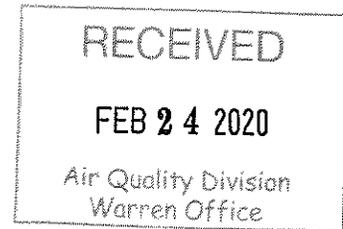


# SUMPTER ENERGY ASSOCIATES

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February 20, 2020

District Supervisor  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Air Quality Division  
27700 Donald Court  
Warren, Michigan 48092



Ms. Jenine Camilleri  
Enforcement Unit Supervisor  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Air Quality Division  
P.O. Box 30260  
Lansing, Michigan 489009-7760

**Subject:** Sumpter Energy Associates at the Pine Tree Acres Landfill (SRN: N5984)  
Response to Violation Notice dated January 31, 2020

Sumpter Energy Associates, LLC (Sumpter Energy) is responding to the Violation Notice dated January 31, 2020. Specifically, it was observed during a Method 9 Visible Emissions measurement on January 15, 2020, that FG-ICENFINE2 (EU-ICENGINE 8) processes were emitting visible emissions with opacity in excess of emissions allowed by Rule 301 of the administrative rules promulgated under Act 451.

The purpose of this letter is to underscore significant omissions with respect to the Method 9 Visible Emissions measurement performed on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The startup/malfunction emissions observed were not part of normal operations. As is evident in historic site recordkeeping; Sumpter's extensive experience and industry knowledge; and based on Method 9 test data from identical emission sources, the Caterpillar engines normally operate with no visible emissions.

#### **Background -**

On the morning of January 15<sup>th</sup> EU-ICENGINE 8 was shut down for an extended period of time at the request of Waste Management as they were conducting compliance testing on their flares. As the operators were starting EU-ICENGINE 8, the engine malfunctioned (premature failure of the engine turbo), which resulted in a brief period of visible emissions which exceeded the allowable limits specified in Rule 301. As soon as the site operators learned of the visible emissions, they activated the e-stop to shutdown the engine. The engine was left down until the turbo was replaced. Upon repair and restart of the engine, no further visible emissions have been observed.

#### **Timeline of Startup / Malfunction Event -**

EU-ICENGINE 8 was shutdown 8:00 AM at the request of Waste Management  
EU-ICENGINE 8 was restarted at 10:15 AM at the request of Waste Management  
As the engine was warming up, visible emissions were observed by the AQD inspector and he notified the onsite operator who e-stopped the engine at 10:28 AM.

EU-ICENGINE 8 was shutdown within approximately 15 minutes and did not trigger a reportable event under the malfunction conditions of the permit.

The permittee shall provide notice of an abnormal condition, start-up, shutdown, or malfunction that results in emissions of a hazardous or toxic air pollutant which continue for more than one hour in excess of any applicable standard or limitation, or emissions of any air contaminant continuing for more than two hours in excess of an applicable standard or limitation, as required in Rule 912, to the appropriate AQD District Office. The notice shall be provided not later than two business days after the start-up, shutdown, or discovery of the abnormal conditions or malfunction. Notice shall be by any reasonable means, including electronic, telephonic, or oral communication. Written reports, if required under Rule 912, must be submitted to the appropriate AQD District Supervisor within 10 days after the start-up or shutdown occurred, within 10 days after the abnormal conditions or malfunction has been corrected, or within 30 days of discovery of the abnormal conditions or malfunction, whichever is first. The written reports shall include all of the information required in Rule 912(5) and shall be certified by a Responsible Official in a manner consistent with the CAA.<sup>2</sup> (R 336.1912)

**Corrective Action -**

In response to this startup/malfunction and short-term opacity exceedance, we have amended the Malfunction Abatement Plan. Onsite operators have been instructed to check for visible emissions from the engine exhaust stacks upon restart of an engine which has been down 2 hours or more, and a minimum of once per day during their daily walkthrough. If Visible Emissions are observed corrective actions will be taken, and a Method 9 will be performed within the next operating day of the source by an individual trained on the observation procedures of 40 CFR 60, Appendix A, Method 9.

Sumpter Energy Associates appreciates the consideration of the AQD of the information presented in this letter, and looks forward to its concurrence with the corrective compliance actions taken.

Should you have any questions or require additional information please contact us at (248) 380-3920.

Sincerely,

SUMPTER ENERGY ASSOCIATES, LLC



Dennis Plaster  
Senior Vice President of Operations

Attachment