



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

U.S. Steel-Gary Works Wastewater Permit General Information

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Introduction:

- United States Steel Corporation operates an integrated steel mill facility in Gary, Indiana. Iron and steel products, and coke and coke making by-products are manufactured at the facility.
- The U.S. Steel-Gary Works facility generates wastewater in its various steel-making processes and manages storm water, all of which is treated before being discharged into Lake Michigan and the Grand Calumet River.
- All facilities that discharge treated wastewater to a surface water in Indiana, including U.S. Steel-Gary Works, must receive a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) issued by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).
- U.S. Steel has been producing steel at the Gary Works facility since 1909. It is currently operating under a NPDES permit that was issued by IDEM in 1994 and modified in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999.
- Permit renewals are typically processed every five years, but because U.S. Steel-Gary Works complied with requirements to submit its renewal application prior to the expiration date of August 31, 1999, the October 1994 permit, which includes all of the modifications, is valid until IDEM issues a renewal permit.
- The U.S. Steel-Gary Works permit renewal is one of hundreds of backlogged renewal permits that IDEM has worked to process since 2005. IDEM staff has made great progress in reducing the backlog by issuing renewal permits for all but six major facilities operating in the state. When final, the renewal permit will include current water quality standards and ensure that the facility is held accountable for compliance with today's more stringent environmental regulations.
- IDEM drafted and invited public comment on draft renewals in July, 2003, and July, 2007. The public and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) commented on the July 2007 draft permit. IDEM has made revisions in response, and is now inviting the public to review and comment on the revised draft permit.

Environmental Impacts:

- Untreated wastewater can contain pollutants that adversely affect water quality, fish and other water organisms, and negatively impact our use and enjoyment of Indiana's lakes and streams.
- The draft NPDES permit for U.S. Steel-Gary Works contains new, more stringent, limits the type of discharges to Lake Michigan and the Grand Calumet River.

IDEM's Role:

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- The Permits Branch of IDEM's Office of Water Quality is responsible for issuing NPDES permits to municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities, which serve to ensure the effective collection, treatment, monitoring and discharge of treated wastewater in compliance with state and federal water quality standards. IDEM only issues permits that comply with federal and state water quality requirements.
- The Compliance Branch of IDEM's Office of Water Quality is responsible for monitoring reports submitted by permitted facilities, conducting on-site inspections, and overseeing and enforcing compliance with permit conditions and applicable rules.

Citizen's Role:

- Citizens who wish to be involved in the IDEM decision-making process for the U.S. Steel-Gary Works permit renewal should review the draft permit documents and submit questions or comments to IDEM during the formal public comment period.
- A 45-day public comment period for the draft wastewater permit for U.S. Steel-Gary Works begins on October 14, 2009 and runs through November 30, 2009. Written comments can be mailed to IDEM's Office of Water Quality/Industrial NPDES Permits Section, Attention: Mr. Stan Rigney, MC 65-42 IGCN Room 1255, 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251. Comments also can be e-mailed to srigney@idem.IN.gov.
- IDEM will hold a formal public hearing on the draft wastewater permit at 6 p.m. on November 18 at Indiana University Northwest, Savannah Center Auditorium, 3400 Broadway, Gary, Ind. Individuals may submit oral or written comments to IDEM during the hearing.
- Individuals who do not wish to submit comments but wish to receive a notice of IDEM's final decision should submit a written request to the agency, including their name and mailing address.
- To stay informed about the public notice for this and other environmental permits, citizens should visit the IDEM Public Notice Web site at www.idem.IN.gov/5474.htm.
- Citizens can learn more about IDEM's role as Indiana's environmental agency and how to take part in decision-making processes through IDEM's Guide for Citizen Participation, online at www.idem.IN.gov/5803.htm.

More Information:

- More information about the draft permit for U.S. Steel-Gary Works online at www.idem.IN.gov.
- Citizens may direct questions to the IDEM Office of Water Quality Permits Branch at (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-8631.