

Via Email and UPS [1Z 413 827 01 9707 5792]

November 20, 2017

Mr. Dennis Dunlap, Environmental Quality Specialist  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
7953 Adobe Road  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009-5025



Darling Ingredients Inc.  
4221 Alexandria Pike  
Cold Spring, KY 41076

T: 859-781-2010

F: 859-572-2572

[darlingii.com](http://darlingii.com)

**Subject: Response to October 31, 2017 Letter of VIOLATION NOTICE  
Darling Ingredients Inc. – Coldwater, Michigan  
PTIO No: 133-03A**

Dear Mr. Dunlap,

Darling Ingredients Inc. (Darling) herein provides the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) this response to the subject Violation Notice (NOV) received by Darling's Coldwater facility General Manager, Mr. Duane Purvis. Darling's Corporate Environmental Affairs Department is responding on behalf of Mr. Purvis. Darling very respectfully does not agree with the assertions made by the MDEQ in the NOV, and believes the assertions are based on non-numerical, non-quantitative, and subjective and arbitrary criteria, which lack solid basis for determining if a violation of MDEQ Air Quality Division Air Pollution Control rule (Rule) has occurred. However, Darling does very much appreciate the MDEQ bringing its concerns to our attention.

The NOV indicates that the MDEQ issued the NOV on October 31, 2017, was in response to a malodorous complaint received on October 21, 2017, with subsequent investigation conducted by the MDEQ on October 24, 2017. The NOV cites that Darling violated Rule at Part 9. Emission Limitations and Prohibitions – Miscellaneous, R336.1901 Air contaminant or water vapor; prohibition. Rule 901; however, the NOV does not allege which clause of Rule 901 was violated. The two clauses of Rule 901 prohibit "... air contaminant or water vapor in quantities that cause ... (a) Injurious effects ... or (b) Unreasonable interference with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property." The NOV includes only a comment that "*Strong rendering odors were present at the complainant's location.*" Darling does not believe this observation can be quantitatively construed that a violation of Rule 901 has occurred.

Darling was surprised by the public complaint alleged by the MDEQ, as the facility had not received any public complaint or communication on October 21, 2017; and Darling does enjoy a very communicative population surrounding the facility, with a few representatives that usually do not hesitate to contact the facility with any concerns. Darling is aware that the City of Coldwater (City) Manager Mr. Keith Baker had contacted the MDEQ sometime before October 23, 2017; and according to Mr. Baker, this was to convey concern about the Darling facility and to learn about malodor regulatory guidance, but not to specifically lodge a formal complaint. Regardless, upon receiving the MDEQ visit on October 24, 2017, at the facility, and indication by the MDEQ of the public complaint, Darling immediately initiated an internal investigation and assessment of sourcing for possible malodor emissions. Darling continuously evaluates the facility's processes and controls. In this case, Darling could not determine any exact cause for malodorous emissions. However, during the internal investigation, facility and corporate management did identify improved best management practices (BMPs) that should better malodor control.

Mr. Baker contacted Mr. Purvis and requested a meeting to introduce himself (as the new City Manager) and to discuss issues, indicating concern over malodor. In the spirit of cooperation and to demonstrate Darling's commitment to the community, Darling corporate

Vice President executives traveled to Coldwater to also meet with Mr. Baker. Mr. Doug Irvin, Darling's Vice President of Environmental Affairs, and Mr. Brandon Lairmore, Darling's Vice President of Operations for Great Lakes Region accompanied Mr. Purvis for the meeting, as well as Mrs. Kelly Thomas, Corporate Manager of Environmental Affairs. The City was represented by Mr. Baker, the Mayor Mr. Thomas Kramer, and the City Attorney Ms. Megan Angell. Facility BMP improvements discussed by Mr. Purvis included Darling's plans to construct an enclosed raw material building where incoming trucks with problematic malodorous material can be parked inside while awaiting unloading for processing, improved housecleaning initiatives to preclude buildup of accumulated particulate in the process ductwork, and others. Mr. Purvis discussed Darling's handling of public complaints that come to the facility and the well documented mandatory internal investigation process Darling requires its facilities to conduct upon receipt of each complaint. Mr. Purvis requested that moving forward, the City provide Darling the approximate location of the public complainant in order for Darling to perform a best possible investigation; emphasizing that without the knowledge of the complainant's approximate location and directional vector from the facility, Darling cannot fully assess the complaint. Darling and the City personnel also discussed other possible surrounding area malodor sources, for which the facility could be blamed but not actually be the source. Darling is optimistic that the lines of communication between Darling and the City are open and will result in an ever-improving working relationship.

Darling takes its environmental compliance record very seriously and appreciates the MDEQ's understanding in this matter. If you should have any questions concerning this information, please call me at your convenience at the address or telephone number listed at the top of the previous page or you may contact me by email at [kthomas@darlingii.com](mailto:kthomas@darlingii.com).

Sincerely,

**DARLING INGREDIENTS INC.**



Kelly Thomas  
Manager of Environmental Affairs

cc: Doug Irvin, Vice President of Environmental Affairs  
Bill Fritz, Senior Vice President Northeast Division (email only)  
Brandon Larimore, Vice President Great Lakes (email only)  
Duane Purvis, General Manager