



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

100 N. Senate Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(800) 451-6027 • (317) 232-8603 • Fax (317) 233-6647 • [www.idem.in.gov](http://www.idem.in.gov)

Mike Braun  
Governor

Clint Woods  
Commissioner

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit

Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) R.M. Schahfer Generating Station  
NPDES Permit No.: IN0053201

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has received a renewal application from Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) R.M. Schahfer Generating Station, which is located at 2723 East 1500 North, Wheatfield, IN, for its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. IDEM's Office of Water Quality (OWQ) issues this type of permit to regulate the discharge(s) of wastewater into surface waters of the state.

IDEM has posted the draft permit renewal with the announcement of the official public comment period, in accordance with 327 IAC 5-3-9. This document is posted on IDEM's web page for public notices. Due to anticipated public interest, IDEM has also scheduled a virtual public hearing to be held on October 7, 2026 to provide an opportunity for interested parties to discuss their concerns related to NPDES permitting for the NIPSCO R.M. Schahfer Generating Station.

A copy of the application and preliminary findings is also available via IDEM's Virtual File Cabinet (VFC) located at <https://www.in.gov/idem/legal/public-records/virtual-file-cabinet/>. Once you have accessed VFC, you will then have the option to search for source related documents using a variety of criteria. To find documents related to this NPDES permit, click on "Advanced Search", specify "OWQ Wastewater" in the Program search field, specify the nine-digit permit number "IN0053201" in the NPDES Permit # search field, then click the Search button at the top or bottom of the webpage.

**You are invited to attend a virtual public hearing regarding the NIPSCO R.M. Schahfer Generating Station NPDES permit renewal.** The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will hold a public hearing to allow for testimony regarding the draft NPDES Permit. **IDEM, OWQ will not provide responses to questions or comments made during the hearing.** IDEM will review all comments and questions received during the hearing, and submitted as part of the public comment period, and after careful consideration and further analysis, if necessary, provide detailed responses in writing as part of the final decision.

IDEM, OWQ will hold this virtual public hearing via Microsoft Teams at the following time and internet address:

**Wednesday October 7, 2026, starting at 5:00 PM, Eastern Daylight Time (4:00 PM Central Daylight Time) at**

**<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/275326011285168?p=R72SH2yD42AJyoycmCM>**

**Meeting ID: 275 326 011 285 168**

**Passcode: D7KV7gt9**

The hearing will end at 7:00 PM, Eastern Daylight Time (6:00 PM Central Daylight Time), or when all testimony has been provided, whichever is earlier.

Visit [on.in.gov/survey](https://on.in.gov/survey) or scan the QR code to provide feedback.

*We appreciate your input!*



**Attendees may also participate in the public hearing by telephone using the following telephone number:**

**Dial-in by phone**

**+1 317-552-1674 United States, Indianapolis, IN**

**[Find a local number](#)**

**Phone conference ID: 197 899 57#**

1. The public hearing will be conducted using the Microsoft Teams software application. Participants will be able to join the hearing without downloading the Teams application.
2. Participants, especially those wishing to speak, should also add their name, when prompted, while joining or signing into the meeting.
3. When participants join the hearing, they will be placed in a virtual waiting room until the public hearing begins. Anyone wishing to provide oral comments during the hearing should complete the Speaker Form using the instructions available in the waiting room. The form link and waiting room will be available beginning about ½ hour before the scheduled start of the hearing.
4. It is recommended that anyone speaking during the hearing use headphones with a microphone.
5. The chat feature will only be used for participants who have procedural questions or need technical assistance during the hearing. Chat messages will not become part of the record and will not be considered comments on the draft permit documents.
6. Participants with documents, presentations or other materials will not be able to submit them during the meeting. These materials should be submitted to IDEM, OAQ during the public comment period pursuant to the instructions below on how to submit comments and supporting documents.

If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in this event, please contact IDEM's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator at:

Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Attn: ADA Coordinator  
402 W Washington St - Room E034  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317-233-4088  
[ese@idem.IN.gov](mailto:ese@idem.IN.gov)

Please provide a minimum of 24 hours notice if possible. Speech and hearing-impaired callers may contact the agency via the Indiana Relay Service at 1-800-743-3333.

### **How can you participate in this process?**

Written comments and supporting documentation must be submitted to IDEM before the end of the public notice period. The public notice period will end on Thursday, October 22, 2026. All comments will be considered by IDEM when we make a decision to issue or deny the permit. Comments that are most likely to affect final permit decisions are those based on the rules and laws governing this permitting process (327 IAC 5), water quality issues, and technical issues. IDEM does not have legal authority to regulate zoning, odor or noise. For such issues, please contact your local officials. If you do not want to comment, but would like to be added to IDEM's mailing list to receive notice of future action related to this permit application, please contact IDEM. Please refer to permit number IN0053201 in all correspondence.

**To Contact IDEM:**

Heidi Etter  
IDEM, Office of Water Quality  
Indiana Government Center North  
100 North Senate Avenue, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251  
(800) 451-6027, ask for Heidi Etter or (317) 233-4903  
Or dial directly: (317) 233-4903  
Fax: (317) 232-8637 attn: Heidi Etter  
E-mail: [HEtter@idem.IN.gov](mailto:HEtter@idem.IN.gov)

In order to notify you of our final decision regarding this permitting action, your U.S. mailing address or a valid email address must be submitted with all comments.

**What will happen after IDEM makes a decision?**

Following the end of the public comment period, IDEM will issue a Notice of Decision stating whether the permit has been issued or denied. If the permit is issued, it may be different than the draft permit because of comments that were received during the public comment period. If comments are received during the public notice period, the final decision will include a document that summarizes the comments and IDEM's response to those comments. If you have submitted comments or have asked to be added to the mailing list, you will receive a Notice of the Decision. The notice will provide details on how you may appeal IDEM's decision, if you disagree with that decision. The final decision will also be available on the Internet at the addresses indicated above.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Heidi Etter of our staff at the above address. For additional information about water permits and how the public and interested parties can participate, refer to the IDEM OWQ Permits page on the Internet at: <https://www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/wastewater-permitting/> and the Citizens' Guide to IDEM on the Internet at: <https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/citizens-guide-to-idem/>.