INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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Mike Braun
Governor

Clint Woods
Commissioner

NOTICE OF 30-DAY PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Preliminary Findings Regarding a
Significant Revision to a
Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit (FESOP)

for The Community Hospital in Lake County

Significant Permit Revision No.: 089-50152-00426

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has received an application from The Community Hospital, located at 901 MacArthur Blvd., Munster IN, 46321, for a significant revision of its FESOP issued on June 12, 2025. If approved by IDEM's Office of Air Quality (OAQ), this proposed revision would allow The Community Hospital to make certain changes at its existing source. The Community Hospital has applied to add two (2) new boilers, to replace the 8,000-gallon tank with a 20,000-gallon fuel tank, and to remove two (2) steam boiler humidifiers and one (1) steam boiler sterilizer.

The applicant intends to construct and operate new equipment that will emit air pollutants; therefore, the permit contains new or different permit conditions. In addition, some conditions from previously issued permits/approvals have been corrected, changed, or removed. These corrections, changes, and removals may include Title I changes (e.g., changes that add or modify synthetic minor emission limits). The potential to emit regulated air pollutants will continue to be limited to less than the Title V and PSD major threshold levels. IDEM has reviewed this application and has developed preliminary findings, consisting of a draft permit and several supporting documents, which would allow the applicant to make this change.

IDEM is aware that the Boilers #15 and #16 have been constructed and operated prior to receipt of the proper permit. IDEM is reviewing this matter and will take appropriate action. This draft permit contains provisions to bring unpermitted equipment into compliance with construction and operation permit rules.

A copy of the permit application and IDEM's preliminary findings have been sent to:

Lake County Public Library - Munster Branch Library
8701 Calumet Ave
Munster, IN 46321

A copy of the preliminary findings is available on the Internet at: http://www.in.gov/ai/appfiles/idem-caats/.

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 air permit, click on "Advanced Search", specify "OAQ" in the Program search field, specify the five-digit permit number "50152" in the Permit # search field, then click the Search button at the top or bottom of the webpage.

How can you participate in this process?

This notice is posted on IDEM's website (https://www.in.gov/idem/public-notices/). The date that this notice is posted on IDEM's website marks the beginning of a 30-day public comment period. If the 30th day of the comment period falls on a day when IDEM offices are closed for business, all comments must be postmarked or delivered in person on the next business day that IDEM is open.

You may request that IDEM hold a public hearing about this draft permit by sending a written request to IDEM at the address below. If adverse comments concerning the **air pollution impact** of this draft permit are received, with a request for a public hearing, IDEM will decide whether or not to hold a public hearing. IDEM could also decide to hold a public meeting instead of, or in addition to, a public hearing. If IDEM decides to conduct a public hearing and/or public meeting, IDEM will post a separate announcement of the date, time, and location of that public hearing and/or public meeting on IDEM's website (https://www.in.gov/idem/public-notices/). At a hearing, you would have an opportunity to submit written comments and make verbal comments. At a meeting, you would have an opportunity to submit written comments, ask questions, and discuss any air pollution concerns with IDEM staff.

Comments and supporting documentation, or a request for a public hearing should be sent in writing to IDEM at the address below. If you comment via e-mail, please include your full U.S. mailing address so that you can be added to IDEM's mailing list to receive notice of future action related to this permit. If you do not want to comment at this time, but would like to receive notice of future action related to this permit application, please contact IDEM at the address below. Please refer to permit number 089-50152-00426 in all correspondence.

Comments should be sent to:

Giulia Carloni
IDEM, Office of Air Quality
Indiana Government Center North
100 North Senate Avenue, Room 13W
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251
(800) 451-6027, ask for Giulia Carloni or (317) 234-6046
Or dial directly: (317) 234-6046
Fax: (317) 232-6749 attn: Giulia Carloni
E-mail: gcarloni@idem.IN.gov

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

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 (326 IAC 2), air 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.

For additional information about air permits and how the public and interested parties can participate, refer to the IDEM Air Permits page on the Internet at: https://www.in.gov/idem/airpermit/public-participation/; and the Citizens' Guide to IDEM on the Internet at: https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/citizens-guide-to-idem/.

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 and will also be sent to the local library indicated above.

If you have any questions, please contact Giulia Carloni of my staff at the above address.

Ghassan Shalabi, Section Chief
Permits Branch
Office of Air Quality