



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

August 2, 2022

LaDale Combs, General Manager
Cleveland Cliffs Dearborn Works
4001 Miller Road
Dearborn, Michigan 48121-1699

SRN: A8640, Wayne County

Dear LaDale Combs:

VIOLATION NOTICE

On August 1, 2022, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Air Quality Division (AQD), completed review of the quarterly continuous opacity monitoring system (COMS) opacity report for the basic oxygen furnace (BOF) electrostatic precipitator (ESP) for the 1st quarter of 2022 for Cleveland Cliffs Dearborn Works (Cliffs hereafter) located at 4001 Miller Road, Dearborn, Michigan. Staff reviewed the report to determine Cliffs' compliance with the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act; Part 55, Air Pollution Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Act 451); the Air Pollution Control Rules; and Renewable Operating Permit (ROP) number MI-ROP-A8640-2016a.

Based on review of the aforementioned report, the following air pollution violations were observed:

Process Description	Rule/Permit Condition Violated	Comments
EUBOF	ROP No. MI-ROP-A8640-2016a, Section 1, General Condition (GC) 11; R 336.1301(1)(a)	The quarterly COMS opacity report for the 1st quarter of 2022 contained 67 exceedances of the 20% 6 minute average opacity limit at the ESP stack.
EUBOF	ROP No. MI-ROP-A8640-2016a, Section 1, EUBOF, SC IV.1; R 336.1910	The ESP has ongoing exceedances of the 20% 6 minute average opacity limit as measured and recorded by the COMS. This is a failure to operate and maintain the air cleaning device in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with the rules and existing law.

R 336.1301(1)(a) and ROP No. MI-ROP-A8640-2016a, Section 1, GC 11 state, in part, that a person “shall not cause or permit to be discharged into the outer air from a process or process equipment a visible emission of a density greater than the most stringent of the following: a 6-minute average of 20% opacity, except for one 6-minute average per hour of not more than 27% opacity.”

Cliffs is required to maintain and operate a COMS in the ESP stack. Per Consent Decree Civil Action No. 15-cv-11804, VI.B.20, Cliffs is required to submit quarterly COMS data reports. Reports include each instance in which the 6-minute block average reading of opacity by the COMS exceeds 20%. For the 1st quarter of 2022, after correcting for the exception allowed within R 336.1301(1)(a): “one 6 minute average per hour of not more than 27% opacity” and excluding calibration checks and concurrent Method 9 readings indicating compliance, there were 67 exceedances reported. Each of these exceedances is a violation of R 336.1301(1)(a) and ROP No. MI-ROP-A8640-2016a, Section 1, GC 11.

ROP No. MI-ROP-A8640-2016a, Section 1, EUBOF, SC IV.1 requires that the permittee shall not operate EUBOF unless the ESP is installed and operating properly. Similarly, R 336.1910 requires that an air-cleaning device be installed, maintained, and operated in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with the AQD rules and existing law. The ESP is an air-cleaning device. Based on the continuing opacity exceedances, the ESP is not being maintained and operated in a satisfactory manner. As such, Cliffs is in violation of MI-ROP-A8640-2016a, Section 1, EUBOF, SC IV.1, and R 336.1910.

Please initiate actions necessary to correct the cited violations and submit a written response to this Violation Notice by August 23, 2022 (which coincides with 21 calendar days from the date of this letter). The written response should include: the dates the violations occurred; an explanation of the causes and duration of the violations; whether the violations are ongoing; a summary of the actions that have been taken and are proposed to be taken to correct the violations and the dates by which these actions will take place; and what steps are being taken to prevent a reoccurrence.

Please submit the written response to EGLE, AQD, Detroit District, at 3058 West Grand Boulevard, Suite 2-300, Detroit, Michigan 48202 and submit a copy to Jenine Camilleri, Enforcement Unit Supervisor at EGLE, AQD, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7760.

If Cliffs 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.

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Thank you for your attention to resolving the violations cited above. If you have any questions regarding the violations or the actions necessary to bring this facility into compliance, please contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

Katherine Koster

Katherine Koster
Environmental Engineer Specialist
Air Quality Division
313-456-4678

cc: Mary Ann Dolehanty, EGLE
Annette Switzer, EGLE
Christopher Ethridge, EGLE
Brad Myott, EGLE
Jenine Camilleri, EGLE
Dr. April Wendling, EGLE
Jeff Korniski, EGLE
Jonathan Lamb, EGLE