

Public Hearing

Proposed Air Permits for Construction at a Greenfield Site

Pilgrim's Pride Corporation

January 26, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Downtown Civic Center

623 Broad St

Gadsden, Alabama 35901

1 **[Samantha Sims, Hearing Officer]**

2 Good evening and welcome to the public hearing on behalf of the Alabama Department of  
3 Environmental Management.

4 My name is **Samantha Sims**. I am the designated Hearing Officer for these proceedings.  
5 The role of the Hearing Officer is limited to ensuring an orderly hearing so that an accurate record  
6 of this hearing may be developed for the Department's evaluation. I do not participate in any  
7 decisions regarding these proposed permit actions.

8 On behalf of the Department, we appreciate your participation in tonight's hearing for the  
9 proposed issuance of Air Permits to Pilgrim's Pride Corporation for the construction of a facility  
10 at 3900 Steele Station Road, Gadsden, Alabama, 35906. The Department would also like to thank  
11 Mayor Sherman Guyton and the City of Gadsden, for allowing us to use the facility for the hearing.

12 The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with an opportunity to present oral  
13 testimony on the proposed permit renewal.

14 In addition to oral testimony as described in the notice for this hearing, the Department will  
15 also consider all written comments submitted before the close of the public comment period. The  
16 Department has requested your comments, and we appreciate your taking the time to make them  
17 known to us.

18 On December 22, 2020, notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of this hearing was  
19 posted on the Department's website. In addition, the Department sent notice of this hearing by  
20 email to individuals and organizations who had previously request advance notice of permit  
21 proceedings. A copy of the notice and the email distribution list will be entered into the record of  
22 these proceedings.

23 Copies of the public notice, permit application, and draft permit have been made available  
24 for inspection by the public at the office of the Department at 1400 Coliseum Boulevard in  
25 Montgomery, as well as the Department's website.

26 The hearing is open to the public and anyone wishing to present oral testimony or submit  
27 a written statement may do so. All testimony and written comments should be as factual as possible  
28 and should address the subject of this hearing. Lengthy statements or those containing considerable

29 technical or other complex data should be submitted in writing. Summaries of such statements may  
30 be presented orally.

31 This hearing is an opportunity for members of the public to offer comments to help ensure  
32 that all relevant factors are considered before a final permit decision is made. Please be advised  
33 that the Department is limited in the factors it can consider when making a permitting decision and  
34 must base the determinations only on whether the permit applicant has satisfied the requirements  
35 of applicable environmental statutes and regulations as granted to ADEM by the Legislature.

36 Persons giving testimony may be questioned by the Hearing Officer or other Department  
37 staff to clarify points and to develop a better understanding of what is being presented.

38 This proceeding tonight is not an open forum as in a question-and-answer session. This  
39 hearing is an opportunity for you to submit comments that you wish the Department to consider in  
40 the final review of the permit application. However, you may pose a comment in the form of a  
41 question which will be complied and addressed by the Department in its complete response to  
42 comments.

43 In addition to oral testimony, written comments may be submitted on the proposed permit  
44 renewal. You do not have to make an oral statement tonight in order to have your written comments  
45 considered by the Department.

46 Written statements may be submitted to the Hearing Officer tonight or delivered to the  
47 Department in Montgomery, as directed in the public notice for this hearing. All written statements  
48 previously submitted and those received by the Department before the end of the public comment  
49 period will be included in the hearing record.

50 It is important to note that written comments submitted through postal or electronic mail  
51 are given the same consideration as those that are presented in person at this hearing. All oral and  
52 written testimony will be included in the hearing record.

53 After giving full consideration to the hearing record, the Department will make its final  
54 decision on the proposed permit action and develop responses to comments for the proposed  
55 permit. The hearing record, final permit determination, and responses to comments will be posted  
56 to the Department's eFile System.

57 This hearing is being captured by a court reporter to develop a transcript of this hearing for  
58 review by the Department. In addition, the entire proceeding is being recorded on video and will  
59 be posted on the Department's YouTube channel to make it accessible to the public.

60 Now let us move on to the purpose of this hearing, the receipt of public comments. The  
61 order of appearance of persons giving testimony will be as follows: First, a representative of the  
62 Department's Air Division; then, any elected officials or their representative who have registered  
63 to speak. All remaining members of the public will be heard in the order in which they registered  
64 during the preregistration offered online or by phone and then those that registered on-site at this  
65 hearing.

66 I will now recognize Ms. Haley Crumpton to present a statement on behalf of the  
67 Department's Air Division.

68 **[After Ms. Crumpton speaks:]**

69 I will now recognize \_\_\_\_\_ to present a statement on behalf of  
70 Pilgrim's Pride Corporation.

71 **[After \_\_\_\_\_ speaks:]**

72 **[If elected officials have registered to speak]**

73 We will now proceed to the receipt of public comments from elected officials. First, I  
74 recognize [Title and Full Name of Official].

75 **[After elected official enters]**

76 Please step up to the microphone and clearly restate your name and the office that you hold.  
77 Please speak clearly into the microphone to ensure an accurate record of your testimony can be  
78 recorded.

79 **[After all elected officials have spoken]**

80 We will now proceed to the receipt of comments from members of the public. As indicated  
81 in the public notice for this hearing, oral testimony for each registered speaker is limited to five  
82 minutes. We will continue the hearing until all persons who wish to speak have completed their  
83 oral comments. If anyone has prepared a statement that cannot be presented in a five minute time

84 frame, please use your time for oral testimony to summarize your comments and submit your full  
85 statement to the Department in writing for placement in the record.

86 First, I recognize [**Name of Registered Speaker**].

87 [**After registered speaker enters**]

88 Please step up to the microphone and clearly restate your name and the name of any interest  
89 or organization that you represent. Please speak clearly into the microphone to ensure an accurate  
90 record of your testimony can be recorded. Please also remember that this not a question and answer  
91 session.

92 [**After all registered speakers have spoken**]

93 Since there are no more registered speakers, please be advised that unless otherwise  
94 notified, the public comment period will end at 5:00 p.m. on February 2, 2021. All comments must  
95 be received at the office of the Department in Montgomery by that time.

96 After consideration of all oral and written comments, the Department will make its  
97 determination regarding the proposed permit renewal and prepare responses to all relevant  
98 comments received.

99 Thank you for your participation this evening. This hearing is adjourned.