



Newsletter

August 2017

Environmental Professionals of Iowa (EPI) is a multi-disciplinary organization that promotes education and standards of conduct and performance in the environmental field. The organization also provides a forum for environmental professionals to express a collective statement and provide a professional perspective on environmental issues.

President's Corner

Greetings Environmental Professionals of Iowa,

Summer 2017 is almost over and I'm one of the few already looking forward to the changing of the seasons. It's not because I don't enjoy the heat, but because the cool fall always brings to me a change in attitude, mind, and in spirit. This year, unlike many in the past, it also brings a bit of uncertainty. Since the inception of the Environmental Professionals of Iowa, we have brought the opportunity to you to obtain educational hours to maintain your Iowa certified groundwater professional designation. We will continue that this year but as we look forward, the demand for this theme in our organization needs to change, just as the world around us is changing. I think we can all agree that we need to broaden our horizons and look for opportunities to expand our knowledge in the environmental fields that affect us and neighbors here in Iowa.

Looking back though, for more than 25 years groundwater professionals have worked steadily to close one of the more abundant environmental problems to come forth from our industrialization that has been identified in almost every community across the State; the old gas station that sat on the corner and later became a leaking underground storage tank (LUST) site. With success, there are now fewer than 600 of these sites that remain open; more than 5000 have already closed. In many communities, there are no more LUST sites to be handled and in fact, there are a handful of counties where all the LUST sites have been closed. Soon this may be a problem of the past. The environment seems to be getting better, but there's still a lot to be done.

As the summer comes to an end, I call upon you to think about the changes that are ahead. What are the environmental concerns in your community? As you think about this, I encourage you to consider becoming a Board member for this organization as we move forward in life and look for new opportunities to expand our knowledge in the environmental fields and to let us grow as Environmental Professionals of Iowa. Bring that knowledge with you when you join us for the 2017 Symposium of the Environmental Professionals of Iowa, as we meet in November of this year.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

James Gastineau
EPI. President (2016)

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Call For Vendors!!

The 2017 EPI Symposium will be held on Mon. Nov. 13 and Tues. Nov. 14 at the Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston, Iowa

By popular demand, the Stoney Creek Inn has been selected again this year for the Symposium, with convenient services and parking, and easy access from Interstates 35 and 80. This event is a great time to network and market services, meet with customers, and socialize with other environmental professionals in Iowa. Space is still available for vendor booths at this year's Symposium. Please inquire with any current board member if you have interest in vendor opportunities.

EPI Social Event

Thank you to all EPI members who attended the mid-season social event - a night out with the Iowa Cubs on Thursday, August 24th. We enjoyed an evening of baseball and fine weather with friends and associates.



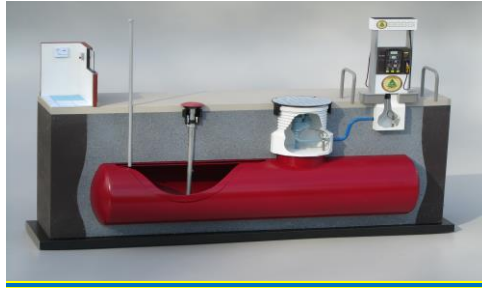
Future mid-season events are currently under consideration, and suggestions are welcome. Scheduled events can be located on the EPI website (www.epiowa.org) by clicking on "Event Calendar" on the left side navigation menu.

In The Works - EPI Website Upgrades

The current software that supports the Environmental Professionals of Iowa members' website (www.epiowa.org) has not been upgraded for several years, and is lacking critical access to information and links relevant to our organization. EPI board members are working to develop and implement website upgrades in the near future that will be more user-friendly and valuable to our members. In that light, the Board also discloses that the EPI general email address (moderator@epiowa.org) receives a considerable amount of spam mail, and we are currently navigating a solution to that issue as well. The Board welcomes any comments related to website upgrades to find the best fit for its members' needs.

IN THE NEWS

Update: 2015 UST Requirements and Pending Rule Changes



The IDNR has begun the process of adopting the federal UST rule changes that were published in 2015 into the Iowa Administrative Code. Since the federal rules were published, IDNR has held several stakeholder meetings and a Task Force was appointed to tackle the major concerns of Iowa's UST owners and operators. Listed below are some of the changes owners/operators should begin planning for:

- Previously deferred tanks must now meet leak detection requirements
- Tanks and piping installed or replaced will require secondary containment and interstitial monitoring.
- Ball floats can no longer be replaced or used in new installations as overfill protection, and overfill protection will be required to be inspected for proper operation at least once every 3 years.
- Regulators must be notified prior to switching to products containing greater than 10% ethanol or 20% biodiesel and demonstrate equipment compatibility.
- Spill buckets and containment sumps will be required to be tested at least once every 3 years and replacement of "failing" spill buckets and containments will likely be required.
- Following repair/replacement of secondary containments and containment sumps - tightness testing must be completed within 30 days.
- Monthly and annual inspections will be required to check for proper operation and maintenance.
- All components of the ATG must be checked for proper operation annually.
- Liquid in the interstitial space of secondary containment systems is considered an unusual operating condition that should be reported as a suspected release.

