



## 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 Modification to a  
Part 70 Operating Permit

for South Bend Ethanol, LLC in St. Joseph County

Significant Source Modification No.: 141-49365-00033

Significant Permit Modification No.: 141-49379-00033

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has received an application from South Bend Ethanol, LLC, located at 3201 W Calvert Street, South Bend, Indiana 46613, for a significant modification of its Part 70 Operating Permit issued on December 1, 2023. If approved by IDEM's Office of Air Quality (OAQ), this proposed modification would allow South Bend Ethanol, LLC to make certain changes at its existing source. South Bend Ethanol, LLC has applied to add emission units to generate and feed renewable natural gas (RNG) into the local grid as well as generation of fertilizer byproducts, both from stillage and from the existing ethanol facility. Instead of producing DDGS, wet cake, and deoiled syrup will be used as substrates for generation of biogas (RNG). Additionally, the existing boilers (EU-16 and EU-17) will be equipped to handle both natural gas and biogas.

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). 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.

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

St Joseph County Public Library - Main Library  
304 S Main St  
South Bend, IN 46601-2230

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 "49379" or the five-digit source modification number "49365" 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 SSM 141-49365-00033 and SPM 141-49379-00033 in all correspondence.

**Comments should be sent to:**

Andrew Belt  
IDEM, Office of Air Quality  
Indiana Government Center North  
100 North Senate Avenue, Room 13W  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251  
(800) 451-6027, ask for Andrew Belt or (317) 232-3217  
Or dial directly: (317) 232-3217  
Fax: (317) 232-6749 attn: Andrew Belt  
E-mail: [abelt@idem.IN.gov](mailto:abelt@idem.IN.gov)

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 Andrew Belt of my staff at the above address.



Brian Williams, Section Chief  
Permits Branch  
Office of Air Quality