

**From:** [Cooper, Susan](#)  
**To:** [Mark Maloney](#); [Thaker, Rahul](#); [Spiller, Asher](#)  
**Cc:** [Gus Simmons](#); [Pullen, Booker](#); [Cuilla, Mark](#); [Carter, Heather](#); [De Vore, Brad](#); [Ben Cauthen \(ben.cauthen@cavanaughssolutions.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** follow up from call Completeness Determination - Optima TH - Application No. 0900096.21A  
**Date:** Friday, August 27, 2021 5:15:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image328c88.PNG](#)  
[image38713f.PNG](#)  
[image6b728f.PNG](#)  
[image6c47d1.PNG](#)

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Hi Asher and Mark, thank you again for you and your team's time on the call yesterday. It was a good discussion regarding the DAQ's Aug. 19, 2021 incompleteness determination letter regarding Optima's Title V application and particularly Optima's normal operating scenario. We had no idea that the DAQ believed Optima was sending the slip stream of biogas to the flare during normal operations just to flare gas instead of using the biogas slipstream to meet 2D.0516. We thought it would be useful to summarize our understanding of our discussions and next steps:

1. On DAQ's Aug. 19, 2021 incompleteness determination letter regarding Optima's Title V application, we understand that the only thing you need for the application to be complete is the modification fee as DAQ believed the changes in the Title V application compared to the initial air permit application are "modifications." DAQ does not intend to reopen Optima's existing construction and operation permit, but DAQ intends to perform a technical review of the Title V application. I understand Heather Carter to say she believed the review was necessary to address compliance issues. Given the rest of the discussion we had about the confusion of Optima's operation, it is unclear whether the DAQ still believes these are modifications and whether a technical review is still required of the Title V application
2. Optima believes the changes in the Title V permit app were not "modifications" that require a permit revision under 2Q.0318. Mark Cuilla stated 2Q.0318 is appropriate to apply to this Section 300 permit. We are glad to provide you with any additional information you need to evaluate the changes qualifying under 2Q.0318, or if you need the formal form for 2Q.0318. As discussed in the call, we believe the DAQ guidance allows for the change in supplemental fuel and the closure of the valve does not require a seal. Optima will wait to hear from DAQ regarding whether a permit fee modification is required given our discussion.
3. Optima's normal operating scenario 1. Rahul and Heather both stated they understood that during Optima's normal operating scenario, Optima sent tail gas plus the biogas slip stream to the flare and the biogas slip stream was "extra" biogas that the GUS could not process so this extra biogas was simply flared or disposed of via the flare. As Optima explained, this is not accurate nor reflective of the process description contained in the initial air permit application (see Optima's initial application page 2 and 5, and the detailed process description for Form B9 for operating scenario 1). The biogas slip stream was sent to the flare to increase the heating value of the tail gas in order to comply with 2D.0516 as plainly stated in the permit application. The DAQ air permit review document confirmed Optima's description of the use of the biogas stream to meet 2D.0516 during the normal operating scenario (see page 3 and 4). (See also May 25, 2021 and July 28, 2021 letters to DAQ)

It was good to have this discussion so the parties can better understand the issues and the viewpoints of each other.

As discussed, Optima does need some clarity on the use of supplemental fuel and we are glad to have a focused discussion on that. We appreciate your understanding and willingness to let us know next week. Thanks, Susan

## Susan Cooper

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**From:** Mark Maloney <mark@pig.energy>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 3:31 PM

**To:** Thaker, Rahul <rahul.thaker@ncdenr.gov>

**Cc:** Gus Simmons <gus.simmons@cavanaugholutions.com>; Pullen, Booker <booker.pullen@ncdenr.gov>; Cuilla, Mark <mark.cuilla@ncdenr.gov>; Carter, Heather <Heather.Carter@ncdenr.gov>; Cooper, Susan <Susan.Cooper@wbd-us.com>

**Subject:** Re: Completeness Determination - Optima TH - Application No. 0900096.21A

Rahul,

Thank you for reaching out. We have reviewed 15A NCAC 02Q .0103(23) and concluded it differently but are open to the fact we might be missing something in our analysis. I would suggest we set up a call to better understand what exactly DAQ believes needs modifying.

Please suggest a couple times your team is available and I look forward to speaking on this

then,

Thank you,  
Mark

On Thu, Aug 19, 2021 at 1:35 PM Thaker, Rahul <[rahul.thaker@ncdenr.gov](mailto:rahul.thaker@ncdenr.gov)> wrote:

Attached.



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