



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 Northeastern REMC in Whitley County
Significant Permit Revision No.: 183-49960-00064

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has received an application from Northeastern REMC, located at 2500 South 600 East, Columbia City, Indiana 46725, for a significant revision of its FESOP issued on October 28, 2025. If approved by IDEM's Office of Air Quality (OAQ), this proposed revision would allow Northeastern REMC to make certain changes at its existing source. Northeastern REMC has applied to correct the listed brake-horsepower rating of their two (2) existing generators. The correct brake-horsepower rating should be 3,629 bhp for each generator. In addition, on March 30, 2026, Northeastern REMC requested to construct a third generator.

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 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 two (2) 2.5 MW generator sets powered by natural gas-fired 4-cycle lean burn, stationary reciprocating internal combustion engines 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:

Peabody Public Library
1160 E SR 205
Columbia City, IN 46725

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 "49960" 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.

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

We appreciate your input!



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 SPR 183-49960-00064 in all correspondence.

Comments should be sent to:

Tamera Wessel
IDEM, Office of Air Quality
Indiana Government Center North
100 North Senate Avenue, Room 13W
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251
(800) 451-6027, ask for Tamera Wessel
Or dial directly: (317) 234-8530
Fax: (317) 232-6749 attn: Tamera Wessel
E-mail: twessel@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.

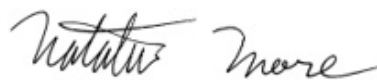
All comments will be considered by IDEM when we make a decision to issue or deny the permit. Comments that are most likely to affect final permit decisions are those based on the rules and laws governing this permitting process (326 IAC 2), air quality issues, and technical issues. IDEM does not have 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 Tamera Wessel of my staff at the above address.



Natalie Moore, Section Chief
Permits Branch
Office of Air Quality