



ETHICS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – DECISIONS AND VOTING
 State Form 55860 (R / 10-15)
 OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
 IC 4-2-6-9

INDIANA
 STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

JUL 18 2016

FILED

In accordance with IC 4-2-6-9, you must file your disclosure with the State Ethics Commission no later than seven (7) days after the conduct that gives rise to the conflict. You must also include a copy of the notification provided to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer when filing this disclosure. This disclosure will be posted on the Inspector General's website.

Name (last) Hale	Name (first) John	Name (middle) Stephen
Name of office or agency Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)		Job title Senior Environmental Manager
Address of office (number and street) IGCN 1101, 100 North Senate Avenue		City Indianapolis
Office telephone number (317) 232-8871		ZIP code 46204
Office e-mail address (required) jhale@idem.in.gov		

Describe the conflict of interest:
 I work in the Solid Waste Permits Section, Permits Branch, Office of Land Quality at IDEM. I am assigned to review permits for the Vectren Corporation (Vectren) as part of my permit review work. I am also a board member and vice-president of the B&O Trail Association (BOTA), a volunteer group working to develop the B&O rail line in west central Indiana into a trail. BOTA owns much of the former B&O right-of-way in Hendricks Co. On July 11, 2016, I became aware of negotiations between BOTA and Vectren regarding an easement to install a new natural gas pipeline under the trail. Since these negotiations involve both the method of installation and the amount Vectren would pay BOTA for the easement, I believe my volunteer role with BOTA and my work assignments on Vectren projects may present a potential conflict of interest.

Describe the screen established by your ethics officer. (Attach additional pages as needed.)

1. Ms. Rebecca Elfert Joniskan, Mr. Hale's supervisor, shall reassign all Vectren matters currently assigned to Mr. Hale to another employee within the Solid Waste Permits Section.
2. Ms. Joniskan will not assign any new matter regarding Vectren to Mr. Hale
3. Mr. Hale shall recuse himself from the portion of any meeting in which discussions specific to Vectren begin or are expected.
4. Mr. Hale shall not discuss any matter involving Vectren with any IDEM employee.
5. Ms. Joniskan will notify the employees in her section in writing that they are not to discuss any matter involving Vectren with Mr. Hale or send him any emails concerning Vectren.
6. Mr. Hale shall not have access to any correspondence or files relating to a pending permit decision involving Vectren. Such documents shall be in the cubicle of the employee assigned to the matter and kept in a locked file cabinet to which Mr. Hale does not have access.
7. Mr. Hale shall not participate in decisions regarding or relating to Vectren.
8. Mr. Hale shall immediately inform his supervisor and the IDEM Ethics Officer Kathleen Mills if any provision of this screening protocol is inadvertently violated.
9. Mr. Hale shall follow IC 4-2-6-9(b) and either seek an advisory opinion from the State Ethics Commission or file a written disclosure statement with the Commission.
10. Mr. Hale shall also notify Vectren Corporation in writing that he has recused himself from all matters concerning the company.
11. Mr. Hale, Ms. Joniskan, and Ethics Officer Mills shall review this screening protocol within 30 days from the date of the last signature to assure this protocol has been followed.

AFFIRMATION

Your signature below affirms that your disclosures on this form are true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. In addition to this form, you have attached a copy of your written disclosure to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer.

Signature of state officer, employee or special state appointee

Date signed (month, day, year)

John Stephen Hale

7/15/16

Printed full name of state officer, employee or special state appointee

John Stephen Hale

FOR ETHICS OFFICER USE ONLY

Your signature below affirms that you have reviewed this disclosure form and that it is true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. You also attest that your agency has implemented the screen described above.

Signature of ethics officer

Date signed (month, day, year)

Kathleen Mills

7/18/16

Printed full name of ethics officer

Kathleen Mills



Indiana Department of Environmental Management

We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.

