and 111 were reviewed, simplified, and consolidated consistent with EO10.
 - Chapters 123 and 211 were rescinded and necessary language placed in Chapter 104.
 - Purpose of Chapter 104 is to provide direction and clarity for comprehensive planning and environmental management system requirements and criteria.

Rulemaking Update (EO10) (cont.)

- Chapter 105: Hazardous Conditions
 - Chapters 131, 133, and 137 were reviewed, simplified, and consolidated consistent with EO10.
 - Chapters 131, 133, and 137 were rescinded and necessary language placed in Chapter 105.
 - Slight Changes to Reporting Hazardous Conditions in Division I. Spills of less than 25 gallons of petroleum products and less than 100 pounds of anhydrous ammonia are exempt from reporting.
 - Action Level under Division II (MCLs Instead of HALs)

Rulemaking Update (EO10) (cont.)

- Chapter 107: Beverage Container Deposits
 - Chapter 107 was reviewed consistent with EO10.
 - Rulemaking is limited to implementing EO10 by removing outdated and duplicative language.
- Chapter 109: Landfill Alternatives Financial Assistance Programs
 - Chapter 209 was reviewed consistent with EO10, removing language that is unnecessary, redundant, and duplicative.
 - Chapters 209 was rescinded and necessary language placed in Chapter 109.

Rulemaking Update (EO10) (cont.)

- Rescissions
 - Chapter 119: Used Oil and Used Oil Filters.
 - Chapter 145: Household Batteries.
 - Chapter 149: Fees for Transportation, Treatment and Disposal of Hazardous Waste.
 - Chapter 152: Criteria for Siting Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facilities.
 - Chapter 213: Packaging – Heavy Metal Content.



Programmatic Updates

- Special Waste
 - Special Waste Authorization Requests Reminders: 1) Signed by Both Generator and Landfill; 2) Attach Documentation and Discuss the Basis for Waste Determination; 3) Include your Special Waste Acceptance Criteria (SWAC).
- Non-Special Waste Inquiries
 - Iowa DNR is not authorized to implement RCRA Subtitle C (Hazardous Waste). EPA Region 7 is responsible for compliance with RCRA Subtitle C.
- Landfills
 - Groundwater Separation and Underdrains: Development of technical framework to allow landfills to make requests to not require groundwater separation in new cells or to shut off existing underdrains. Reach out to DNR Project Engineer if you have questions.



Programmatic Updates (cont.)

- Financial Assurance
 - Proof of compliance due annually by April 1.
 - Extension requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
 - Compliance must be demonstrated by September 30 or Letter of Noncompliance (LNC) will be issued.
 - Further noncompliance after September 30 will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Transfer Stations
 - No construction or operation of a transfer station without first obtaining a permit. (567—101.405(455B)).
- Comprehensive Planning
 - Iowa cities and counties are to develop a comprehensive solid waste reduction program in collaboration with landfills and other waste facilities that serve their area.
 - These strategies are to be outlined in a Comprehensive Plan. Cities and counties may develop plans individually or jointly in Planning Areas.
 - Every five (5) years each Planning Area is to engage stakeholders and submit a plan for DNR approval.
 - As part of the planning process, and waste management requirements, waste destined for disposal in an Iowa municipal solid waste landfill is to be received by a permitted facility within the planning area in which it was generated.
 - Permitted facilities are not to accept Iowa-generated waste from outside their own planning area.
 - Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) states that if a city or county facility refuses any particular solid waste type for management or disposal; the city or county facility must identify another waste management facility for that waste within the planning area.
 - In the case of special waste, if no other waste management facility for that waste type exists within the planning area, the city or county must, in cooperation with the waste generator, establish or arrange for access to another waste management facility.
 - Municipal solid waste sanitary disposal projects are required to maintain written approval from both the department and the planning area of origin in order to accept any Iowa-generated waste from outside the planning area.

Questions?

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