

567—55.5(455B) Application processing.**55.5(1) Application.**

a. Initial application for approval of an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) project. A permit shall be required for the storage of all treated water in an aquifer for later recovery for potable uses. New permit applications (a request for a new permit, as distinguished from modification or renewal of an existing permit) shall be made on a form obtained from the department. An application form must be submitted by or on behalf of the water supply system owner, lessee, easement holder, or option holder of the area where the water is to be stored and recovered from an aquifer. An application must be accompanied by a map portraying:

- (1) The points of injection and withdrawal,
- (2) The immediate vicinity (topography) of the receiving aquifer,
- (3) Any production, test or other observation wells within the aquifer, and
- (4) The area of water storage.

The application must also include a description of the land where wells are located and water will be injected, withdrawn and used, oriented as to quarter section, section, township, and range. One application will be adequate for all uses on contiguous tracts of land. A water supply construction permit issued pursuant to 567—Chapter 43 will also be required for all injection/recovery wells.

b. Limited registration. The department's response to an initial application will be to issue a limited registration to initiate an ASR pretesting program pursuant to paragraph 55.6(1) "a"; only after approval of and completion of an ASR pretesting program with appropriate public notification pursuant to subrule 55.5(3) and proper evaluation of the test results will the department issue an ASR permit.

c. A request for modification or renewal of a permit shall be made in a similar manner. This application does not need to reiterate map and location information as previously submitted to the department (unless the information has changed). The limited registration requirement for aquifer pretesting does not apply to modified or renewed ASR permit requests (unless required by the department).

55.5(2) Application fee. A nonrefundable fee in the form of a credit card, check, or money order in the amount of \$200 payable to the Department of Natural Resources must accompany an application for a permit (and limited registration for aquifer pretesting) for aquifer storage and recovery. A \$200 fee must accompany an application for modification or renewal of an ASR permit.

55.5(3) Published notice—applicant limited registration. The department will issue a limited registration allowing the applicant to conduct test pumping of an ASR site pursuant to paragraph 55.6(1) "a." The applicant shall first publish notice of intent to test the injection and water pumpage/recovery equipment prior to receiving the limited registration. Publication shall be in a form and manner acceptable to the department, in the newspaper of largest circulation in the county where the ASR project is located, and proof of publication shall be submitted to the department. The department will then issue the limited registration, and the applicant shall notify contiguous landowners by U.S. mail of the receipt of the limited registration and the intent to test an ASR site.

55.5(4) Published notice—departmental intent to issue a final ASR permit. Before issuance of a final ASR permit, the department shall publish notice of proposed decision to issue an ASR permit or deny the ASR application. Publication shall be in the newspaper of largest circulation in the county where the ASR project is located. This publication shall summarize the department's findings on whether the application conforms to relevant criteria as outlined in subrule 55.6(1). An engineering or hydrogeological summary report prepared by department staff may be attached to the published summary of findings. Copies of the proposed decision shall be mailed to the applicant, any person who commented, and any other person who requests a copy of the decision. The decision shall be accompanied by a certification of the date of mailing. A proposed decision becomes the final decision of the department unless a timely notice of appeal is filed in accordance with 55.5(6).

55.5(5) Form of department decision. The decision on an application shall be a permit or denial letter issued by the department. Each permit shall include appropriate standard and special conditions consistent with Iowa Code sections 455B.261 to 455B.274 and 455B.281 and 567—Chapters 52 to 55.

The decision may incorporate by reference and attachment the summary report described in 55.5(4). Each decision shall include the following:

- a.* Determinations as to whether the project satisfies all relevant criteria not addressed in an attached summary report.
- b.* An explanation of the purpose for imposing each special condition.
- c.* An explanation of consideration given to all comments submitted pursuant to 55.5(3) and 55.5(4) unless the comments are adequately addressed in the attached summary report.

55.5(6) *Appeal of department decision.* Any person aggrieved by an initial ASR permit decision may appeal the action. The person must submit a request for appeal in writing to the director within 30 days of the date of issuance of the final decision made by the department. A decision by the director on an appeal may be further appealed to the environmental protection commission (EPC). The form of appeal and appeal procedures are governed by 567—Chapter 7. The department shall mail a copy of the notice of appeal to each person who commented on the application.

55.5(7) *ASR permit public hearing.* Reserved.