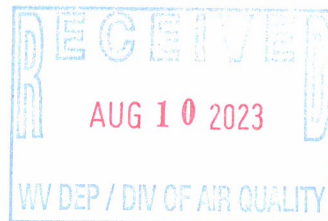


Ad Number 156613



Affidavit of Legal Publication and Posting

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF Kanawha, TO-WIT

I Elisha Queen, Classified Advertising

Representative of the The Charleston Gazette-Mail, a newspaper

published in the county of Kanawha, West Virginia, hereby

certify that the annexed publication was inserted in said

newspaper **The Charleston Gazette-Mail.**

The cost of publishing said annexed advertisement

as aforesaid was \$ 107.20

Commencing On: 07/25/2023

Ending On: 07/25/2023

Given under my hand this day 07/25/2023

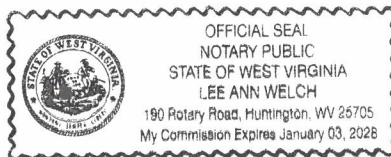
Sworn to and subscribed before me 07/25/2023
at Charleston, Kanawha County, West Virginia

Elisha Queen

Notary Public of, in and for Kanawha County, West Virginia

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: January 3, 2028

Lee Ann Welch



DEP to Hold Public Meeting and Extend Public Period

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Air Quality (DAQ) will hold a public meeting on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at WVDEP's Kanawha City headquarters in Charleston, WV, to provide information and receive comments regarding Optima Belle, LLC's air quality permit application. Optima Belle, LLC has proposed to add to the site proposed equipment and a new proposed chemical process. Additionally, the application identifies equipment that needs to be removed from the permit as it is no longer operable and has been removed from the site. With the new equipment, Optima will return to full operational status and will be able to process the list of materials from which the potential to emit from the site is based. There is also a requested increase in the potential to emit for the new chemical process which adds new hazardous air pollutants to the permit. The facility is located at 901 W. DuPont Avenue, Belle, Kanawha County, West Virginia, at 38.240118 latitude and -81.549648 longitude.

The DAQ will hold the public meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at WVDEP's Kanawha City Headquarters, in the Cooper's Rock Room (rear of the building). The address is: 601 57th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304. The public is welcome to provide written and/or oral comments on air quality issues relevant to the draft permit prior to the end of the public comment period. DAQ staff members will be available to provide a presentation and answer questions before taking comments from the public. The public comment period has been extended to 5pm, Friday, August 11, 2023.

To pre-register for the public meeting, please complete the pre-registration form at: <https://forms.gle/kYEd427v7RhBHXTf9>. A confirmation email will be sent when you see

Acc.Id: 69164
Name: AIR QUALITY--WV
 DEP
Phone: 304-926-0499
Address: 601 57TH ST SE
City: CHARLESTON
State: WV
Postcode: 25304
Class: 9010 Legal Notices
Edition: CGM
Start: 07/25/2023
Stop: 07/25/2023
Issues: 1
Units: 160.0
Order ID: HC 156613
TFN: C
TFN cycle:
Rep: EQUEN
Status: CF
Source: EM
Paytype: BI
Rate: LG
Cost EXC GST: 107.20
Tax: 0.00
Total Charge: 107.20
Printed on: 07/20/2023 12:25:17
Printed by: EQUEN

be sent when you pre-register to attend the meeting. If you do not have internet access and want to pre-register for the meeting, please contact Nicole Ernest at (304) 926-0499 x41256. Oral comments provided at the public meeting are limited to five (5) minutes.

The purpose of the DAQ's permitting process is to make a preliminary determination of if the proposed permit will meet all state and federal requirements. The purpose of the public review process is to accept public comments on air quality issues relevant to this determination. Only written comments received at the address noted below within the specified time frame, or comments presented orally at the public meeting, will be considered prior to final action on the permit. All such comments will become part of the public record.

Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 11, 2023:

- Email written comments to Jonathan.W.Carney@wv.gov with "Optima Belle, LLC Comments" in the subject line, or

- Mail hard copy comments to Jonathan Carney, WV Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Air Quality, 601 57th Street, SE, Charleston, WV 25304.

Instructions for downloading additional information, including copies of the draft permit, application, and all other supporting materials relevant to the permit decision is available at: <https://dep.wv.gov/daq/permitting/Pages/NSRPermitApplications.aspx>.

