



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
CADILLAC DISTRICT OFFICE



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

December 12, 2019

Mr. Kris Demel
Biewer Sawmill, Inc.
6251 West Gerwoude Drive
McBain, Michigan 49657

SRN: N1722, Missaukee County

Dear Mr. Demel:

VIOLATION NOTICE

On November 8, 2019, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Air Quality Division (AQD), conducted an inspection of Biewer Sawmill, Inc located at 6251 West Gerwoude Drive, McBain, Michigan. The purpose of this inspection was to investigate a recent complaint which we received on November 8, 2019, regarding black smoke and corresponding fallout of particulate matter attributed to Biewer Sawmill, Inc. operations.

At the time of the inspection AQD staff observed that the wood fired boiler (EUWOODBOILER) was intermittently emitting dense black smoke. AQD staff also observed fallout of soot-like material in a defined area downwind of the EUWOODBOILER stack.

The AQD followed up the inspection with a request for Continuous Opacity Monitor System (COMS) records for the time period from November 7, 2019 through November 10, 2019. Biewer Sawmill, Inc. provided these records on December 5, 2019. The records provided demonstrate that visible emissions from the EUWOODBOILER process equipment were greater than 20% opacity from November 7, 2019 through November 11, 2019 with daily six-minute average opacities around 60%.

The conditions of PTI number 286-05 limit the emissions of visible emissions to a six-minute average of 20% opacity, except for one six-minute average per hour of not more than 27% opacity.

Please initiate actions necessary to correct the cited violation and submit a written response to this Violation Notice by January 2, 2020 (which coincides with 21 calendar days from the date of this letter). The written response should include: the dates the violation occurred; an explanation of the causes and duration of the violation; whether the violation is ongoing; a summary of the actions that have been taken and are proposed to be taken to correct the violation and the dates by which these actions will take place; and what steps are being taken to prevent a reoccurrence.

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Please submit the written response to EGLE, AQD, Cadillac District, at 120 West Chapin Street, Cadillac, Michigan 49601 and submit a copy to Ms. Jenine Camilleri, Enforcement Unit Supervisor at EGLE, AQD, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7760.

If Biewer Sawmill, Inc. believes the above observations or statements are inaccurate or do not constitute violations of the applicable legal requirements cited, please provide appropriate factual information to explain your position.

Thank you for your attention to resolving the violation cited above and for the cooperation that was extended to AQD staff during our inspection of Biewer Sawmill, Inc. If you have any questions regarding the violation or the actions necessary to bring this facility into compliance, please contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,



Kurt Childs
Senior Environmental Quality Analyst
Air Quality Division
231-878-2045 / ChildsK@Michigan.gov

cc: Ms. Mary Ann Dolehanty, EGLE
Dr. Eduardo Olaguer, EGLE
Ms. Jenine Camilleri, EGLE
Mr. Christopher Ethridge, EGLE
Mr. Shane Nixon, EGLE