

Public Hearing
Proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit
City of Tallassee
Tallassee Sewer Stabilization Pond and Mechanical Treatment Plant

March 16, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Tallassee City Hall
3 Freeman Avenue
Tallassee, AL 36078

1 **[Christy Monk, Hearing Officer:]**

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

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

9 On behalf of the Department, we appreciate your participation in tonight's
10 joint hearing for the proposed reissuance of the National Pollutant Discharge
11 Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number AL0020486 for the City of
12 Tallassee's Tallassee Sewer Stabilization Pond and Mechanical Treatment Plant
13 located at Highway 229 South, Tallassee, AL 36078.

14 The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with an opportunity to
15 present oral testimony on the draft permit action.

16 In addition to oral testimony, the Department also will consider all written
17 comments submitted before the close of the public comment period. The
18 Department has requested your comments, and we appreciate you taking the time
19 to make them known to us.

20 On February 12, 2021, notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of this
21 hearing was posted on the Department's website. In addition, the Department sent
22 notice of this hearing by email to individuals and organizations who had previously
23 requested advance notice of permit proceedings. A copy of the notice and the
24 email distribution list will be entered into the record of these proceedings.

25 Copies of the public notice, permit application, preliminary determination,
26 and draft permit have been made available for inspection by the public at the
27 offices of the Department at 1400 Coliseum Boulevard in Montgomery, as well as
28 on the Department's website.

29 This hearing is open to the public and anyone wishing to present oral
30 testimony or submit a written statement may do so. Lengthy statements or those
31 containing considerable technical or other complex data should be submitted in
32 writing. Summaries of such statements may be presented orally.

33 All testimony and written comments should be as factual as possible and
34 should address the subject of this hearing.

35 This hearing is an opportunity for members of the public to offer comments
36 to help ensure that all relevant factors are considered before a final permit decision
37 is made.

38 Please be advised that the Department is limited in the factors it can consider
39 when making permit decisions and must base the determinations only on whether

40 the permit applicant has satisfied those requirements of applicable environmental
41 statutes and regulations granted to ADEM by the Legislature.

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

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

50 In addition to oral testimony, written comments may be submitted on the
51 proposed permit action. You do not have to make an oral statement tonight in
52 order to have your written comments considered by the Department.

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

58 It is important to note that written comments submitted through postal or
59 electronic mail are given the same consideration as those that are presented in

60 person at this hearing. All oral and written testimony will be included in the
61 hearing record.

62 After giving full consideration to the hearing record, the Department will
63 make its final decision on the draft permit action and develop a response to
64 comments for the draft permit. The hearing record, final permit determination, and
65 a response to comments will be posted to the Department's eFile System.

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

70 Now let us move on to the purpose of this hearing, the receipt of public
71 comments. The order of appearance of persons giving testimony will be as
72 follows: first, a representative of the Department's Water Division; then, a
73 representative of the City of Tallassee; then, any elected officials or their
74 representatives who have registered to speak prior to the start of the hearing this
75 evening. All remaining members of the public will be heard in the order in which
76 they registered during the preregistration offered online or by phone and then those
77 that registered on-site at this hearing.

78 I now recognize Ms. Sandra Lee to present a statement on behalf of the
79 Department's Water Division.

80 **[After Ms. Lee speaks:]**

81 I now recognize Mr. Scott Trott to present a statement on behalf of the City
82 of Tallassee.

83 **[If NO elected officials have preregistered to speak]**

84 I have not been informed that we have any elected officials registered to
85 speak at this time.

86 **[If elected officials have preregistered to speak]**

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

89 **[After elected official enters]**

90 Please step up to the microphone and clearly restate your name and the
91 office that you hold.

92 **[After all elected officials have spoken:]**

93 We will now proceed to the receipt of comments from members of the
94 public. As indicated in the public notice for this hearing, oral testimony for each
95 registered speaker is limited to five minutes. If anyone has prepared a statement
96 that cannot be presented in a 5-minute time frame, please use your time for oral
97 testimony to summarize your comments and submit your full statement to the
98 Department in writing for placement in the record.

99 First, I recognize [Name of Registered Speaker].

100 **[After registered speaker enters]** Please step up to the microphone and
101 clearly state your name and the name of any interest or organization that you
102 represent. Please speak clearly into the microphone to ensure an accurate record of
103 your testimony can be recorded. Please also remember that this is not a question
104 and answer session.

105 **[After all registered speakers have spoken:]**

106 Since there are no other registered speakers, please be advised that unless
107 otherwise notified, the public comment period will end at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday,
108 March 23, 2021. All comments must be received at the offices of the Department
109 in Montgomery by that time.

110 After consideration of all oral and written comments, the Department will
111 make its determinations regarding the proposed permit action and prepare a
112 response to all relevant comments received.

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