



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 15, 2021

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Updated Public Comment Period for Issuance of the Air Quality Permit for the Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD) Ethylene Oxide Sterilization Facility on Valencia**

As discussed at the Board's August 10, 2021 meeting, below is Pima County's Department of Environmental Quality's (PDEQ) updated schedule for the public open houses and public hearing.

The proposed air quality permit for BD is available for public review on PDEQ's informational webpage for the BD permit at BD and Company Ethylene Oxide Sterilization Facility.

The comment period will be from September 17 through December 17, 2021. Comments on the proposed air quality permit can be provided at the in-person or virtual open houses, public hearing or directly to PDEQ during this period.

The scheduled dates and times are:

- October 6, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Virtual public open house
- October 27, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - In-person public open house scheduled at Lauffer Middle School, located at 5385 E. Littletown Rd., in their cafeteria.
- November 3, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Virtual public hearing.

Attached is a copy of the Public Notice that will be published in the local newspapers this Friday, September 17, 2021, including a media release about the opening of the public comment period. PDEQ will also be mailing notifications to residents and businesses in the surrounding area of the proposed BD facility.

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis Jr. Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Ursula Nelson, Director Department of Environmental Quality
Diana Durazo, Special Projects, County Administrator's Office

PUBLIC NOTICE OF NEW AIR QUALITY PERMIT APPROVAL AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD WITH OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS

**Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD)
7345 E. Valencia Road
Tucson AZ, 85747**

Product Sterilization Facility

**Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ)
33 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 700
Tucson, AZ 85737**

The Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) proposes to issue a Class II Air Quality Permit to Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD). BD proposes to construct and operate a new product sterilization facility at 7345 E. Valencia Road, Tucson, Arizona. Emissions of hazardous air pollutants from the proposed facility will consist primarily of ethylene oxide (EO) CAS No. 75-21-8 resulting from the use of EO as a sterilant in the sterilization of medical and surgical equipment. Ethylene oxide is a colorless and flammable gas with a faintly sweet odor. The facility will also operate 3 boilers and two emergency generators as ancillary equipment. This action is authorized pursuant to Title 17 of the Pima County Code (PCC) 17.13.010.I – Action on Application; and 17.13.210 – Public Participation and Notification Requirements for Class II Permits, for sources subject to NESHAP Subpart O – Ethylene Oxide Emission Standards for Sterilization Facilities.

Title 17 Requirements:

PDEQ finds that the proposed permit, application on file, and the controlled emissions meet the requirements of Title 17 and:

- Do not constitute a “major source” within the meaning defined in PCC 17.04.340.A.128;
- Will neither cause nor contribute to a violation of any ambient air quality standard;
- Are adequately protective of the public’s health, safety, and general welfare over a potential lifetime of exposure; and
- Proposes adequate provisions to demonstrate compliance with all local, county, and state, and federal laws.

The proposed permit requires BD to install and operate chemi-sorption dry bed control systems to effectively reduce Fugitive EO emissions to a level adequately protective of the public’s health and provides means to monitor and determine compliance with the allowed emissions.

Air Quality Impacts:

The air quality analysis submitted with the applications demonstrates that the impact from the proposed project will remain approximately 5 times below the safe ambient air concentration level

of $2.0 \times 10^{-2} \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ prescribed by the EPA IRIS database and determined to be adequately protective of the public health.

Public Comment Process:

The public comment period for this proposed action will open on September 17th, 2021. Any interested person may submit written comments on the proposed permit during the public comment period. Persons who submit comments to PDEQ should state:

- The action you wish PDEQ to take, including specific references to the portions of the proposed permit you believe should be changed, if any; and
- The reasons supporting your position, stated with sufficient specificity as to allow PDEQ to evaluate the merits of your position.

All comments received during the comment period will be included in the administrative record and will be available to the public. The public comment period for the proposed permit ends will end on December 17th, 2021 at 5:00 pm. To be considered, written comments should be postmarked no later than such date and time.

Comments should be submitted to:

Rupesh Patel, Air Program Manager
Pima County Department of Environmental Quality
33 N Stone Avenue, Suite 700
Tucson, AZ 85701
e-mail comments to: Air.permits@pima.gov

In addition, PDEQ proposes to hold two Open House meetings on the following dates, times and locations:

October 6th Open House (Virtual meeting planned) – 6:00 p.m to 7:30 p.m
Access to this meeting will be made available on our PDEQ Public Notice webpage:
<https://bit.ly/37gdbWP>. Alternatively, you can register by calling (520) 724-7400.

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October 27th Open House (In-person meeting planned) – 6:00 p.m to 7:30 p.m
Lauffer Middle School Cafeteria – 5385 E. Littletown Road, Tucson, AZ 85756
We encourage all in-person attendees to be vaccinated for COVID-19.
Masks will be required

The open house is an informal opportunity for you to learn about the proposed air quality permit. There will be no tape or transcript of the informal open house, and statements made or questions asked at the public meeting will not be considered comments.

The Public Hearing is a formal opportunity for you to submit oral or written statements and data concerning the proposed permit. The Public Hearing will be held at the following date, time and location:

November 3rd, 2021 – 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m (Virtual Hearing planned)

Access to this meeting will be made available on our PDEQ Public Notice webpage: <https://bit.ly/37gdbWP>. Alternatively, you can register by calling (520) 724-7400.

The Presiding Officer may set reasonable limits on the time allowed for oral statements. A written transcript of the public hearing will be made available afterwards. The public hearing will be conducted according to the rules and procedures of 40 CFR § 124.12.

Within 30 days after a permit has been issued, any person who filed comments on the proposed permit or participated in a public hearing, may petition the air quality hearing board in accordance with PCC 17.04.210 and A.R.S. 49-482 to review such permit decision. The petition shall include a statement of the reasons supporting review, including a demonstration that any issues raised during the public comment period including any public hearing have not been satisfied. Where appropriate, the petition should include a showing that the objection is based on:

- (1) A finding of fact or conclusion of law which is clearly erroneous, or
- (2) An exercise of discretion or an important policy consideration which the hearing board should, in its discretion, review.

All data submitted by the applicant is available as part of the administrative record. The administrative record, including copies of the proposed permit, original and supplemental applications, fact sheet, and other supporting documents may be viewed between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at PDEQ, 33 N Stone Ave, Tucson, AZ. Most documents in the administrative record may also be obtained on-line at [PDEQ's website](#). For more information, contact Rupesh Patel at (520) 724-7341 or by e-mail at air.permits@pima.gov.