



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
GRAND RAPIDS DISTRICT OFFICE



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

February 13, 2019

Mr. Rick Foster
USM Acquisition, LLC
7389 Costabella Road
Remus, Michigan 49340

SRN: N5101, Mecosta County

Dear Mr. Foster:

VIOLATION NOTICE

On January 8, 2019, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Air Quality Division (AQD), conducted an inspection of USM Acquisitions, LLC located at 7389 Costabella Road, Remus, Michigan. The purpose of this inspection was to determine USM Acquisition LLC's 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 the conditions of Renewable Operating Permit (ROP) number MI-ROP-N5101-2018.

During the inspection, staff observed the following:

Process Description	Rule/Permit Condition Violated	Comments
Emission Unit EU-CUTTING, which consists of equipment used to carve, cut and sand resin casts. Particulate matter emissions are controlled by an externally vented baghouse.	Rule 370; MI-ROP-N5101-2018, General Condition (GC) No. 9	Improper collection and disposal of an air contaminant.
	Rule 910; MI-ROP-N5101-2018, GC No. 10	Improper operation and maintenance of a control device.
	Rule 201	Failure to obtain a permit to install.

On January 8, 2019, AQD staff observed large amounts of white particulate matter (PM) outside on the ground adjacent to the "Dust Room" and covering the entire surface area of the interior of the "Dust Room." In addition, approximately five (5) large open bulk poly bags were filled with this material and left outside uncovered. This constitutes a violation of Rule 370 of the administrative rules promulgated under Act 451 and ROP No. MI-ROP-N5101-2018, GC No. 9, which requires the collection and disposal of an air contaminant to be performed in a manner so as to minimize the introduction of contaminants to the outer air.

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Also, the control equipment located inside the dust room did not appear to be properly maintained nor operated. The fabric filters were covered in PM and the collection bin door seals were either missing or damaged allowing PM to deposit inside the dust room, which is the same area that the fabric filters are exhausted to. This constitutes a violation of Rule 910 of the administrative rules promulgated under Act 451 and ROP No. MI-ROP-N5101-2018, GC No. 10, which requires that an air-cleaning device shall be installed, maintained, and operated in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with the administrative rules and existing law.

Additionally, USM Acquisition, LLC is operating EU-CUTTING under Rule 201 permitting exemption Rule 285(2)(l)(vi)(C), which requires externally vented emissions to be controlled by an appropriately designed and operated fabric filter collector. The lack of proper operation of the fabric filter baghouse does not allow the use of the Rule 285(2)(l)(vi)(C) exemption, resulting in a Rule 201 violation. Therefore, it was determined that USM Acquisition, LLC had installed and commenced operation of an unpermitted process, EU-CUTTING. The AQD staff advised Mr. Foster on February 1, 2019, that this is a violation of Rule 201 of the administrative rules promulgated under Act 451.

A program for compliance may include a completed PTI application for the EU-CUTTING process equipment. An application form is available by request, or at the following website: www.michigan.gov/deqair (in the shaded box on the upper right-hand side of the page).

Be advised that Rule 201 requires that a permit be obtained prior to installation, construction, operation, reconstruction, relocation, or alteration of any process or process equipment which may be a source of an air contaminant.

Please initiate actions necessary to correct the cited violations and submit a written response to this Violation Notice by March 6, 2019 (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.

Also, please provide a current listing of the chemical composition and weight percent of all materials used as required by the Source-Wide Special Condition (SC) VI.2 and FGPLASTICCOMP, SC VI.3 in ROP No. MI-ROP-N5101-2018.

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Please submit the written response to the DEQ, AQD, Grand Rapids District, at 350 Ottawa Avenue NW, Unit 10, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 and submit a copy to Ms. Jenine Camilleri, Enforcement Unit Supervisor at the DEQ, AQD, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7760.

If USM Acquisition, LLC 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 violations cited above and for the cooperation that was extended to me during my inspection of USM Acquisitions, LLC. 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,



Chris Robinson
Environmental Quality Analyst
Air Quality Division
616-356-0259

cc: Ms. Mary Ann Dolehanty, DEQ
Dr. Eduardo Olaguer, DEQ
Mr. Christopher Ethridge, DEQ
Ms. Jenine Camilleri, DEQ
Ms. Heidi Hollenbach, DEQ