



Lee, Brian <brian.lee@dnr.iowa.gov>

Request for Guidance on Managing Runoff and Retention Pond Design

2 messages

Cedar View Farms LLC <herrold00@gmail.com>
To: "Lee, Brian" <brian.lee@dnr.iowa.gov>

Tue, Nov 4, 2025 at 2:34 PM


Good afternoon,

It was nice speaking with you today. Could you please advise if the current layout would be considered best practice to avoid discharging water runoff from the site?

Directly west of the proposed pond, the black rectangle represents the planned **biochar facility**, and just north of that, on the 10-acre site, will be the **compost facility**. The top of the hill has some terraced areas that have been filled to create a buildable site pad. Most of this area will be covered by **buildings and hard-surface drives**.

The proposed **retention pond overflow** would flow eastward into an existing **wetland area** and not into the ditch or be allowed to proceed into the Cedar River. We are seeking your advice or recommendations to ensure this approach meets environmental and stormwater best practices as we move forward with these projects.

Thank you for your time and guidance,
Courtney Herrold
319-541-3598

 **8620-002X7-Model.pdf**
815K

Lee, Brian <brian.lee@dnr.iowa.gov>
To: Cedar View Farms LLC <herrold00@gmail.com>
Cc: Ron Amelon <R.amelon@mmsconsultants.net>

Wed, Nov 5, 2025 at 7:21 AM

Mr. Herrold:

Thank you for the phone call and follow up email.

As we discussed, an Iowa DNR General Permit #1 for Storm Water Discharge Associated Industrial Activity (GP1), may be applicable to your facility. You currently do not have a GP1 in place for the current compost operation, because as you stated, a discharge of storm water to a water of the state (creek, stream, river, etc.) has not been documented. If this new area is in a similar status, where storm water that comes into contact with industrial activity does not discharge to an off site water body, then the GP1 will not be required. However with new flows, more impermeable surface, reviewing the area and potential discharge locations is recommended. Installing best management practices (BMPs) would only be required by the permit. Installing BMPs such as terraces, basins, ponds, or other practices is recommended to limit erosion and to capture sediment and other materials that may be mixed with the storm water runoff from the industrial area.

Be aware that you may apply for (and be granted) a GP1 to ensure that the facility is covered should any regulated discharge occur. The GP1 would require that a storm water pollution prevention plan and effective BMPs be implemented across the site. Be aware that if a discharge occurs and it is not properly permitted or causes a water quality violation, escalated enforcement action may be taken by the Department. I have included a copy of the GP1 for your reference.


I hope this answers your questions. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Brian

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