Additional information on Task Force recommendations and the proposed testing schedule is available at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Land-Quality/Underground-Storage-Tanks/UST-LUST-Regulations>.

City of Dubuque Selected for EPA Brownfields Grant

(Source: EPA Region 7 News Release, 05/31/2017) The city of Dubuque, Iowa, was selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to receive \$200,000 for Brownfield site revitalization efforts at a former junkyard and metal recycling center in the Washington Neighborhood. The funding will assist with the cleanup of the site, an initial step toward transforming the property into productive reuse that will benefit the community and the local economy.

Dubuque is one of 172 communities across the country selected to receive a portion of approximately \$56.8 million in Assessment and Cleanup Grant funds to work on sites within their community. These funds will provide communities with resources necessary to determine the extent of site contamination, remove environmental uncertainties, and clean up contaminated properties where needed.

For more information on this grant and other EPA Region 7 news releases, please visit the following link: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/search/field_press_office/region-07.

IN THE NEWS (CONT'D)

Web-Based RBCA Application

The IDNR UST Section released a new web-based RBCA application in 2017 that will replace Versions 2.51 and 3.0 of the RBCA software. The web-based application will be used for new and revised Tier 2 Reports and Site Monitoring Reports. Tier 1 and Bedrock reports will still be completed using the existing RBCA software. Additional information will be provided by IDNR when the web-based SMR application is complete.

The link to the Web-Based Risk Based Corrective Action (RBCA) Application is provided as follows:

<https://programs.iowadnr.gov/rbca/Search>

A Frequently Asked Questions document, along with printable forms and supplemental guidance, are posted on the UST Section's home page at the following link:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Land-Quality/Underground-Storage-Tanks>

Proposed General Permits for Hydrostatic Testing and Dewatering

Over the last few years, the IDNR's NPDES Section has been developing two new general permits while allowing for several stakeholder input meetings. Proposed General Permit #8 will be for Hydrostatic Testing, Tank Ballasting, and Water Lines. Proposed General Permit #9 will be for Dewatering Activities and Residential Geothermal Discharges. Both draft permits were most recently updated on July 7, 2017. These permits are intended to benefit dischargers by providing a permit shield without the time and cost of obtaining an individual permit. As with all general permits, the proposed General Permits #8 and #9 would only authorize discharges that will not cause violations of state water quality standards.

Of relevance to the environmental consulting and underground storage tank industries, IDNR's General Permit #8 may be required during hydrostatic testing of pipes, lines, tanks and associated equipment; and during ballasting of underground storage tanks during installation. General Permit #9 may be required during trench dewatering or temporary groundwater dewatering during construction activity.

According to the IDNR's website, "Currently, people conducting discharges that would be authorized by the permit can either pursue an individual permit or discharge illegally. Obtaining an individual permit requires an investment of time and money that is disproportionate to the impact these discharges usually have on the environment. Not only is discharging without a permit illegal, but the discharges may occur without environmental controls."

In other words, the eligibility criteria and notification requirements of the general permits are intended to reduce the burden on the regulated community (as compared to individual permit coverage) while ensuring that higher-risk discharges are being evaluated by IDNR before they are authorized. For more information on these proposed general permits, please refer to the webpage link below for the IDNR NPDES Section, where you may access individual links to each draft permit.

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/NPDES-Wastewater-Permitting/NPDES-General-Permits>

IN THE NEWS (CONT'D)

Changes Pending for Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

(Source: IDNR News Release, 07/20/2017) The DNR is launching a new, locally-led volunteer water monitoring program to help Iowans better understand their local water quality.

“Volunteer water monitoring is best able to inform local water quality goals if the decision-making and coordination is locally-led,” said Steve Konrady with the DNR’s Water Quality Bureau. “We can help interested communities, watersheds, counties, and regions get started and have an opportunity to take ownership and derive more value from their locally-led volunteer water monitoring programs.”

While volunteer water monitoring has been a component of the DNR since 1998, this program will shift to a locally-led focus to better serve partner communities, organizations and citizens. The DNR will provide locally-led project leaders with training if needed, and then local volunteers will get trained by and work with those leaders on sampling coordination and data reporting.

The DNR recommends that volunteers submit data collected through these projects to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s [Water Quality eXchange \(WQX\)](#), which already houses much of Iowa’s previous volunteer monitoring data along with U.S. Geological Survey and other data sources.

Iowans interested in starting their own water monitoring effort locally can visit the IDNR’s [volunteer water monitoring](#) website for more information.

Calendar of Events



November 13 - 14, 2017

2016 EPI Symposium, Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, IA



The success of EPI depends on volunteer efforts, and is a great way to welcome new members and make connections as an Iowa Groundwater Professional. Please inquire with any of the Past or Present Board members for interest in this organization.