100 N. Senate Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46204

(800) 451-6027 • (317) 232-8603 • www.idem.IN.gov

Michael R. Pence
Governor

Carol S. Comer
Commissioner

July 15, 2016

Ms. Cynthia Carrasco
Inspector General
315 West Ohio St. Room 104
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Mr. James Clevenger,
Chairman,
Indiana Ethics Commission
315 West Ohio St. Room 104
Indianapolis, IN 46202

RE: Written Disclosure Statement in accordance with IC 4-2-6-9

My name is John Hale, Senior Environmental Manager, Solid Waste Permits Section, Permits Branch, Office of Land Quality. I have spoken with IDEM Ethics Officer, Kathleen Mills, regarding a potential conflict of interest. I am filing this written disclosure statement based on this potential conflict of interest. I understand that under IC 4-2-6-9, I must file this statement with you and also notify the Commissioner of IDEM and its Ethics Officer in writing of this potential conflict of interest. The potential conflict is as follows:

I am assigned to review permits for the Vectren Corporation (Vectren) as part of my work for the Solid Waste Permits Section. I am also a board member and vice-president of the B&O Trail Association (BOTA), a volunteer group working to develop the former B&O rail line in west central Indiana into a trail. BOTA owns much of the former B&O right-of-way in Hendricks County. On July 11, 2016, I became aware of negotiations between BOTA and Vectren regarding an easement to install a new natural gas pipeline under the trail. Since these negotiations involve both the method of installation and the amount Vectren would pay BOTA for the easement, I believe my volunteer role with BOTA and my work assignments on Vectren projects may present a potential conflict of interest.

Although the situation described above does not fit squarely into IC 4-2-6-9, I am working with my supervisor, Rebecca Joniskan, and the Ethics Officer to assure any decision regarding the Vectren landfill permits are not in any way based or appeared to be based on Vectren's request or negotiation for an easement on land owned by a non-profit non-governmental association of which I am a member. I have taken the following steps:

1. I have notified B&O Trails Association (BOTA) President Diana Virgil and the BOTA board that I am removing myself from participating in any decision or vote or matter related to that decision or vote regarding Vectren at the BOTA. The notification is attached to this statement.

2. I have entered into an agreement to screen me from any contact with Vectren issues at work. My supervisor, Ms. Joniskan, has removed me from any further review of permit applications or other documents submitted by Vectren. A copy of the screening protocol signed by Ms. Joniskan, Ms. Mills, Ethics Officer, and myself, is also attached to this statement.
3. I have also made a request to the BOTA President that she verify I have not participated in any decision regarding Vectren, that she keeps me informed of the status of the potential easement, and notify me when the matter has been resolved.
4. I have notified Vectren of the precautions.

I believe these steps should alleviate any potential conflict of interest concerns and assure I am complying with the intention of the Ethics Laws.

Sincerely,



John Hale
Solid Waste Permits Section
Office of Land Quality

**Protocol
to Screen IDEM Employee John Hale
from Any Matters Regarding Vectren Corporation**

Mr. John Hale is a Senior Environmental Manager in the Solid Waste Permits Section of the Permits Branch in the Office of Land Quality at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. As part of his job duties, his supervisor, Rebecca Joniskan, recently assigned him to review the solid waste permits of Vectren Corporation. Vectren Corporation is an energy holding company headquartered in Evansville, Indiana.

Mr. Hale is also Vice President and Board Member of the B&O Trails Association (“BOTA”). BOTA is a non-governmental, non-profit association that owns much of the former B&O right-of-way in Hendricks County, Indiana. It is working to develop the former B&O rail line into a trail.

On July 11, 2016, Mr. Hale became aware of negotiations between BOTA and Vectren Corporation regarding an easement to install a new natural gas pipeline under the trail. Since these negotiations involve both the method of installation and the amount Vectren Corporation would pay BOTA for the easement, there is a potential conflict between Mr. Hale’s volunteer duties at BOTA and his work at IDEM. IDEM shall implement the following procedures to screen Mr. Hale from any matter that may arise at IDEM regarding Vectren Corporation.

