



MEDIA ALERT

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Social Distancing Requirements Will be in Effect for Public Hearing on Proposed Pilgrim's Pride Permits

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Alabama Department of Environmental Management will hold a public hearing tonight in Gadsden to allow citizens to comment on proposed air permits to Pilgrim's Pride Corp. authorizing the construction and operation of an animal feed ingredients plant at 3900 Steele Station Road, Gadsden.

The hearing will be at 6 p.m. at the Downtown Civic Center, 623 Broad St., Gadsden.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, special social distancing requirements will be in place. All attendees will be required to wear masks and will be subject to temperature screening prior to entering the hearing location. Space inside the hearing room will be restricted, and speakers will be assigned a time slot. ADEM will call one registered speaker into the hearing room at a time. There will not be a general audience in the hearing room.

Each speaker will be allowed no more than five minutes to speak. Speakers are encouraged to provide lengthy statements in writing, and to present a summary of their statement during their testimony.

ADEM has encouraged preregistration for those who wish to speak. However, people can also register on site. Those who preregistered will be called to speak first.

In addition to speaking at the hearing, the public can also mail or email comments directly to ADEM, or leave oral comments via voicemail by calling 1-833-396-1706 during the comment period. **The comment period ends at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2.** All comments will be considered, and ADEM will provide a response to issues raised.

ADEM's review of the permit application concerns only whether the facility, if constructed, would meet all of ADEM's air quality regulations. As with other permit applications, ADEM had no role in the site selection for this proposed facility.

ADEM personnel will be available to answer questions from the media before and after the public hearing, but not during the hearing. For more information, go online to <http://adem.alabama.gov/newsEvents/notices/dec20/12pilgrims.html>.

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