



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

November 23, 2021

Sent Via Email

Secretary's Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board Members

Re: August 26, 2021 Board Recommendations to DEQ

Dear Members of the Board,

Thank you for your recommendations on the Department's process for the development of a general permit for digester systems at animal feeding operations. I agree that we need an open and inclusive process and assure you that DEQ is committed to transparency in the development of this General Permit.

Our team has worked to incorporate and address your recommendations in a number of ways:

- DEQ has contracted with the UNC School of Government for an independent facilitator for the general permit stakeholder process. Dr. John Stephens will facilitate the stakeholder workgroup sessions and the public input session scheduled for December 14, 2021.
- DEQ is committed to holding four public meetings: one public input session as part of the stakeholder process and three public hearings in 2022 to solicit comment once the draft general permit has been released.
- Our intent is for the 2022 meetings to be held in-person, barring any further public health concerns.
- DEQ is planning to release the draft permit for a 90-day comment period with 60 days of notice for the three public hearings.
- DEQ will provide Spanish translation of the draft permits, notices and related documents and determine the feasibility of interpretation services during the hearings.
- DEQ will publish hearing officer reports with written responses to the public comments so that the agency decision-making is transparent.



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

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I appreciate you taking the time to provide advice and recommendations to the Department.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth S. Biser
Secretary
Department of Environmental Quality



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