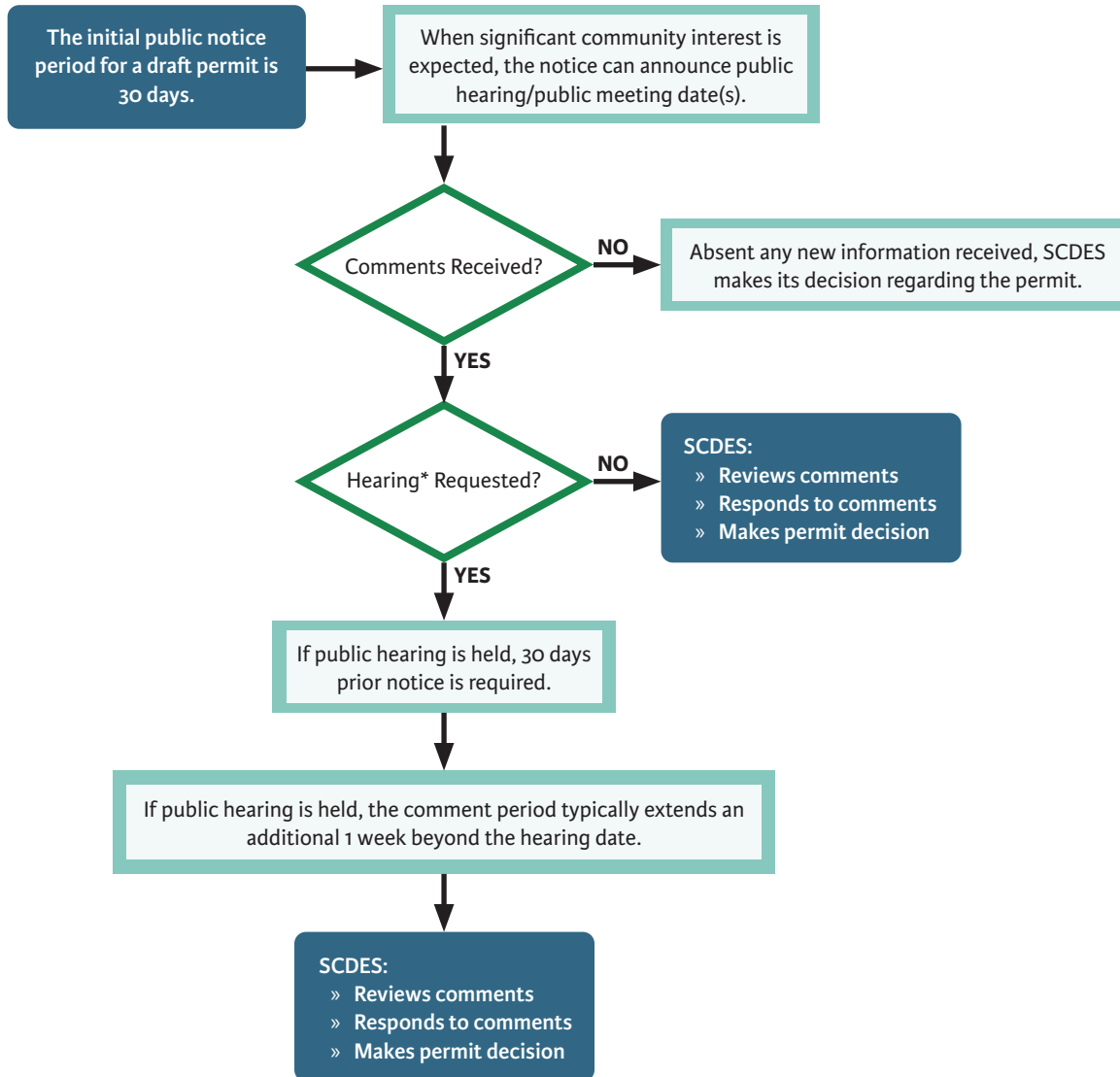


Public Notice Process



*SCDES may choose to have a public meeting instead of (or in addition to) a public hearing.
(The timeframe for public meeting notices is more flexible.)

Simplifying the Air Permitting Process

About the Public Notice Process



SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

des.sc.gov

BUREAU OF AIR QUALITY
Air Permitting Division

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What is an Air Permit?

SCDES's Bureau of Air Quality (BAQ) issues construction and operating permits. An air permit is a legal document that limits the amount of regulated air pollutants emitted at a facility. Before a permit is issued, it is reviewed and evaluated for compliance with state and federal air quality regulations.

Some of those permits require a public notice period prior to issuance.

What is a Public Notice?

A public notice is an announcement that after evaluation of the application and state and federal air quality regulations, a permit has been drafted and is ready for public review.

The notice is posted on the SCDES website. The BAQ may use additional means to notice a draft permit.

Who is Responsible for Publish the Public Notice?

BAQ staff prepare and publish public notices.

Why is a Public Notice Required for Certain Permits?

Regulations specify which permits require a public notice.

- » Synthetic Minor permits, which are construction permits requiring federally enforceable limits (S.C. Regulation 61-62.1, Section II (N)).
- » Major source construction permits (S.C. Regulation 61-62.5, Standard 7, and S.C. Regulation 61-62.5, Standard 7.1).
- » New, Renewal and Significant Modifications to Title V operating permits (S.C. Regulation 61-62.70).
- » New, Renewal, and Modifications to Conditional Major operating permits may require a public notice (S.C. Regulation 621-62.1, Section II(N)).

The regulation also allows SCDES to public notice any permit for which there is public concern.

What is the Cost to Publish a Public Notice?

There is no cost to the applicant.

Who is Meant to Read the Public Notice?

- » Interested citizens
- » County and local officials
- » Anyone on a mailing list developed by BAQ, including those who requested in writing to be on the list.
- » Depending on the type of permit and location of the proposed project, the EPA, neighboring state air quality agencies, and Federal Land Managers.

What is the Difference Between a Hearing and a Meeting?

Public meetings and public hearings are different in terms of how the public participates and comments on the draft permit. A public hearing is a more formal event to legally record public comments (both written and oral). A public meeting is a less formal event where the public, BAQ and the facility interact so that questions about the project are answered. The public has the opportunity to comment on the draft permit during the notice period regardless of whether a public hearing or a public meeting is held.

How Long Is the Public Comment Period?

Typically, public comment periods are 30 days. The public notice flowchart included in this brochure provides an overview of the public notice process.

Tips to Avoid Delays

A facility's early public involvement leads to a smoother permitting process because it encourages continuous discussion, consideration and respect for all stakeholder needs, interests and concerns.

Avoid permitting delays and foster goodwill in the community (contact the BAQ Public Participation Coordinator for assistance in engaging the community) by becoming familiar with local issues before the air permitting process begins. Residents may have questions about your facility that will not be addressed by the air permit, such as:

- * *Will the facility produce odors?*
- * *Will the facility increase truck traffic?*
- * *Will the facility create noise?*
- * *How will the facility benefit my community?*

Comments BAQ Can Consider:

- » Accusations of technical inaccuracies, such as incomplete/inaccurate emission estimates
- » Requests to incorporate additional compliance, monitoring record-keeping, and more frequent reporting requirements, and
- » Concerns about monitoring and implementation of emissions or control device requirements.

Comments BAQ Cannot Consider:

- » Concerns about noise, highway traffic, lighting, local zoning laws, property values
- » Indoor air pollution, and
- » Statements about sources not regulated by state and federal air regulations.

