

567—52.7(455B) Modification, cancellation, and emergency suspension of permits.

52.7(1) General. Except as provided in subrule 52.7(2), after at least 30 days' written notice mailed to the permittee's last-known address by certified mail and an opportunity for the permittee to be heard in an evidentiary hearing conducted according to the contested case provisions of Iowa Code chapter 17A, the department may modify or cancel a water permit or any condition of a permit, notwithstanding any other rule, for any of the following:

a. Breach of permit condition or law. A condition of the permit has been breached or the law pertaining to the permit has been violated by the permittee or permittee's agent, tenant, or consultant.

b. Nonuse. The permittee has failed for three consecutive years to use the water, and the permittee has not demonstrated adequate plans to use water within a reasonable time. Nonuse due to adequate rainfall shall not be a justification for cancellation of a permit. However, authorization to withdraw water from a proposed well may be canceled after notice to the permittee if the permittee has failed to construct the proposed well within three years after issuance of the permit.

c. Public health and safety. Modification or cancellation is necessary to protect the public health and safety, to protect the public interests in lands and waters, or to prevent any manner of substantial injury to persons or property.

d. Addition of conservation provisions. Modification to include conservation provisions is deemed necessary by the department.

e. Allocated amount. For three consecutive years, annual water use has exceeded the amount of water allocated in the permit.

52.7(2) Emergency suspension or restriction. Notwithstanding any other rule or permit conditions, if the department finds that it is imperatively necessary in an emergency to protect from imminent danger or substantial injury the public health, welfare or safety, the public or private interest in lands or water, or to implement the priority allocation system pursuant to rule 52.10(455B), and these findings are incorporated into a written emergency order to the permittee, then the department may immediately suspend or restrict operations under a permit and require the permittee to take measures necessary to prevent or remedy the injury. The emergency order shall state an effective date appropriate to the situation which invoked the suspension or restriction and shall be immediately effective on that date unless stayed, modified, or vacated at a hearing before the commission or by the court. The emergency order shall remain in effect until a date specified in the order, unless the order is revoked or the expiration date modified, due to a change in the situation giving rise to the order or a decision following appeal.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 455B.271, 455B.272 and 17A.3.