

**Public Hearing Statement**  
**Pilgrim's Pride Corporation-Gadsden Plant**  
**Proposed Air Permit Nos. 307-0051-X001 & 307-0051-X002**

Good evening,

My name is Haley Crumpton, and I am with the Air Division of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. I am here to present a statement on behalf of the Department concerning the proposed issuance of Air Permit Nos. 307-0051-X001 and 307-0051-X002 to Pilgrim's Pride Corporation.

There are many issues of community concern which arise from development of a new industry in an area. Examples include property values, noise, traffic, and proximity to schools. The Alabama Legislature has created laws which have given governmental entities at the State level specific authority to regulate new industry, and has given other authorities to local entities, such as County and City governing bodies. ADEM can only consider those issues it has been given authority to consider when making a decision on permits such as the ones being considered here tonight. Those issues fall completely into one narrow area: Does ADEM's review of the permit application show that the facility, if constructed, could meet all of ADEM's air quality regulations? If the answer is yes, permits must be issued.

The many other legitimate issues which arise from a new industry can be addressed only through local land use planning, such as city-wide zoning and ordinances.

In addition, ADEM had no role in the process by which this specific site was chosen for this proposed development. ADEM became involved only after the site was chosen and after an air quality permit application was received.

Pilgrim's Pride Corporation is proposing to construct new sources of air pollution to be located at a greenfield site in Gadsden, Alabama. The proposed new sources would include three (3) gas-fired boilers, and animal feed ingredient operations to be controlled by an air washer, a regenerative thermal oxidizer, and three (3) packed bed scrubbers. Among these sources is equipment that would be subject to new source performance standards for air emissions. These regulations were

developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency and are uniformly applicable across the country.

These regulations would limit emissions resulting from the animal feed ingredient operations and the combustion of fuels from industrial boilers and the regenerative thermal oxidizer. The control devices that have been proposed for installation at this facility would be capable of meeting or exceeding all federal and state requirements.

Based upon our review of the air permit application for this facility, the Department has proposed the issuance of two Air Permits, each developed in accordance with applicable State and Federal requirements.

The Department has made a preliminary determination that compliance by Pilgrim's Pride Corporation with the conditions of the proposed Air Permits will not result in violations of applicable air quality standards designed to protect human health and the environment. The preliminary determination will be reconsidered after all comments are received and reviewed.

Thank you.