

September 2021

# Environment Committee Newsletter

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## Looking Ahead to the Fall

With the exception of an upcoming special legislative session in October, which will focus on the decennial process of re-districting, the Legislature will not consider issues germane to the Environment Committee until January when the second session of the 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly convenes. ABI staff has been busy during the interim attending stakeholder meetings and following rules that will affect ABI members. Check out the latest edition of the Environment Committee Newsletter for the most up to date information.

### Environment Committee Develops Policy Recommendations for 2022

ABI's five public policy committees met over the last month to devise policy recommendations for the coming year. Over 100 members participated in helping formulate recommendations which were recently considered by the Legislative Committee. The Board of Directors will ultimately approve the policies and priorities for 2022 on September 9<sup>th</sup>. During the Environment meeting, the committee recommended mostly technical changes in policy, but did put forward a new statement related to Emerging Chemical Regulation. That proposed statement reads, "As state and federal environmental policy evolves to address new chemicals and compounds (i.e. PFAS), which have not been previously regulated or monitored, ABI encourages that new government programs mandating monitoring and/or remediation do not impose retroactive liability on those using these chemicals and compounds in compliance with existing laws, rules and regulations." The Legislative Committee made to tweaks to that statement including removing the word "new" between "address" and chemicals". They also struck "(i.e.)" and replaced it with "(e.g.)". Federal, state and local governments across the nation are beginning to look at regulating PFAS in particular and the committee felt it was important to add policy related to this as the DNR in Iowa begins to monitor this more closely. Thanks to all of the members who participated in the meeting on August 9.

### Participate in ABI/DNR Sustainable Materials Management Meeting on September 15

ABI staff has arranged a meeting for members to participate in and learn more about the DNR's Sustainable Materials Management initiative. The DNR has been working on this initiative over the last number of years as a means to modernizing Iowa's solid waste management system through stakeholder driven legislative proposals, policies, programs and more. The DNR has contracted with SCS Engineers to move this initiative forward. The meeting on **September 15 at 1:30 pm via Zoom** gives ABI members the opportunity to hear directly from SCS Engineers and ask questions from those leading this effort. For those who do decide to attend, a key question the engineering firm might ask of attendees is what type of incentives industry would be looking for in order to implement practices. As ABI staff sits on Plastics and Renewable Energy Subcommittees for the SMM initiative, we're ensuring that industry's voice is heard and that ideas related to mandates, raising costs or increased regulatory measures are ultimately not officially proposed as a "solution" or as a means of re-inventing solid waste

management in Iowa. You can read more from [DNR's website](#) about SMM. If you would like to register for this virtual meeting, please contact [Michelle Vollstedt](#).

#### **Request for Feedback on DNR's Proposed Rule Mandating Electronic Submittal for Air Quality Documents**

ABI staff recently participated in a DNR Air Advisory Group stakeholder meeting where the purpose of said meeting was to discuss requiring electronic submittals for emissions inventory reporting, air permit applications and other air quality documents. After receiving feedback from stakeholders, the DNR has issued a revised draft rule which is [here](#). At ABI's request, DNR staff has compiled feedback on an inquiry related to how much time and money this would save the Air Quality Bureau if this rule would be implemented. Please submit any feedback or ideas you have on the proposal to [Brad Hartkopf](#) by **Thursday, September 8**.

#### **Water Use & Allocation Annual Permit Fee Stakeholder Meeting Held**

Last week, the DNR convened stakeholders for the annual water use & allocation permit fee meeting. ABI staff participated in the meeting with a number of other interested parties. The permit is required of any person or entity using 25,000 gallons of water in a single day during the year. The permit is issued for a period of up to 10 years. The DNR is proposing that the permit fee be \$95 for FY22, which is the same as it was in FY20 and FY21. Stakeholders supported this move. There was additional discussion concerning raising the fee to \$115/year in the future in order that the \$200,000 carryforward balance the program currently maintains holds for the future. The DNR will present their proposed fee amount at the Environmental Protection Commission's next meeting, which will take place on **September 21**. You can view more information on the Water Use & Allocation Program [here](#) and view the DNR's presentation on the program [here](#).

#### **Request for Feedback on Storm Water General Permits**

The DNR is requesting any feedback from stakeholder on the renewal of storm water general permits. You can view the three proposed permits in the following links.....[GP1 2018](#), [GP2 2018](#) and [GP3 2018](#). The DNR has told ABI they are not proposing to make any changes other than extending their effective dates for another five years. Please send any feedback to [Brad Hartkopf](#) by **Thursday, September 9**.

#### **Participate in Meeting to Discuss Wastewater General Permits on September 14**

The DNR is inviting stakeholders to participate in a public Zoom meeting regarding proposed rulemaking to renew five National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permits. Attendees will be able to provide feedback and ask questions of the DNR regarding the proposals. These general permits cover certain wastewater discharges from mining and processing facilities (GP5), well construction activities (GP6), pesticide applications (GP7), hydrostatic testing, tank ballasting and water lines (GP8), and dewatering activities and household geothermal systems (GP9). The renewal of GP8 and GP9 is proposed because these permits expire on June 20, 2023. Proposed changes to these two general permits will clarify existing permit requirement and address needs identified during the initial permit term. GP5, GP6 and GP7 are proposed to be renewed at the same time in order to align the effective dates for all five general permits so future renewal rule makings for these five permits can be combined. Minimal change are proposed for these general permits according to DNR. A draft showing the proposed changes to each general permit is [here](#). The meeting will take place from **1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Tuesday, September 14**. Those who wish to participate must register [here](#). If you have questions about the rulemaking or feedback for DNR, please contact [David Schelling](#) at DNR. If you have feedback, but would like ABI staff to relay that to DNR in an anonymous fashion, please send that to [Brad Hartkopf](#).

#### **Upcoming Events**

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- September 14 – Stakeholder Meeting on Wastewater General Permits
- September 15 – Sustainable Materials Management Meeting
- September 16 – DNR Client Contact Group
- September 21 – Environmental Protection Commission Meeting
- September 28 – Legends in Manufacturing Awards Dinner – Altoona
- September 29 – Advanced Manufacturing Conference – Altoona
- October 14 – DNR Client Contact Group
- October 19 – Environmental Protection Commission Meeting
- November 2 – Election Day (Municipal & School)
- November 10 – DNR Client Contact Group
- November 16 – Environmental Protection Commission
- December 9 – DNR Client Contact Group

- December 21 – Environmental Protection Commission
- January 12 – ABI Legislative Briefing and Reception – Des Moines