Austin Quality Foods operates a snack food bakery at 1 Quality Lane in Cary, North Carolina. The Cary facility operates under Air Permit No. 06816T19, which allows for the operation of six natural gas direct-fired ovens, each of which is permitted to produce yeast and non-yeast leavened products. Air emissions testing of one of these ovens at the Cary facility in January 2021 indicated that facility-wide emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and certain hazardous air pollutants (HAP) and toxic air pollutants (TAP) were higher than previously reported, resulting in exceedances of air permit limitations for VOC, HAP, and TAP emissions. Austin Quality Foods has agreed to a Special Order by Consent (SOC) with the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to resolve compliance disputes between the two parties and to ensure that facility-wide emissions at the Cary facility are reduced to levels below the permitted emission limits as expeditiously as possible. Per the terms of the SOC, the company must install a catalytic oxidizer to control VOC, HAP, and TAP emissions from three of the six ovens within eight months of receiving a permit allowing for the construction and operation of the catalytic oxidizer. The company must conduct air emissions testing on the inlet and outlet of the catalytic oxidizer and use the test data to demonstrate compliance with all applicable permit limits within 12 months of initial startup of the catalytic oxidizer. The SOC includes an upfront penalty and stipulated penalties for missing any compliance deadlines. The SOC will expire when the company certifies that all facility-wide emissions are back below permitted limits or on March 31, 2023, whichever comes first.

This proposed SOC may be viewed on the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) website:

http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality/air-quality-enforcement/special-orders-by-consent
A copy of the proposed SOC may also be viewed at the following locations and additional information concerning the proposed SOC may be obtained by contacting:

Taylor Hartsfield, Regional Air Quality Supervisor  
NC DEQ - Raleigh Regional Office  
3800 Barrett Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
Phone 919-791-4289

or

Steve Hall, Technical Service Section Chief  
NC DEQ-DAQ Raleigh Central Office  
217 West Jones Street  
1641 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1641  
Phone 919-707-8404

Interested persons are invited to review the proposed SOC and to submit written comments by email to daq.publiccomments@ncdenr.gov with “Austin Quality Foods SOC” in the subject line or by mail to one of the above addresses. Any person requesting a public hearing regarding the proposed SOC should submit a written request with a statement supporting the need for such a hearing. The request for hearing should be sent to the DAQ at one of the two above address or at the above email address. All public comments and requests for hearing must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, August 2, 2021. The Director of the DAQ shall take final action on behalf of the EMC on Consent Orders within 60 days of the initial public notice.