



Meat Processing and Butcher Operations

In Partnership with IDOH and BOAH

317-232-8603 • 800-451-6027

idem.IN.gov

100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

The information included in this fact sheet is intended as an overview only. There may be additional local, state, or federal requirements that impact your operations.

Background

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), and the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) have seen an increase in the number of meat processing or butchering operations in Indiana.
- These operations generate wastewater, specifically “process” wastewater, which requires proper handling and disposal.
- IDEM and IDOH do not have licensing requirements for the hauling of meat processing wastewater. This does not circumvent the need for the hauling of meat processing wastewater to comply with any other applicable federal, state, or local requirements.
- IDEM and IDOH have developed information to aid the public in understanding these processes, along with required permits or relevant regulations needed for meat processing and butcher facilities to operate.
- BOAH regulations pertaining to waste must be met under Sanitation Performance Standards and Documentation - 9 CFR 345 416.2(e) and 416.2(f).

IDEM's Role

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- In addition to issuing approvals that comply with federal and state environmental regulations designed to protect public health and the environment, IDEM is responsible for overseeing permitted activities and monitoring compliance at permitted facilities.

Office of Water Quality

- IDEM's Office of Water Quality (OWQ) is responsible for issuing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and construction permits to sources that discharge wastewater to streams, lakes, and other water bodies in Indiana.
- **If process water is hauled to a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP):** WWTPs receiving wastewater from external sources must inform the OWQ Permits Branch of their intent to accept wastewater (including meat processing wastewater). OWQ determines if any changes to the WWTP's NPDES permit are needed.
- **If process water is discharged to a sewer system for a WWTP:** OWQ regulates discharge to sewers for treatment and discharge at a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW), and this type of meat processing or butcher operation would be regulated by IDEM if the wastewater is going to a POTW located in a non-delegated pretreatment community or a POTW without any type of pretreatment program.
 - This could possibly include the need for a pretreatment permit per 327 IAC 5 and a construction permit per 327 IAC 3. In addition, the POTW would determine if they would accept the wastewater and would be required to contact OWQ to determine if any changes would be necessary to the POTW's NPDES permit. OWQ will determine if a pretreatment permit is required or not.
 - A certified wastewater treatment plant operator will be required to oversee operations if a pretreatment system is necessary.
 - Monitoring and monthly reporting will be required through NetDMR.
 - Operations will be subject to inspection.
 - If the wastewater is being sent to a WWTP in a delegated pretreatment community ([47 Pretreatment Cities \[PDF\]](#)), the operation would be regulated by the delegated community and the requirements of that community.

- **If process water is discharged directly into a water body:** If the operation is handling the treatment and direct discharge via an NPDES permit, it would be regulated by OWQ per 327 IAC 5. Depending on the receiving stream, antidegradation could be a significant factor in evaluating the permit. A certified wastewater treatment plant operator would be required. Monitoring and monthly reporting would be required. The operation would be subject to inspection.
- **Other situations requiring OWQ involvement:**
 - Potable water issue:
 - If an operation has fewer than 25 employees and is not accessible to the public, then they would not be a public water supply (PWS), but if a facility has at least 25 employees or they are accessible to the public via a retail space that provides potable water to customers (e.g., public use of restrooms or access to drinking water) they would be a PWS and should contact Travis Goodwin (TGoodwin1@idem.IN.gov or 317-775-5473) in IDEM's Drinking Water Branch to discuss details.
 - Coverage under the general permit for Stormwater Construction activity (applicable if one or more acre(s) of land is disturbed during construction activity):
 - This coverage becomes effective 48 hours after submitting a complete Notice of Intent (NOI). NOI applications, including the plan review verification, proof of publication, and payment, may be submitted online at stormwater.idem.IN.gov/ncore. Use of the online portal will expedite the application review process to obtain permit coverage.
 - Coverage under the general permit for Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activity (may be applicable if any facility operations are impacted by precipitation):
 - This coverage becomes effective 48 hours after submitting a complete NOI.
 - Coverage under the 401/404 permitting programs:
 - This coverage (or state-isolated wetlands program) may be necessary if waters or wetlands on the proposed site are impacted.

