



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

August 9, 2022

Dan VanMassenhove  
Decorative Panels International  
416 Ford Avenue  
Alpena, Michigan 49707

SRN: B1476, Alpena County

Dear Dan VanMassenhove:

**VIOLATION NOTICE**

On August 5, 2022, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Air Quality Division (AQD), conducted an inspection of Decorative Panel International (DPI) located at 416 Ford Avenue, Alpena, Michigan. The purpose of this inspection was to determine DPI'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; the conditions of Renewable Operating Permit (ROP) number MI-ROP-B1476-2015a; and to investigate recent complaints which we received regarding foul odors attributed to DPI's operations.

During the inspection, staff observed the following:

Process Description	Rule/Permit Condition Violated	Comments
Lagoon Odor	R 336.1901(b)	On August 5, 2022, AQD staff followed up on a series of complaints that were received concerning foul sewer and hot rotting cooked cabbage odors coming from this facility and were able to verify that these odors were a violation of Rule 901(b).
Sweet woody odor, burnt wood odor	R 336.1901(b)	On August 5, 2022, AQD staff followed up on complaints of sweet burnt wood odors coming from this facility and were able to verify that these odors were a violation of Rule 901(b).

In the professional judgment of AQD staff, the odors that were observed were of sufficient intensity, frequency and duration so as to constitute a violation of Rule 901 of the administrative rules promulgated under Act 451.

On August 5, 2022, around 11:42 am, AQD staff detected odors along Ford Avenue from Lake Street to East Spratt Street. The wind was out of the south at approximately 5 to 10 mph. The odors were impacting area residents. The odors observed were best described as sweet woody and burnt wood odors attributed to DPI's hardboard manufacturing process and were evaluated at a level 4 on the odor scale (distinct and definite objectionable odor).

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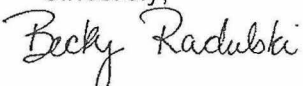
On August 5, 2022, around 11:45 am, AQD staff detected odors along Ford Avenue from East Spratt Street to East Bosley Street. The wind was out of the south at approximately 5 to 10 mph. The odors were impacting area residents and some commercial businesses. The odors observed at that time were best described as a very wet stale vegetation odor and were evaluated at a level 4 on the odor scale (odor strong enough to cause a person to attempt to avoid it completely). The AQD staff then proceeded through the North Gate to the north-east lagoon located on the east side of DPI. The lagoon had aerators in operation though some aerators were not operating while onsite. Odors on the downwind (north) side of the lagoon were best described as an overpowering wet stale vegetation odor identical to the odors observed off-site and were evaluated at a level 5 on the odor scale (odor so strong as to be overpowering and intolerable for any length of time). The AQD staff proceeded around the lagoon, and found no odors detected on the upwind (south) side of the lagoon.

The AQD is requesting that DPI take prompt action to address the odor issue. 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 14 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, Gaylord District, at 2100 West M-32, Gaylord, Michigan 49735 and submit a copy to Jenine Camilleri, Enforcement Unit Supervisor at EGLE, AQD, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7760.

If DPI 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 DPI. 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,  


Becky Radulski  
Senior Environmental Engineer  
Air Quality Division  
989-217-0051

cc: Mary Ann Dolehanty, EGLE  
Annette Switzer, EGLE  
Christopher Ethridge, EGLE  
Brad Myott, EGLE  
Jenine Camilleri, EGLE  
Shane Nixon, EGLE