

May 28, 2024

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Mr. Ben Witkopp  
EGLE-Air Quality Division  
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Bay City, MI 48708

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Ms. Jenine Camilleri  
EGLE-Air Quality Division  
Enforcement Unit Supervisor  
P.O. Box 30260  
Lansing, MI 48909-7760

Subject: Response to VN 20240507 Dated May 07, 2024  
MI-ROP-B2876-2019a  
Michigan Sugar Company – Croswell Factory, B2876

Dear Ben/Jenine:

Michigan Sugar Company (MSC) respectfully submits this response to the May 07, 2024 Violation Notice (VN) issued by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). In that VN, EGLE alleged a violation of Rule 901 and MI ROP-B2876-2019a General Condition 12 based on alleged odors downwind of various disposal ponds located south as well as southwest of the factory.

The VN states: *"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 ("the Act") and General Condition 12 of ROP number MI-ROP-B2876-2019a."*

The MSC Croswell Factory's sugar beet processing campaign has ended for the 2023-2024 campaign. When the campaign ends, the wastewater ponds are at or near capacity from the campaign activities. At this point of the year, the facility is generally more susceptible to potential odor issues.

At the close of the campaign, the factory concentrates on reducing the wastewater pond volumes to ready the factory for the start of the next sugar beet processing campaign. MSC also uses the opportunity to process and remove residuals from the ponds. The factory is currently conducting post-campaign pond cleanout activities. The warm spring weather also increases biological activity in the wastewater system, which may contribute to wastewater-related odors.

MSC believes that the observed odors are episodic in nature and related to the transitional phase of the ponds after completion of the campaign. By continuing to process the pond water and removing unwanted pond residuals, the company believes that it is taking the appropriate steps to minimize the risks of potential Rule 901 events.

AQD  
MSC-Croswell RVN  
Page 2

If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Meaghan Martuch".

Meaghan Martuch  
Air Compliance Manager  
Michigan Sugar Company  
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