



# Lakewood Wastewater Authority

839 Fourth Avenue ♦ Lake Odessa, MI 48849 ♦ Phone: (616) 374-3264 ♦ Fax: (616) 374-0040

September 22, 2014



VIA E-MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Eric Grinstern  
Environmental Quality Specialist  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality - Air Quality Division  
350 Ottawa Avenue, NW Unit 10  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2341

Re: Lakewood Waste Water Authority Response to the September 5, 2014 Michigan Department of Environmental Quality ("MDEQ"), Air Quality Division ("AQD") Violation Notice; SRN: P0541, Ionia County.

Dear Mr. Grinstern:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the above referenced Violation Notice concerning the Lakewood Wastewater Authority ("LWA"), Wastewater Treatment Plant ("WWTP") located at 13751 Harwood Road, Lake Odessa, Michigan. In particular, the Violation Notice alleges that the LWA had installed an emergency engine at the WWTP without first obtaining a permit to install ("PTI").

First, it should be noted that the LWA takes this matter very seriously and once it became aware of the requirement to obtain a PTI for the emergency engine, it took immediate action to submit a PTI application. In fact, the complete PTI application was submitted to the MDEQ on August 28<sup>th</sup>, prior to the issuance of the Violation Notice. As of this date, the LWA's application has been issued PTI number 130-14. It is also important for the MDEQ to understand that, although the Notice of Violation was issued to the LWA, the LWA contracted with Wolverine Engineers & Surveyors, Inc. ("Wolverine") to complete the emergency engine updates to the WWTP. As part of its contract with the LWA, Wolverine is responsible for obtaining all permits, licenses, and authorizations necessary to construct and complete the work. In turn, Wolverine worked with contractors, subcontractors, and the emergency engine manufacturer and none of these parties were aware of the requirement to obtain a PTI prior to initiating the work.

The LWA's responses to the other items requested by the MDEQ are included below:

1. Date the violation occurred: The following timeline provides additional information regarding when the violation occurred.
  - July 1, 2014 - Emergency engine was delivered to the WWTP and set in place.

- July 10, 2014 – Wiring to the step-up transformer for the emergency engine was completed (note that the step-up transformer is not currently connected to the transfer switch gear or any other equipment at the WWTP and the emergency engine is currently unable to provide electrical back-up to the plant until a changeover is scheduled with the utility).
  - August 4, 2014 - Emergency engine was fueled.
  - August 19, 2014 - the LWA was notified that the emergency engine required a PTI due to a heat input exceeding 10,000,000 BtU.
  - August 21, 2014 - the LWA and Wolverine spoke with you regarding the PTI process.
  - August 22, 2014 - the LWA submitted the initial PTI application to the MDEQ.
  - August 26, 2014 - the MDEQ notified the LWA that the PTI application was administratively incomplete.
  - August 28, 2014 – the LWA submitted a revised and complete PTI application to the MDEQ.
2. Cause and duration of the violation: The LWA worked with Wolverine, Clark Trombley Randers Consulting Engineers (“CTR”), the electrical engineering sub-contractor; DVT Electric, Inc., the electrical contractor; and Caterpillar, Inc., the emergency engine manufacturer, and none of these parties had any knowledge that a PTI was required. As noted above, the failure to obtain a permit was remedied when the LWA submitted its initial PTI application on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and the revised PTI application on August 28<sup>th</sup>.
  3. Whether the violation is ongoing: As noted above, the LWA submitted a complete PTI application on August 28<sup>th</sup> to the MDEQ and understands that the application is currently under review by the MDEQ permit engineer assigned to this matter, PTI number 130-14 has been issued, and a PTI is pending. Therefore, the violation has been remedied and is not ongoing.
  4. Actions taken and proposed to be taken to correct the violation: To correct the violation of a failure to obtain a PTI prior to installation, construction, reconstruction, relocation, or modification of the emergency engine at the WWTP, the LWA submitted a complete PTI application on August 28, 2014 and has been issued PTI application number 130-14. In addition, the LWA will not schedule a changeover with the utility to connect the step-up transformer to the transfer switch for the emergency engine and by doing so render it operational, until a PTI is issued by the MDEQ or until further notice from the MDEQ. Finally, the LWA does not plan to perform any additional work on or related to the emergency engine, until a PTI which

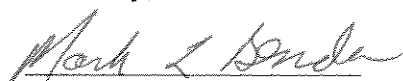
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authorizes such action is issued by the MDEQ.

The LWA reserves its right to amend or supplement these responses if warranted by any subsequently discovered information or changed circumstances.

I trust that this response demonstrates that the LWA has taken all measures necessary to remedy the violation. If you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Mark Bender, President  
Lakewood Wastewater Authority

cc: Mr. Doug Suntken, LWA- WWTP Superintendent  
Mr. Donald Heck, Wolverine  
Ms. Anna Maiuri, Dickinson Wright PLLC  
Ms. Heidi Hollenbach, DEQ  
Ms. Lynn Fiedler, DEQ  
Ms. Teresa Seidel, DEQ  
Mr. Thomas Hess, DEQ  
Ms. Chris Veldkamp, DEQ