

567—104.7(455J) Environmental management systems. Notwithstanding any other requirements, a planning or service area that has been designated as an environmental management system and that seeks to continue to be so designated in this voluntary program is exempt from filing its comprehensive plan. By September 1 of each year, an annual report shall be submitted to the department on a form provided by the department.

104.7(1) *Annual report evaluation criteria.* The department shall review the annual report based on the following:

- a.* Completeness in terms of addressing all of the elements set forth in the form provided by the department.
- b.* Clear demonstration of continuous improvement in terms of progress toward achieving the objectives and targets set forth in the environmental management system.

104.7(2) *Annual report evaluation outcomes.*

a. If the department determines that the annual report adequately demonstrates compliance with the requirements of Iowa Code section 455J.3, the planning or service area shall remain designated as an environmental management system and shall continue to be qualified for the incentives set forth in Iowa Code section 455J.5.

b. The annual report should clearly demonstrate continuous improvement in terms of progress toward achieving the objectives and targets set forth in the environmental management system. If the department determines that the annual report clearly demonstrates that the planning or service area's environmental management system is no longer in compliance with Iowa Code section 455J.3, the department may recommend to the environmental protection commission the revocation of the environmental management system designation. If the commission concurs with the department's recommendation, the planning or service area shall adhere to comprehensive planning requirements.

c. Failure by a planning or service area to submit an annual report by September 1 in any year will result in revocation of the environmental management system designation, following which the planning or service area shall adhere to the comprehensive planning requirements.

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