

**DNR REGULATORY AGENDA FOR SFY 2008  
FORM FOR REGULATORY ACTION DESCRIPTION**

**Rule Making Authority**

Director   
Environmental Protection Commission (EPC)   
Natural Resource Commission (NRC)   
Energy & Geological Resource Division

**Title of Regulatory Action**

General permit for effectively regulating geothermal heat pumps

**Rule Chapter(s) that may be involved**

567 Chapter 64

**Description of Contemplated Regulatory Action**

(Including, to the extent reasonable and practicable, alternatives to be considered and preliminary estimate of costs and benefits of the Action)

This rulemaking action is intended to issue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for effectively regulating discharges from geothermal pump and dump systems.

Costs: Any cost to regulated parties would be minimal as they are currently required to apply for individual NPDES permits.

Benefits: The general permit will reduce the amount of information required in a permit application. This will make it easier for permittees, the majority of which are private residences, to obtain permit coverage. The department benefits from reduced staff time needed to process the permits.

**Legal Basis**

(Include whether action is required by statute or court order)

Iowa Code subsection 455B.173

**Need for Regulatory Action**

(Include if applicable how the action will reduce risk to public health, safety, or the environment)

This rulemaking action is intended to provide adequate protection for both human health and aquatic life by following and interpreting the Clean Water Act, Federal Code of Regulations, and Iowa Codes. Simplifying the process for these permittees will result in better compliance and better water quality protection.

**Other Affected/Interested  
Rule Making Authorities**

EPAIDALS, Engineering and Land Surveying Board, DED, Public Health Department, DOT and county and local entities

**Potential Public Groups  
Impacted**

Residences and businesses operating these systems, geothermal installation companies, Iowa Environmental Council, Iowa Sierra Club

**Schedule:**  
(Actions &  
month/year)

EPC informational item by March 2008  
Notice of Intended Action to be filed by April 2008  
Public hearings in July 2008  
Final rule to EPC by September 2008

**Staff Contact/Phone #**

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