



IOWA
ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL

"Together for the Earth we share"

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Iowa must have a strong water quality monitoring network. \$3 million is requested for Fiscal Year 2001-2002 to continue implementing a comprehensive water monitoring network.

We commend Iowa's legislators for last year's \$2 million appropriation for water quality monitoring, an increase of the \$1 million that was appropriated for Fiscal Year 1999-2000. **Legislators, your actions mean that you recognize that monitoring Iowa waters is crucial to our state's health.**

In order to maximize its effectiveness, Iowa's monitoring program needs sustained and uninterrupted funding. *There are still many gaps to fill in before we have an adequate water quality monitoring program.* We must work toward full funding of the comprehensive water monitoring plan developed by the state and a diverse group of citizens in 1999.

Because of your leadership:

- Iowa now has a much improved water monitoring network, where professionals routinely test water in a variety of locations statewide.
- Iowa now conducts biological monitoring, which evaluates biological diversity as an indicator of water quality, at 86 sites. No regular biological monitoring was done before last year.
- Iowa has significantly expanded monitoring for many pesticide and pesticide transformation products in more locations.
- Lakes are now regularly monitored. They were not before 2000.
- Water is now monitored upstream and downstream from 10 urban areas.

We need to expand the number of sites monitored, increase groundwater monitoring, and better assess drinking water resources.

Legislators, you made an excellent start on the race to find out what's in our water. You are on track, and we hope you will go the distance.

Action requested

\$3 million should be appropriated for Fiscal Year 2001-2002, so that Iowa can continue building the comprehensive water monitoring network necessary to protect the quality of our state's valuable water resources.

With the increase of \$1 million for FY 2001-2002, DNR would continue to implement its monitoring program, including:

- **Daily sediment monitoring**, to begin assessing for Iowa's number one surface water concern: sediment.
- Assessment of the quality of **private drinking water wells**. A survey of private well water will provide information about trends and changes in the quality of private rural drinking water.
- Assessment of Iowa surface water bodies designated for **drinking water uses**. These "Class C" waters are important sources of drinking water for 25 percent of Iowans, including residents of Iowa's larger cities and much of Southern Iowa.
- Analysis of the water from 130 lakes for priority pollutants, which include common pesticides and industrial pollutants.
- Increased **groundwater monitoring** to assess the quality of aquifers throughout Iowa. Groundwater is the source of drinking water for 75 percent of Iowans.
- Biological monitoring at 60 sites, distributed across Iowa's seven ecoregions, each year. Biological monitoring evaluates biological diversity as an indicator of water quality.
- A strengthened Iowa citizen monitoring program.



With comprehensive water monitoring of both surface water and groundwater, we can better protect our citizens and environment, save money, and reduce public health concerns as we discover and address water quality problems early.

The Iowa Environmental Council and its 70 member organizations represent about 80,000 Iowans.

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