Introduction:

- The United States Steel Corporation (U.S. Steel) operates its Midwest Plant in Portage, Indiana, which manufactures steel and related products. Activities conducted involve acid pickling, cold rolling, alkaline cleaning, operation of sheet temper mill, continuous annealing, electro-galvanizing, and tin electroplating.
- The U.S. Steel–Midwest facility generates wastewater in its various steel-making processes. The facility treats the wastewater and manages stormwater before being discharged into the Portage-Burns Waterway.
- All facilities that discharge treated wastewater to a surface water in Indiana, including U.S. Steel-Midwest, must receive a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).
- The U.S. Steel-Midwest permit renewal draft includes current water quality standards and ensures that the facility is held accountable for compliance with today’s more stringent environmental regulations.

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 U.S. Steel–Midwest facility withdraws cooling water from Lake Michigan and must operate the intake structures in a manner that does not trap, injure, or kill fish or aquatic organisms against or within the cooling water intake structures.
- Wastewater and stormwater from the facility must be treated and/or managed so that all discharges meet applicable water quality standards.
- The draft NPDES permit for U.S. Steel-Midwest contains new, more stringent, effluent limits on the discharges to the Portage-Burns Waterway, increased monitoring for contaminants, and new permit requirements to ensure compliance with Indiana’s water quality standards.

IDEM’s Role:

- 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.
- 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 comment on the U.S. Steel-Midwest draft permit may review the documents and submit questions or comments to IDEM during the formal public comment period.
- A 45-day public comment period for the draft permit for U.S. Steel-Gary Works began on April 19, 2021. **All comments are due on or before June 17, 2021.**
- **Written comments** can be mailed to:
  - IDEM
  - OWQ, Mail Code 65-42
  - NPDES Permits Section
  - 100 N. Senate Ave.
  - Indianapolis, IN  46204
- Comments also can be e-mailed to [jelliot@idem.IN.gov](mailto:jelliot@idem.IN.gov).

Public Hearing:

- IDEM will hold a **virtual public hearing via Zoom** on the draft permit on **May 26, 2021, at 6:00 pm CST (7:00 pm EST).**
  - To participate in the virtual Public Hearing, please visit [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86414104747?pwd=VVpsOWErSjRQekRyV1RVdms5ZHlpZz09&from=addon](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86414104747?pwd=VVpsOWErSjRQekRyV1RVdms5ZHlpZz09&from=addon).
  - To participate in the hearing by phone, please call (312) 626-6799. The Meeting ID is 864 1410 4747 and the passcode is 868757.
- The purpose of the public hearing is to allow public participation in the determination of the terms and conditions of the NPDES permit. Interested parties will have the opportunity to provide oral comments to IDEM representatives at the hearing.
- Individuals who do not wish to submit comments but wish to receive notice of IDEM’s final decision on this permit should submit a written request to the agency, including a name and address.
- To stay informed about the public notice for this and other environmental permits, please visit IDEM’s Public Notice website at [www.idem.IN.gov/publicnotices](http://www.idem.IN.gov/publicnotices).
- To learn more about how you can participate in the agency’s decision-making processes, please see the **Citizen’s Guide to IDEM** available on IDEM’s website: [www.in.gov/idem/resources/citizens-guide-to-idem/](http://www.in.gov/idem/resources/citizens-guide-to-idem/).

More Information:

- Citizens may direct questions to Jennifer Elliot, permit writer in IDEM’s Office of Water Quality Permits Branch at (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-8702 or by email at [jelliot@idem.IN.gov](mailto:jelliot@idem.IN.gov).