

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

voestalpine Texas LLC – Portland DRI/HBI Production Plant

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROPOSED PERMIT AND PUBLIC HEARING, AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT OF PROPOSED CLEAN AIR ACT GREENHOUSE GAS PREVENTION OF SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION PRECONSTRUCTION PERMIT

Permit Number: PSD-TX-1344-GHG

Public Comment Period April 24, 2014 to May 27, 2014

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides notice of and requests public comments on the EPA's proposed action relating to the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit application for the voestalpine Texas LLC Portland Production Plant Project. If finalized, the permit would regulate greenhouse gas (GHG) pollutant emissions associated with the project to construct and operate a direct reduced iron and hot briquette iron production facility. The proposed construction will occur at the facility located at 2800 La Quinta Terminal Road, Portland, TX 78374.

Under the provisions of 40 CFR § 52.21 (except paragraph (a)(1)), EPA Region 6 implements a greenhouse gas PSD Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for Texas. *See 40 CFR § 52.2305.* As the project will result in increased GHG emissions for a facility described at 40 CFR § 52.21(b)(49)(v), EPA concludes that the application is subject to PSD review for GHG emissions. The direct reduced iron/hot briquetted iron (DRI/HBI) production facility will be capable of producing up to 360 tons per hour and 2.2 million tons of DRI/HBI per year. The process does not product liquid metal, rather the process transforms iron oxide pellets (< 1 inch in size, received at the site by ship) into 'sponge iron' pellets. This transformation is accomplished by heating the ore in a vertical shaft furnace by the means of hot reducing gas comprised primarily of hydrogen and carbon monoxide, made onsite from natural gas. These reducing gases will strip the oxygen from the iron oxide, transforming the iron ore pellet (60 percent iron) into a highly metalized 'sponge iron' (over 91% iron) in a shaft furnace and producing water and carbon dioxide in the process. The hot reducing gas is made by reforming pipeline quality natural gas in a catalytic steam reformer that is integral to the process. The hot sponge iron is then compressed into briquettes approximately 4.5" x 2" in size. The DRI/HBI product will be transported by ship to other steel mills where it is used as raw material to make various steel products.

Any interested individual may submit written comments on EPA's proposed PSD permit for the voestalpine Texas LLC Portland DRI/HBI Production Project. All comments must be received in writing by May 27, 2014, or postmarked by May 27, 2014, to Brad Toups at one of the following addresses:

EPA Contact: Brad Toups

Phone Number: (214) 665-7258

E-mail: toups.brad@epa.gov

U.S. Mail: Brad Toups (6PD-R)
Air Permits Section

U.S. EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

EPA will consider and respond to all comments in making the final decision regarding the issuing of the permit. Similar comments may be grouped together in the response, and the EPA will not respond to individual commenters directly.

Additionally, all comments will be included in the administrative record without change, and may be made available to the public, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Thus, CBI or other protected information should be clearly identified as such, and should not be submitted through email. Emails sent directly to the EPA will capture your email address automatically and will be included as a part of the public comment. *Please note that an email or postal address must be provided with your comments if you wish to receive responses to comments submitted during the public comment period and direct notification of EPA's final decision regarding the permit.*

An extension of the 30-day comment period may be granted if the request for an extension adequately demonstrates why additional time is required to prepare comments.

Public Hearing: If EPA determines that there is a significant amount of public interest in the draft permit, the EPA has the right to hold a public hearing. Any request for a public hearing must be received by the EPA either by email or mail by May 16, 2014, and must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. Attendance at the public hearing is not required in order to submit written comments. *If the EPA determines that there is significant public interest*, a public hearing will be held on June 11, 2014, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the following location:

Portland Community Center

2000 Billy G. Webb
Portland, TX 78374
(361) 777-3301

If a public hearing is held, the public comment period shall automatically be extended to the close of the public hearing. The EPA maintains the right to cancel a public hearing if no request for a public hearing is received by May 16, 2014, or the EPA determines that there is not a significant interest. *If the public hearing is cancelled*, notification of the cancellation will be posted by May 19, 2014, on the EPA's Website <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r6/Apermit.nsf/AirP>. Individuals may also call the EPA at the contact number listed above to determine if the public hearing has been cancelled.

Permit Documents: EPA's draft permit, EPA's preliminary determination and statement of basis, voestalpine Texas, LLC's permit application and supporting documentation, and comments received from the public, other government agencies, and the applicant during the public comment period become part of the administrative record for the permit. In addition, all data submitted by the applicant is

available as a part of the administrative record. The public can access the administrative record at the following locations (please call in advance for available viewing times):

Bell Whittington Public Library

2400 Memorial Parkway

Portland, TX 78374

(361) 777-0921

EPA Region 6 Office

1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200

Dallas, TX 75202

Phone: 214-665-7200

Final Determination: A final decision to issue a permit or to deny the application for the permit shall be made after all comments have been considered. Notice of the final decision shall be sent to each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice of the final permit decision, provided the EPA has adequate contact information.