LC 156613
07/25/2023



August 8, 2023

WV Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Air Quality
601 57th Street, SE
Charleston, WV 25304

Re: Optima Belle, LLC Comments [Permit Number 13-2093I]

Jonathan Carney,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the air quality permit application of Optima Belle, LLC located at 901 W. DuPont Avenue in Belle in Kanawha County. The West Virginia Rivers Coalition (WV Rivers) is the only statewide organization focused on promoting the overall health of West Virginia's waters and their downstream benefits. At the forefront of environmental policy discussions in West Virginia, we are motivated by the preservation and improvement of water quality through programs focused on water, public lands, and climate change. We provide the following comments to the WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) to raise concern of air quality issues within the proposal of Optima, LLC to add a new proposed chemical process, to allow the facility to return to full operational status, and to authorize the requested new chemical process which adds new hazardous air pollutants to the permit.

On December 8, 2020, an explosion at this Optima facility in Belle killed one worker and caused \$33 million in damage. In the final report issued by federal safety regulators on this fatal explosion, it was found that Optima utilized a chemical compound drying process that was incorrect resulting in a dangerous reaction when overheated and recommended improved safety management processes and systems.¹ Moreover, reports suggest that the contractor, Clearon, responsible for performing the drying process, did not properly communicate industry guidance to Optima and that regulations were insufficient to address the hazardous reaction potential.²

WV Rivers is concerned by this facility's request to increase their potential to emit new hazardous air pollutants. Optima must prove over time that safety management processes have consistently and considerably been improved. Additionally, new regulations need to be established to sufficiently address the potential for reactive hazards, as recommended by federal safety regulators and experts, before any related permit is considered. These concerns suggest that Optima should not be permitted to increase their potential to emit nor return to full operational status within the current permit proposal.

¹ https://www.csb.gov/assets/1/6/optima_report_for_publication.pdf

² <https://wvpublic.org/safety-agency-issues-final-report-on-fatal-2020-optima-belle-explosion/>



WV Rivers appreciates the extension of the public comment by WVDEP to increase the opportunity for members of the public to provide input on air quality issues, but worries that a single public hearing is insufficient in order to receive representative feedback from potentially impacted communities. Due to this and the previously mentioned air quality concerns of increased emissions by Optima Belle, LLC, WV Rivers urges WVDEP to reject this air quality permit application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Angie Rosser
Executive Director
WV Rivers Coalition



Carney, Jonathan W <jonathan.w.carney@wv.gov>

Optima Belle, LLC Comments

1 message

Morgan King <mking@wvivers.org>

Tue, Aug 8, 2023 at 10:59 AM

To: "jonathan.w.carney@wv.gov" <Jonathan.W.Carney@wv.gov>

Cc: Autumn Crowe <acrowe@wvivers.org>

Good morning,

Attached to this email are comments regarding Optima Belle, LLC's air quality permit application on behalf of the West Virginia Rivers Coalition. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Morgan King

Morgan King

Climate Campaign Coordinator

West Virginia Rivers Coalition

Pronouns: she/her

304-590-0014

WVRivers.org | [Sign up for E-news](#)



WVRC Optima Belle LLC 8-8-23.pdf

86K



Carney, Jonathan W <jonathan.w.carney@wv.gov>

Fwd: Optima-Belle permit to increase operations with hazardous chemicals

1 message

Fletcher, Terry A <terry.a.fletcher@wv.gov>

Tue, Aug 8, 2023 at 10:58 AM

To: Jonathan W Carney <jonathan.w.carney@wv.gov>, Beverly D McKeone <beverly.d.mckeone@wv.gov>

FYI - Optima Belle comment.

Thanks,

Terry

--



Terry Fletcher

Chief Communications Officer

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

601 57th St. SE, Charleston, WV 25304

304-926-0499 | www.dep.wv.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Terry A Fletcher** <terry.a.fletcher@wv.gov>

Date: Tue, Aug 8, 2023 at 10:57 AM

Subject: Fwd: Optima-Belle permit to increase operations with hazardous chemicals

To: Terry A Fletcher <terry.a.fletcher@wv.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kimberly Horton <kimberly.horton503@gmail.com>

Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 at 12:54:32 PM UTC-4

Subject: Optima-Belle permit to increase operations with hazardous chemicals

To: DEP.Comments@wv.gov <DEP.Comments@wv.gov>

Good afternoon,

When the explosion happened in 2020 there was no warning, alarm or information for hours. How can families in the surrounding communities live safely or feel good about this permit? Even if they are in compliance, how can another situation like this be avoided in the future? It seems unfair to the communities to grant this permit without improving the safety standards and community emergency plans. I pray for us all that SOMEONE considers this.



