

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (LDEQ)
KOCH METHANOL ST. JAMES, LLC / KOCH METHANOL FACILITY
PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
ON A PROPOSED PART 70 AIR OPERATING SIGNIFICANT PERMIT MODIFICATION AND
INITIAL PREVENTION OF SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION (PSD) PERMIT
& THE ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STATEMENT (EAS)

The LDEQ, Office of Environmental Services, will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Proposed Part 70 Air Operating Significant Permit Modification and Initial Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Permit and the associated Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS) for Koch Methanol St. James, LLC, 5181 Wildcat St., St. James, LA 70086 for the Koch Methanol Facility. **The facility is located at 5181 Wildcat St., St. James, St. James Parish.**

The hearing will be held **on Thursday, August 31, 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at the St. James - St. Louis Academy, 8184 Villavaso St., St. James, LA 70086.** During the hearing, all interested persons will have an opportunity to present oral statements, views, recommendations, opinions and information on the proposed permit. Additionally, written statements and other documents such as charts, data, and tabulations may be filed with the hearing officer at the hearing.

The hearing will be held in accordance with CDC guidance and in compliance with any guidelines issued by the Governor's office. During the hearing, all interested persons will have an opportunity to present oral statements, views, recommendations, opinions and information on the proposed permit. Additionally, written statements and other documents such as charts, data, and tabulations may be filed with the hearing officer at the hearing.

Koch Methanol St. James (Koch) requested to incorporate all permitted KMe Terminal sources from Permit No. 3169-V3 (AI 213599) into the KMe Plant Part 70 Air Operating Permit in order to consolidate into a single Part 70 Air Operating Permit for the KMe Facility. Some sources previously permitted in the KMe Terminal Part 70 Air Operating Permit shared a TEMPO ID with the permitted KMe Plant sources. Koch requested that all of the KMe Terminal sources be assigned new TEMPO IDs. Koch also requested that the "Fugitive Emissions – Tanks and Terminals," from the KMe Terminal Part 70 Air Operating Permit, be combined with the "Fugitive Emissions – Process Units," as one fugitive emissions source for the KMe Facility.

The KMe Optimization Project ("the Project") consists of a number of activities, including a raw material feed upgrade, improvements to plant cooling capability, and other equipment upgrades with the collective primary goal of increasing utilization of existing assets and methanol production. The Project is intended to achieve a 25% increase of the KMe Facility design production rate from approximately 4,950 MTPD to 6,200 MTPD of refined methanol.

The raw material feed upgrade scope includes constructing ethane gas piping, a vaporizer, and associated equipment to inject ethane into the process natural gas feed to the SMR (EQT0001). Ethane will be brought into the facility from an existing third-party ethane gas pipeline. Piping, a metering skid, and associated piping components will be constructed, owned, and operated by the third party. KMe will connect to the third-party metering skid at a point of demarcation within the KMe facility property. A shell and tube exchanger using low pressure steam, owned and operated by KMe, will be used to vaporize the ethane prior to injection into the process natural gas feed line to the SMR.

To meet the additional cooling needs anticipated for the Project, KMe plans to make upgrades to existing fin fan coolers as well as the existing cooling tower (EQT0007). This work may involve upgrades to or replacement of the fin fans for improved cooling capability at increased production rates. The cooling tower upgrades are anticipated to include addition of a new cooling tower cell and new or upgraded pumps for increased cooling tower circulation rates above current capability.

This permit was processed as an expedited permit in accordance with LAC 33:I.Chapter 18.

Estimated emissions in tons per year are as follows:

Pollutant	Before Emissions:			After	Change
	Permit No. 2560-00295-V5	Permit No. 3169-V3	Total		
PM ₁₀	49.92	0.41	50.33	76.30	+25.97
PM _{2.5}	48.46	0.41	48.87	75.32	+26.45
SO ₂	4.65	0.04	4.69	6.16	+1.47
NO _x	87.29	9.57	96.86	152.84	+55.98
CO	92.57	3.96	96.53	181.46	+84.93
VOC	63.55	24.81	88.36	166.34	+77.98
CO _{2e} *	-	-	-	1,401,096	-

* Greenhouse gas emissions (CO_{2e}) were not required to be permitted previously. A facility CO_{2e} emissions total is provided for information only and does not constitute an emissions limit. Koch shall comply with a two-tier, facility-wide 12-month rolling average GHG intensity limit as BACT as described in the Preliminary Determination Summary and Specific Condition 8 of PSD Permit PSD-LA-851 and SR 424 of this Part 70 Air Operating Permit.

