

EXAMPLE ONLY
USE: WORD/FILE/NEW/ROP HEARING OPENING STATEMENT

Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Air Quality Division

Renewable Operating Permit

Public Hearing Statement

Introduction

Good evening. My name is [] and I am the [] in the [] of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). I will be serving as the Hearing Officer for this public hearing on the draft Title V Renewable Operation Permit (ROP) for []. Seated with me is [], [] District Supervisor, Air Quality Division, who is the decision maker for this Title V permit.

(Introduce other EGLE staff who may be assisting in the hearing and their role)

Hearing Agenda

To describe how the hearing is going to proceed, I will begin with some background information on why we are here. I will then describe the purpose of the hearing and how your comments will be used. Following that, I will describe what will happen after this hearing. It will then be your time to provide comments. At the end of the hearing, I will provide a closing statement. If time allows after the end of the hearing, staff will be available to informally answer questions and discuss the permit with you.

Background Information

The Air Quality Division is responsible for implementation of the Title V Renewable Operating Permit, or ROP, program through delegation by the United States

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Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Title V of the federal Clean Air Act. The state rules for this permitting program are found in Part 55, Air Pollution Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451. The purpose of the ROP is to consolidate all existing air quality requirements for a facility into one permit. No new emission limits or restrictions can be added through the ROP except those that are needed to ensure that the facility can adequately demonstrate compliance with their existing requirements.

Purpose of this Hearing

The purpose of this hearing, and the public comment period, is to receive your testimony and comments on the draft ROP for [] located at []. These comments will be evaluated and reviewed as part of the permit application review process, prior to a final decision on the ROP. Please recognize that EGLE can only use the information you provide if it relates to the criteria that EGLE must use as established by law in making a decision.

Procedure

I will outline the procedures by which we will be taking your comments. Before I do so, I need to mention that the notice of this hearing was published in [list names and dates of publications].

As you came in, you were given the opportunity to fill out a public comment card. We request that all in attendance please fill out a card and indicate if you wish to make comments. We will use these cards to maintain a record of interested citizens as well as to call upon those individuals who want to make a statement. To ensure that the hearing is conducted in fair manner, we will abide by the following rules:

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1. I will call on those who have indicated on their card that they would like to speak and will do so in the general order in which the cards were turned in. [Note: It is appropriate to provide legislators and other public officials the first opportunity to make comments. If officials are present, modify this statement accordingly.]

When all those who indicated a desire to speak are done, I will ask if anyone else would like to speak.
2. When your name is called, please come to the microphone, face the table, and state your name and any group or association you may represent. If you have written comments or materials you want to present, please hand them to me as you come to the microphone.
3. Each person will be given [] to make their comments. I will indicate when you have 30 seconds left. Please begin wrapping up your comments then and end within the allotted time. If need be, I will indicate when your time has ended. If time permits, speakers may make additional comments after all other speakers have been heard.
4. I ask that everyone be courteous and respectful to one another. Only one speaker should be speaking at a time. Please do not interrupt a speaker or shout out comments. Speakers will not engage in dialogue with audience members.
5. There will be no audio or visual presentations.
6. This is not a questions and answer period. The Air Quality Division staff will be available afterward for questions.

How the information will be used.

This hearing is being recorded and your comments will be a part of the information EGLE considers in making its decision on the ROP. Following the public comment period, a staff

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report addendum addressing all relevant comments and changes to the draft ROP will be developed. The draft ROP will then be proposed to the EPA for a 45-day review period. This review is for the EPA only and public comments are not taken on the proposed permit. The proposed ROP and staff report will be posted on the EGLE website at: https://www.egle.state.mi.us/aps/downloads/rop/pub_ntce/ROP_Public_Notice.pdf.

Once the 45-day EPA review period is done, a final ROP will be issued. Again, this ROP will be posted on the EGLE website. [Discuss any additional steps that will be taken to communicate with interested parties.]

Thank you for your attention. Are there any questions on the procedures we will follow? Then we will begin. The first speaker is:

At the end of the testimony

Is there anyone else who would like to make a comment for the record?

Closing Statement

Thank you for your comments and cooperation. We appreciate your interest in this ROP and that you took the time to be here. The public comment period closes [] and comments on the draft ROP will be taken until that time. EGLE's next step will be to address comments in the staff report and submit a proposed ROP to the EPA.

The hearing is now closed. Thank you again.