Carney, Jonathan W <jonathan.w.carney@wv.gov>

Optima Belle, LLC Comments

1 message

Fielding Moss <mosswvu@icloud.com>

Wed, Aug 2, 2023 at 2:33 PM

To: Jonathan.W.Carney@wv.gov

Quoting an article from the WV Gazette
Andrew Brown Jan 30, 2016 Updated Nov 21, 2017

Doug Cochran, Optima's vice president of business development, "But unlike other companies DEP has worked with in the past, Cochran said Optima may present different challenges for the environmental regulators".

With Optima's business model requiring the manufacturer to switch from one chemical to another more often than a company like DuPont or Chemours, he said it may require DEP to speed up its approval processes for the various chemical compounds that will need to be permitted.

"They are used to companies that move slower, that produce one type of chemical for years or decades," he said. "We're a little different animal than what they are used to."

My question is can the WVDEP keep up with the demands of Optima? Also is Optima trying to get to market too soon and putting peoples lives in danger?

Thanks,
Fielding Moss

Sent from my iPhone



Carney, Jonathan W <jonathan.w.carney@wv.gov>

Optima Belle, LLC Comments

1 message

Lauren Deardorff <deardorff2021@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 28, 2023 at 4:53 PM

To: Jonathan.W.Carney@wv.gov

Dear Mr. Jonathan Carney,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing as a concerned resident of the town of Belle regarding the recent permit modification request submitted by Optima Belle, LLC. The proposed addition of new hazardous air pollutants, equipment, and processes at its facility located at 901 W. Dupont Ave. has raised significant concerns among the local community.

After thorough examination and consideration of the potential consequences, I am compelled to express my strong disapproval of the permit modification. The release of cancerous pollutants into the air could have severe and lasting health implications for the residents of our town. As a responsible member of the DEP's Division of Air Quality, it is crucial to prioritize the well-being and safety of communities above all else.

I urge you to take into account the adverse effects this modification may have on the health of our town's inhabitants and reconsider the approval of this permit. It is our shared responsibility to safeguard the environment and protect the health of those who call the town of Belle their home.

Please consider the potential long-term repercussions and explore alternative solutions that promote cleaner and safer practices for Optima Belle, LLC. I am confident that with your expertise and dedication, we can find a more sustainable path forward.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will carefully weigh the concerns of the community and make a decision that puts the health and welfare of Belle's residents first.

Sincerely,

Lauren Deardorff



Carney, Jonathan W <jonathan.w.carney@wv.gov>

Optima Belle, LLC Comments

1 message

Dana Deardorff <deardorff10@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 28, 2023 at 4:24 PM

To: Jonathan.W.Carney@wv.gov

Dear Mr. Carney,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing as a concerned resident of the town of Belle regarding the recent permit modification request submitted by Optima Belle, LLC. The proposed addition of new hazardous air pollutants, equipment, and processes at its facility located at 901 W. Dupont Ave. has raised significant concerns among the local community.

After thorough examination and consideration of the potential consequences, I am compelled to express my strong disapproval of the permit modification. The release of cancerous pollutants into the air could have severe and lasting health implications for the residents of our town. As a responsible member of the DEP's Division of Air Quality, it is crucial to prioritize the well-being and safety of communities above all else.

I urge you to take into account the adverse effects this modification may have on the health of our town's inhabitants and reconsider the approval of this permit. It is our shared responsibility to safeguard the environment and protect the health of those who call the town Belle their home.

Please consider the potential long-term repercussions and explore alternative solutions that promote cleaner and safer practices for Optima Belle, LLC. I am confident that with your expertise and dedication, we can find a more sustainable path forward.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will carefully weigh the concerns of the community and make a decision that puts the health and welfare of Belle's residents first.

Sincerely,

Dana Deardorff