1. Ms. Joniskan, Mr. Hale’s supervisor, shall reassign all Vectren Corporation matters currently assigned to Mr. Hale to another employee within the Solid Waste Permits Section.
2. Ms. Joniskan will not assign any new matter regarding Vectren Corporation to Mr. Hale.
3. Mr. Hale shall recuse himself from the portion of any meeting in which discussions specific to Vectren Corporation begin or are expected.
4. Mr. Hale shall not discuss any matter involving Vectren Corporation with any IDEM employee.
5. Ms. Joniskan will notify the employees in her section in writing that they are not to discuss any matter involving Vectren Corporation with Mr. Hale or send him any emails concerning Vectren Corporation.
6. Mr. Hale shall not have access to any correspondence or files relating to a pending permit decision involving Vectren Corporation. Such documents shall be in the cubicle of the employee assigned to the matter and kept in a locked file cabinet to which Mr. Hale does not have access.
7. Mr. Hale shall not participate in decisions regarding or relating to Vectren Corporation.

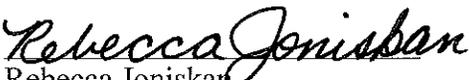
8. Mr. Hale shall immediately inform his supervisor and the IDEM Ethics Officer Kathleen Mills if any provision of this screening protocol is inadvertently violated.
9. Mr. Hale shall follow IC 4-2-6-9(b) and either seek an advisory opinion from the State Ethics Commission or file a written disclosure statement with the Commission.
10. Mr. Hale shall also notify Vectren Corporation in writing that he has recused himself from all matter concerning the company.
11. Mr. Hale, Ms. Joniskan, and Ethics Officer Mills shall review this screening protocol within 30 days from the date of the last signature to assure this protocol has been followed.



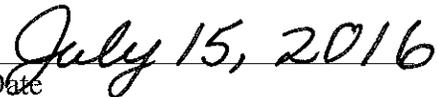
John Hale
Senior Environmental Manager
Solid Waste Permits



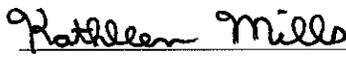
Date



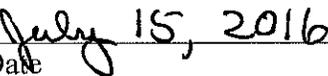
Rebecca Joniskan
Section Chief
Supervisor 3 Solid Waste Permits



Date



Kathleen Mills
Ethics Officer
Office of Legal Counsel



Date

HALE, JOHN

From: HALE, JOHN
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2016 2:48 PM
To: Comer, Carol
Cc: MILLS, KATHLEEN; SEWELL, JEFF; Joniskan, Rebecca
Subject: Draft Ethics Written Disclosure Statement

Dear Commissioner Comer,

My name is John Hale, Senior Environmental Manager, Solid Waste Permits Section, Permits Branch, Office of Land Quality. I have spoken with IDEM Ethics Officer, Kathleen Mills, regarding a potential conflict of interest. I understand that under IC 4-2-6-9, I need to inform you and the Ethics Officer in writing of this potential conflict of interest. The potential conflict is as follows:

I am assigned to review permits for the Vectren Corporation (Vectren) as part of my work for the Solid Waste Permits Section. I am also a board member and vice-president of the B&O Trail Association (BOTA), a volunteer group working to develop the former B&O rail line in west central Indiana into a trail. BOTA owns much of the former B&O right-of-way in Hendricks County. On July 11, 2016, I became aware of negotiations between BOTA and Vectren regarding an easement to install a new natural gas pipeline under the trail. Since these negotiations involve both the method of installation and the amount Vectren would pay BOTA for the easement, I believe my volunteer role with BOTA and my work assignments on Vectren projects may present a potential conflict of interest.

I am working with my supervisor, Rebecca Joniskan, and the Ethics Officer to develop a screen to resolve this potential conflict of interest. I intend to file a written disclosure statement with the Indiana State Ethics Commission as required under the statute.