A working draft of the proposed permit was submitted to the facility representative. Any remarks received during the technical review will be addressed in the “Worksheet for Technical Review of Working Draft of Proposed Permit”. All remarks received by LDEQ are included in the record that is available for public review.

The EAS submitted by the applicant addresses avoidance of potential and real environmental effects, balancing of social and economic benefits against environmental impact costs, and alternative sites, projects, and mitigative measures.

The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with La. R.S. 30:2017, which addresses the authority of the hearing officer, provides for the order in which speakers will be allowed to speak. A hearing officer will preside over the public hearing. This will be a formal hearing for the purpose of gathering facts and information. It will not include a “question and answer” component. In accordance with La. R.S. 30:2016, the hearing will be transcribed and become a part of the official public record.

Comments and requests for a public hearing or notification of the final decision can be submitted online on the public notice webpage (<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/public-notices>), via personal delivery, U.S. mail, or email. **Comments and requests for public hearings must be received by 4:30 pm CDT, Tuesday, September 5, 2023.** Delivery may be made to the drop-box at 602 N. 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802. U.S. Mail may be sent to LDEQ, Public Participation Group, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313, and emails may be submitted to DEQ.PUBLICNOTICES@LA.GOV. Persons wishing to receive notice of the final permit action must include a complete mailing address when submitting comments.

Please see additional instructions for comment submission, hand delivery and information regarding electronic submission at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/the-public-participation-group> or call (225) 219-3276.

A written response to all public comments will be prepared at the time of the final permit decision. LDEQ will send notification of the final permit decision to the applicant and to each person who has submitted written comments or a written request for notification of the final decision.

The draft permit and application, Draft PSD permit, Statement of Basis, and EAS with additional information are available for review at the LDEQ, Public Records Center, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA. Viewing hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). **The available information can also be accessed electronically on the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) on the DEQ public website at www.deq.louisiana.gov.**

Additional copies may be reviewed at St. James Parish Library-Vacherie Branch, 2593 Hwy 20, Vacherie, LA 70090.

Draft air permits, which as a matter of agency practice are placed in a public repository for public review and comments, will be available for public review at the DEQ Public Records Center or online via DEQ's Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) when those public repositories are closed due to COVID-19 **or if a public repository closes due to COVID-19 during the comment period.** In these instances, any person who does not have access to the Public Records Center or the internet may request hard copies of the draft permit from DEQ. Such requests will be processed on a case-by-case basis.

Pursuant to LAC 33:III.519.A.4, a notice of the completeness determination was published in The News Examiner-Enterprise, Litcher, Louisiana on November 24, 2022.

Individuals with a disability, who need an accommodation in order to participate in the public hearing, should contact Ms. Beth Altazan via US mail at LDEQ, Public Participation Group, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313, email at DEQ.PUBLICNOTICES@LA.GOV, fax at (225) 219-3309 or phone at (225) 219-3283.

Inquiries or requests for additional information regarding this permit action should be directed to Anthony Randall, LDEQ, Air Permits Division, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313, phone (225) 219-3494.

Persons wishing to be included on the LDEQ permit public notice mailing list, wishing to receive the permit public notices via email by subscribing to the LDEQ permits public notice List Server, or for other public participation related questions should contact the Public Participation Group in writing at LDEQ, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313, by email at DEQ.PUBLICNOTICES@LA.GOV or contact the LDEQ Customer Service Center at (225) 219-LDEQ (219-5337).

Permit public notices including electronic access to the proposed permits and statement of basis can be viewed at the LDEQ permits public notice webpage at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/public-notices> and general information related to the public participation in permitting activities can be viewed at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/the-public-participation-group>.

All correspondence should specify AI Number 194165, Permit Numbers 2560-00295-V6 and PSD-LA-851, and Activity Number PER20220006 & PER20220007.

Scheduled Publication Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 – LDEQ Website