



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

October 18, 2021

Mr. Dan Plant  
Metal Technologies, Inc.  
1401 West Auburn Drive  
Auburn, Indiana 46706

SRN: B2015, St. Joseph County

Dear Mr. Plant:

### **VIOLATION NOTICE**

On September 30, 2021, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Air Quality Division (AQD), conducted a complaint investigation of Metal Technologies, Inc. (Facility) located at 429 Fourth Street, Three Rivers, Michigan. The purpose of this investigation was to evaluate a recent complaint that EGLE, AQD received on September 30, 2021 regarding fallout damage to vehicles located at River Trail Apartments in Three Rivers, Michigan that was attributed to foundry operations.

On August 26, 2021, a complaint was made to the EPA alleging that Metal Technologies had caused pitting and rust damage to cars at an apartment complex located to the south-southwest of the Facility. The complaint was forwarded to EGLE AQD on September 30, 2021. During the on-site investigation, staff observed orange pitted specks that did not rub off and you could feel the indentation in the chrome. This is the same damage to vehicles that has been attributed to the foundry in previous complaints. Staff took photos of the of two vehicles belonging to the complainant.

Records were obtained from the facility as part of the investigation. Records showed that an alarm occurred in the West Dustar baghouse on August 13, 2021 at 12:00pm which lasted until 12:30pm and could not be attributed to weather. The line was shut down and a visolite investigation was performed which revealed two broken bags, which were replaced. According to historical weather data, the wind direction during the malfunction was not in the correct direction to cause the damage noted.

As a result of the broken bags, the facility hired a contractor to do a full bag replacement on the West Dustar baghouse, which was completed on Saturday August 14, 2021. The used bags were placed in an open top dumpster and picked up on Monday for disposal. Between the time the bags were placed in the dumpster and when it was picked up, the wind was gusting out of the north-northeast, which is the correct direction to cause the damage. It is believed that the damage was caused because the replaced bags were stored, uncovered, over the weekend.

The facility provided records documenting the morning and afternoon visible emissions readings from the facility for the weeks of August 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>. No abnormal visible

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emissions were seen coming from the facility during any of the above noted time periods.

Based on the vehicle paint finish damage at the complainant's residence and wind direction and speed coinciding with exposed baghouse bags and the paint damage observed, AQD is citing the following violation:

<b>Process Description</b>	<b>Rule/Permit Condition Violated</b>	<b>Comments</b>
FGWDUSTAR - Sand system conveyors, mullers, didion and flat deck, and vibratory shakeout unit for sand separation	Rule901(b)/MI-ROP-B2015-2019, Part A, General Condition No. 12.b  Consent Order AQD No. 2018-20, Paragraph 9.A.	Fallout associated with the FGWDUSTAR West Dustar baghouse damaged the paint finish on the complainant's vehicle causing an unreasonable interference with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property.

The cited Rule 901(b) in MI-ROP-B2105-2019 is also enforceable as paragraph 9.A of Consent Order, AQD number 2018-20.

Please initiate actions necessary to correct the cited violation and submit a written response to this Violation Notice by November 8, 2021 (which coincides with 21 calendar days from the date of this letter). The written response should include: the dates the violation occurred; an explanation of the causes and duration of the violation; whether the violation is ongoing; a summary of the actions that have been taken and are proposed to be taken to correct the violation 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, Kalamazoo District, at 7953 Adobe Road, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009 and submit a copy to Ms. Jenine Camilleri, Enforcement Unit Supervisor at EGLE, AQD, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7760.

If the Facility 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 violation cited above and for the cooperation that was extended to me during my complaint response investigation. If you have any questions regarding the violation or the actions necessary to bring this facility into compliance, please contact me at the number listed below.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark red ink that reads "Amanda Chapel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda Chapel  
Senior Environmental Quality Analyst  
Air Quality Division  
(269)910-2109

cc:

Ms. Mary Ann Dolehanty, EGLE  
Dr. Eduardo Olaguer, EGLE  
Ms. Jenine Camilleri, EGLE  
Mr. Christopher Ethridge, EGLE  
Mr. Rex Lane, EGLE