



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Nature's Fuel Atwoodwww.idem.IN.gov*Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.**Thomas W. Easterly***Governor****Commissioner**

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Introduction:

- Nature's Fuel in Atwood, Indiana uses a heat treatment process, called pyrolysis, to derive bio-oil and char from ground-up wood scrap. The facility began as a demonstration project to determine the feasibility of producing useable fuel products from a variety of feedstocks.
- In 2008, Nature's Fuel applied for and received an air permit that regulates emissions to protect Hoosiers and the environment.
- During its operation the facility has had several events (fire in the char boxes, pressure valves releasing, overfilling of storage tanks) that have contributed to odors in the area. The facility has taken corrective steps after each event to put better controls in place.
- It is not uncommon to detect odors from concentrations of chemicals that are below a health related limit. Indiana does not have an air rule that regulates odors.
- In July 2010, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) issued a final National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to Nature's Fuel to discharge 0.01 million gallons per day of stormwater and non-process wastewater into Pole Run Ditch.
- In August 2010, IDEM approved a modification to the facility's air permit to reduce the production capacity of the facility and redirect exhaust gases back into the combustion box in an effort to further reduce odors.

Environmental Impacts:

- While it is possible for the existing facility to operate in compliance with air regulations, IDEM and the owners of the facility have come to the conclusion that the current location is not acceptable because it is too close to residences.
- The owners and IDEM have negotiated an agreement to close the existing facility by January 31, 2011. In the interim, the owners have agreed to the following provisions:
 - Refrain from production level feed operations from noon on Friday until 7:00 AM on Monday or on federal holidays.
 - Maintain a record of all complaints and, to the extent possible, mitigate any odors that may be the source of an odor complaint.
 - Pay a cash penalty for past violations of state rules and regulations.
 - Plant evergreen trees along the railroad track as a partial offset to a cash penalty. The trees will serve as a visual and sound barrier for the homes on the other side of the railroad tracks.
 - Develop and implement a quality control plan for screening incoming loads of glycol which is used to quench pyrolysis gasses.
 - Monitor char boxes using infared devices to verify hotspots do not exist.
- A copy of the signed agreement is available at www.in.gov/idem/5391.htm

IDEM's Role:

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (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.
- IDEM's Office of Air Quality will determine the facility's compliance with emission limits by inspecting, monitoring, testing and reviewing records.
- IDEM's Office of Land Quality will determine the facility's compliance with the Agreed Order and Indiana's regulations for the proper management of solid waste materials.
- IDEM's Office of Water Quality will determine the facility's compliance with discharge limits by inspecting, monitoring, testing and reviewing records.

Citizen's Role:

- If citizens have a complaint concerning odor, noise or any aspect of the facility's operation, please contact Mr. Greg Hanold, the plant manager with Nature's Fuel, at (574) 858-9072. This gives Nature's Fuel an opportunity to identify and correct the problem.
- Citizens also can report complaints to IDEM's complaint coordinator at (800) 451-6027 ext. 2-4464, or online via IDEM's website at www.in.gov/ide/5275.htm.

More Information:

- For more information about IDEM permits and programs, please visit IDEM's website at www.idem.IN.gov.