



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

November 20, 2023

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Brian Blakely, General Manager
Mersen USA GS Corp. - Bay City
900 Harrison Street
Bay City, Michigan 48708

SRN: M0705, Bay County

Dear Brian Blakely:

VIOLATION NOTICE

On November 3, 2023, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Air Quality Division (AQD), conducted an inspection of Mersen USA GS Corp. – Bay City (Mersen) located at 900 Harrison Street, Bay City, Michigan. The purpose of this inspection was to determine Mersen’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 Permit to Install (PTI) number 7-05H.

During the inspection, staff observed the following:

Process Description	Rule/Permit Condition Violated	Comments
FG-PurifFurnaces	R 336.1910, Special conditions (SC) III.1 and III.3	pH of scrubber below 8.0
FG-PurifFurnaces	R 336.1910, SC III.1 and III.3	Dual column F1Scrubber pH alarm turned off and pH below PTI required minimum of 8.0 pH

During the November 3, 2023, inspection the AQD staff observed operation of graphite purification furnaces venting to the dual column F1Scrubber while the basicity was below 8.0. This pH level is operating out of the PTI allowed minimum pH range. The pH alarm for the unit had also been turned off.

This constitutes a violation of Rule 910 of the administrative rules promulgated under Act 451, 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.

AQD staff observed that the FG-PurifFurnaces F1Scrubber pH had returned to a pH of greater than 8.0 during the on-site inspection. At the time, it was believed that a pump

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associated with the scrubber had malfunctioned. No explanation for the pH alarm status being off was provided. Mersen staff review of records indicate the pH was above 8.0 during prior hourly checks on November 3, 2023.

Please initiate actions necessary to correct the cited violation and submit a written response to this Violation Notice by December 11, 2023 (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 Kathy Brewer at EGLE, AQD, Bay City District, at 401 Ketchum Street, Suite B, Bay City, Michigan 48708 or brewerk@michigan.gov and submit a copy to Jenine Camilleri, Enforcement Unit Supervisor at EGLE, AQD, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7760.

If Mersen 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 inspection of Mersen. 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.

Sincerely,



Kathy Brewer
Senior Environmental Quality Analyst
Air Quality Division
989-439-2100

cc: Taylor Neid, Mersen
Annette Switzer, EGLE
Christopher Ethridge, EGLE
Brad Myott, EGLE
Jenine Camilleri, EGLE
Chris Hare, EGLE