

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



COMBINED

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

AND

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER

NEW

Permit No. WQ0005283000

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Steel Dynamics Southwest, LLC, 7575 West Jefferson Boulevard, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804, which proposes to operate Sinton Mill, an iron and steel manufacturing and coil coating facility, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a new permit, Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0005283000, to authorize the discharge of treated process wastewater, utility wastewater, and previously monitored effluent (treated domestic wastewater via Outfall 101 and coil coating process wastewater via Outfall 201) at a daily average flow not to exceed 1,560,000 gallons per day via Outfall 001; and industrial stormwater on an intermittent and flow-variable basis via Outfalls 002, 003, and 004. The TCEQ received this application on October 8, 2019.

The facility site is located at 8534 State Highway 89, near Sinton, in San Patricio County, Texas 78387. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbddd360f8168250f&marker=-97.49638%2C28.056111&level=12>

The effluent will be discharged via Outfall 001 through a pipe to unnamed ditch 4, thence to Chiltipin Creek; via Outfall 002 to unnamed ditch 1, thence to unnamed ditch 4, thence to Chiltipin Creek; and via Outfalls 003 and 004 to unnamed ditch 3, thence to unnamed ditch 4, thence to Chiltipin Creek; thence all outfalls to Chiltipin Creek Tidal, thence to Aransas River Tidal in Segment No. 2003 of the San Antonio-Nueces Coastal Basin. The unclassified receiving water uses are minimal aquatic life use for the unnamed ditches (1, 3, and 4), limited aquatic life use for Chiltipin Creek, and high aquatic life use for Chiltipin Creek Tidal. The designated uses for Segment No. 2003 are primary contact recreation and high aquatic life use.

In accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Section 307.5 and TCEQ's *Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards* (June 2010), an antidegradation review of the receiving waters was performed. A Tier 1 antidegradation review has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by this permit action. Numerical and narrative criteria to protect existing uses will be maintained. A Tier 2 review has preliminarily determined that no significant degradation of water quality is expected in Chiltipin Creek Tidal, which has been identified as having high aquatic life use. Existing uses will be maintained and protected. The preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received.

The TCEQ executive director reviewed this action for consistency with the Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) goals and policies in accordance with the regulations of the General Land Office and has determined that the action is consistent with the applicable CMP goals and policies.

The TCEQ executive director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, executive director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at the Sinton Public Library, 100 North Pirate Boulevard, Sinton, Texas (if open), and on the Website at <http://www.sdisinton.com>.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments about this application. The TCEQ will hold a public meeting on this application because of significant public interest.

The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. A public meeting will be held and will consist of two parts, an Informal Discussion Period and a Formal Comment Period. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing under the Administrative Procedure Act. During the Informal Discussion Period, the public will be encouraged to ask questions of the applicant and TCEQ staff concerning the permit application. The comments and questions submitted orally during the Informal Discussion Period will not be considered before a decision is reached on the permit application and no formal response will be made. Responses will be provided orally during the Informal Discussion Period. During the Formal Comment Period on the permit application, members of the public may state their formal comments orally into the official record. A written response to all timely, relevant and material, or significant comments will be prepared by the Executive Director. All formal comments will be considered before a decision is reached on the permit application. A copy of the written response will be sent to each person who submits a formal comment or who requested to be on the mailing list for this permit application and provides a mailing address. Only relevant and material issues raised during the Formal Comment Period can be considered if a contested case hearing is granted on this permit application.

The Public Meeting is to be held:

Monday, December 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Members of the public who would like to ask questions or provide comments during the meeting may access the meeting via webcast by following this link: <https://www.gotomeeting.com/webinar/join-webinar> and entering Webinar ID 201-165-163. It is recommended that you join the webinar and register for the public meeting at least 15 minutes before the meeting begins. You will be given the option to use your computer audio or to use your phone for participating in the webinar.

Those without internet access may call (512) 239-1201 at least one day prior to the meeting for assistance in accessing the meeting and participating telephonically. Members of the public who wish to only listen to the meeting may call, toll free, (562) 247-8422 and enter access code 803-402-472.

Additional information will be available on the agency calendar of events at the following link:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/decisions/hearings/calendar.html>.

Persons with disabilities who need special accommodations at the public meeting should call the Office of the Chief Clerk at (512) 239-3300 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD) at least one week prior to the meeting.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who requested to be on a mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the executive director's decision.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the executive director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The executive director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or a timely request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the executive director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and requests to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the executive director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be added to: (1) the permanent list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice or by the date of the public meeting, whichever is later.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, toll free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Steel Dynamics Southwest, LLC at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Terald E. Smith, P.G., Hanson Professional Services Inc., at (361) 814-9900.

Issued: October 21, 2020