

Guidance for Conducting an ROP Public Hearing

The sole purpose of this public hearing is for the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to take testimony on record. Testimony will only be received on conditions of the Renewable Operating Permit (ROP) that has been provided for public comment. The hearing will be recorded. EGLE staff will not respond to questions raised during testimony at the hearing; however, staff will be available to answer questions outside the hearing room during the hearing. The public is encouraged to present written comments which will be addressed in the review and decision-making process.

- **Attendance Cards**
Each individual is encouraged to fill out an attendance card and to indicate on that card whether or not they wish to testify during the hearing process. Additional attendance cards will be placed just outside the hearing room. These cards are used to call individuals forward to testify and to generate a mailing list for any follow-up information.
- **Hearings Officer and Opening Statement**
The Hearings Officer is an individual not associated with the ROP who facilitates the meeting, by providing an Opening Statement to give an overview of the process, calling upon individuals to testify, monitoring time limits, keeping order, and bringing closure to the meeting.
- **Testimony**
The Hearings Officer will call on those who indicated they wish to testify. When those people have completed their testimony, the Hearings Officer will then take testimony from people who, during the course of the meeting, changed their minds and would now like to testify. All testimony will be recorded and considered in making the final decision on the ROP.

Individuals will be asked to limit their testimony to 5 minutes. If additional time is needed, the individuals will be asked to complete their testimony after everyone else has had an opportunity to testify as time allows. Individuals will be encouraged to supply EGLE with a written copy of their testimony, if possible.

- **Decision Maker**
The decision maker will listen to the testimony during the hearing and later determine if the ROP meets the requirements of the law. This person will make the final decision on issuance of the ROP.

Any comments received during the public comment period or during the hearing that would require modification or other disposition to the ROP will be considered and addressed in writing in the Staff Report Addendum

Everyone who completes an attendance card will be notified when the proposed ROP is sent to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for its 45-day review (this does not provide an opportunity for further public comment) and also when a final agency action is taken on the ROP if changes were made following the EPA review period.