Office of Land Quality

- IDEM's Office of Land Quality (OLQ) is responsible for issuing permits, registrations, or approvals to ensure solid waste, hazardous waste, manure, biosolids, and septage are properly managed, disposed of, or land applied as allowed by the rules and statutes.
- **If process water is disposed of through land application (including drip irrigation in the root zone):** A meat processing or butcher operation would be regulated by 327 IAC 6.1 in OLQ's Land Application Program. There are two types of pollutant-bearing water (industrial process wastewater) approvals for these facilities:
 - Small Quantity Generators Notification – Pollutant-Bearing Water – 327 IAC 6.1-7.5.
 - Land Application Permit – Pollutant-Bearing Water – 327 IAC 6.1-7.
 - A land application permit/approval requires:
 - Land application program be overseen by a certified wastewater treatment plant operator;
 - Submittal of monthly land application reports; and
 - 90 days of wastewater storage. If construction of a storage tank is needed, approval per 327 IAC 6.1-8 is required.
 - Wastewater treatment would likely be required to meet the discharge requirements of OLQ's Land Application Program. This type of treatment system could require a construction permit through OWQ pursuant to 327 IAC 3.
- **If a facility has a surface impoundment as part of an NPDES permit:** If an operation has an NPDES permit that includes a surface impoundment, then OLQ solid waste rules would become applicable regarding the surface impoundment closure upon termination or expiration of the NPDES permit. Waste material left in the surface impoundment requires proper disposal and impoundment closure according to 329 IAC 10. If there was a land application permit for the material, it could still be land applied for a certain period of time (up to two years).

Office of Program Support

- IDEM's Office of Program Support (OPS) is responsible for partnering and assisting farmers, commodity groups, agricultural organizations, the agricultural community, and other stakeholders related to IDEM's agricultural jurisdictional oversight responsibilities. Contact OPS for guidance and with general questions.
- The [Compliance and Technical Assistance Program](#) (CTAP) is Indiana's business assistance program, statutorily authorized to operate under Indiana Code (IC) 13-28-1, 13-28-3, and 13-28-5-4. CTAP is a non-regulatory program that provides free, confidential compliance and technical assistance to regulated entities. CTAP has expertise in air, water, and waste regulations, and is knowledgeable about current environmental issues and new technologies.

Indiana Department of Health's Role

- **If a facility has a holding tank:** For the use of holding tanks for process wastewater, the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) is responsible for communicating with local health departments regarding the issuance of installation and operation permits for such tanks. IDOH offers the following holding tank recommendations:
 - Must be a new septic tank(s) listed on the IDOH list of approved septic tanks (see isdh.IN.gov/23283.htm).
 - Sizing is based on facility operations and daily wastewater flows with a minimum of 1,000 gallons.
 - Fitted with both audible and visual alarms to indicate when the tank is 90% full.
 - Include access risers extended to the ground surface.
 - Be pumped and properly disposed of as often as necessary to prevent overflow/discharge.
 - Any additional requirements from the local Health Department.
- **Septic systems for domestic wastewater:** For the treatment of the facility's domestic wastewater (restrooms and showers), IDOH regulates these on-site septic systems (commercial systems) under 410 IAC 6-10.1. On-site septic systems cannot be used for the process wastewater because of the high strength characteristics of it (high biological oxygen demand, fats, oils, grease, and suspended solids).

Citizen's Role

- If a citizen is considering opening a meat processing or butcher operation, it is recommended that they first check with local units of government, including, but not limited to, Board of County Commissioner, County Health Department, and Planning and Zoning.
- If a citizen is considering opening or expanding their facility to include meat processing or butcher operations, please contact IDEM's OLQ, OWQ, or OPS. View the Contact Information section below for more details.
- More information about permitting and regulatory requirements can be found at idem.IN.gov:
 - IDEM OWQ wastewater permitting idem.IN.gov/cleanwater/wastewater-permitting.
 - IDEM OLQ land application idem.IN.gov/waste/waste-industries/septage-management/land-application
 - IDEM OLQ solid waste idem.IN.gov/waste/solid-waste.
 - OPS idem.IN.gov/ops.
- For information about IDOH's approved septic tanks, visit isdh.IN.gov/23283.htm.

Contact Information

- IDOH: Julia Hayes, 317-771-9918 or juhayes1@health.IN.gov
- IDEM, OLQ: Brenda Stephanoff, 317-233-0472 or bstephan@idem.IN.gov
- IDEM, OWQ: Alyce Klein, 317-233-6728 or aklein@idem.IN.gov
- IDEM, Ag Liaison: Megan Espinda, 317-601-1949 or mespinda@idem.IN.gov
- IDEM, CTAP: 317-232-8172 or 800-988-7901 or CTAP@idem.IN.gov
- BOAH: Meat & Poultry Inspection, 317-544-2400 or animalhealth@boah.IN.gov