



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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



PHILLIP D. ROOS  
DIRECTOR

March 26, 2024

Kim Brookens, Manager  
Star of the West  
P.O. Box 339  
Shepherd, Michigan 48883

SRN: U372308129, Isabella County

Dear Kim Brookens:

**VIOLATION NOTICE**

On February 21, 2024, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Air Quality Division (AQD), conducted an inspection of Star of the West located at 414 West Wright Avenue, Shepherd, Michigan. The purpose of this inspection was to investigate a recent complaint which we received on February 20, 2024, regarding fugitive dust attributed to Star of the West's operations.

During the inspection, staff observed the following:

Process Description	Rule/Permit Condition Violated	Comments
Removal and transfer of the outdoor corn storage pile into trucks. The pile is located south of the grain elevator.	Rule 336.1901	Fallout / dust on property and vehicles was evident approximately 900 feet from the activity.

In the professional judgment of AQD staff, the dust / fallout that were observed were of sufficient intensity, frequency, and duration to constitute a violation of Rule 901 of the administrative rules promulgated under Act 451. It should be noted that additional problems may occur during railcar loading as staff noted a lack of any controls on the straight drop chute next to the railroad. The railcar loading situation was discussed at the time of the site visit.

Please initiate actions necessary to correct the cited violation and submit a written response to this Violation Notice by April 16, 2024 (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.

Kim Brookens  
Star of the West  
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Please submit the written response to Ben Witkopp at EGLE, AQD, Bay City District, at 401 Ketchum Street, Suite B, Bay City Michigan 48708 or WitkoppB@Michigan.gov and submit a copy to Jenine Camilleri, Enforcement Unit Supervisor at EGLE, AQD, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7760.

If Star of the West 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 me during my visit to Star of the West. 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,



Ben Witkopp  
Environmental Engineer  
Air Quality Division  
989-295-1612

cc: Patrick Nellenbach, Star of the West  
Annette Switzer, EGLE  
Christopher Ethridge, EGLE  
Brad Myott, EGLE  
Jenine Camilleri, EGLE  
Chris Hare, EGLE