

Public Hearings

What You Should Know

Required by the law

The law requires the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to allow the public to comment on some actions (permits, enforcement, etc.). More information about these actions can be found at a public hearing or on EGLE website at: [Michigan.gov/egleCalendar](https://www.michigan.gov/egleCalendar).

The hearing is not the time for questions

The hearing itself does not allow for discussion – however, before the start of the formal hearing time, EGLE staff will normally host an informational session. You are encouraged to ask questions during the informational session.

Public comments are a very important part of making sure the action being taken has been thoroughly reviewed. Based on comments received during the public comment period and the comments received at this hearing, EGLE may:

- complete the action as proposed;
- deny the action; or
- revise the action.

Comments EGLE can consider include:

- Technical mistakes
- Grammar and spelling mistakes
- Other items the action should include, and why
- Other rules the action should consider, and why
- Why the action does not comply with the rules

Some issues EGLE cannot consider include:

- Emission sources not part of the action
- Land uses not related to the action
- Water uses not related to the action
- Indoor air pollution
- Traffic
- Hours the company operates
- Noises and lighting
- Mild odors
- Zoning issues
- Violations not related to the action
- Popularity of the action
- Unrelated actions

How does a public hearing work?

EGLE staff will give you background information about the purpose of the hearing and how comments will be used. Comments are important, so most of the time during the hearing will be spent listening to them. EGLE staff will take notes while you are making your comment. During the hearing, EGLE staff will not be responding to your comment.

After the hearing, EGLE staff will review all of the comments and respond to them in a written report. The report will be available on the Department's website or by contacting EGLE directly at 800-662-9278.

How can I be heard?

Public hearings are recorded and all comments become a part of the information that EGLE will review when making its decision on the proposed action. All comments will be reviewed before EGLE makes its decision.

1. Fill out an attendance card and indicate if you wish to make a comment by checking the box. These cards show people interested in the proposed action and who want to make a comment today.
2. The names of the people wishing to provide a comment will be called upon. When your name is called, please come up to the microphone.
3. If you have written comments or items you would like to present, please hand them to staff as you approach the microphone.
4. State your name and any group or association you may represent.
5. Begin your comments. You may be given a specific amount of time for your comments.
6. Once your comments are complete, take your seat so the next person may be called. When all names have been called, we will ask if anyone else would like to make a comment.

What if I have more questions?

If you have questions, EGLE staff are normally available in or outside of the hearing room for one-on-one assistance.

Thank you for your comments and cooperation. We appreciate you showing an interest in this proposed action by taking the time to be here today.

Thank you for being courteous and respectful!

800-662-9278 | [Michigan.gov/egle](https://www.michigan.gov/egle)

Michigan's Environmental Justice Policy promotes the fair, non-discriminatory treatment and meaningful involvement of Michigan's residents regarding the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies by this state. Fair, non-discriminatory treatment intends that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or low-income populations, will bear a disproportionately greater burden resulting from environmental laws, regulations, policies, and decision-making. Meaningful involvement of residents ensures an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health.