



**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

July 12, 2018

Todd Zynda, Senior Environmental Engineer  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Air Quality Division  
3058 W. Grand Boulevard  
Suite 2300  
Detroit, MI 48202

**RE: Detroit Renewable Power – Response to Violation Notices dated May 22 and June 21, 22 and 25, 2018 for Alleged Odors on May 18 and June 9, 10, 11, 15, 21 and 24, 2018**

Dear Mr. Zynda:

This correspondence is Detroit Renewable Power's (DRP) response to the Violation Notices (VNs) dated May 22 and June 21, 22 and 25, 2018 regarding odors allegedly emanating from DRP's operation in violation of ROP No. MI-ROP-M4148-2011a, A. General Conditions, 12(b) and R336.1901(b) on May 18 and June 9, 10, 11, 15, 21 and 24, 2018. According to the VNs, inspections conducted by MDEQ-AQD in response to complaints reportedly found moderate to strong, consistent garbage odors in residential areas downwind of DRP's facility.

DRP takes odor management very seriously and remains diligent in operating its facility according to the Consent Judgment (CJ) issued on October 20, 2014. As you know, the CJ requires DRP to have an Odor Management Plan (OMP) which requires review and recordkeeping of odor abatement activities on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. These practices are intended to ensure conformance with the OMP to mitigate odors from the facility.

On each of the dates in question (May 18 and June 9, 10, 11, 15, 21 and 24, 2018) the daily inspections found the municipal solid waste conveyors were operating properly; the doors were closed at the alleyway, the tipping floors, and the MSW receiving areas during non-receiving hours. Daily inspections also found the odor spray system to be working correctly at the tipping floor roof, the refuse derived fuel (RDF) area, the alleyway door, the north alley door, the south alley door, the municipal solid waste (MSW) pile, the east tipping floor, the west tipping floor, and the stack systems. In addition, the MSW roof fans were working properly and the area was

swept with the sweeper truck. In summary, all appropriate odor management practices were followed on the dates in question.

Thank you for providing your Activity Report for the May 18 compliant investigation at the request of Mark Fletcher, the new director of environment, health and safety for DRP. This is helpful information to assist DRP in understanding the concerns that were raised in the May 22, 2018 VN. Regrettably, you were not able to provide copies of the Activity Reports for June 9, 10, 11, 15, 21 and 24 despite requests from Mark Fletcher and Lee Johnson and you directed us to submit a Freedom of Information Act request for that information. Although a FOIA request has been submitted, the Activity Reports are not available to us in time to respond timely to the June 21 VN. Therefore, we do not have the benefit of understanding exactly what information has been relied upon in issuing the June 21, 22 and 25 VNs.

However, independent odor surveys were conducted by DRP employees on June 9, 10, 11 and 15, 2018 (see attached). During these surveys, “garbage” type odors were generally not observed downwind of DRP other than an occasional “Level 1” odor (just barely detectable). A Level 2 odor was detected just at the main gate to DRP, which is a public street and not a point of compliance. More commonly, “fish,” “rubber” or “chemical” odors not associated with DRP activities were observed by DRP’s investigators. On June 9, in particular, DRP interviewed several residents who verified that they had not been troubled by odors.

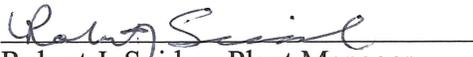
DRP reviewed records for the dates of alleged violation and did not find any issues of nonconformance. DRP’s own independent odor investigations on June 9, 10, 11 and 15 did not confirm any nuisance level odors attributable to DRP. Moreover, MDEQ has so far not provided any substantiation for the allegations in the June 21, 22 and 25 VNs. Accordingly, DRP does not agree that nuisance odors attributable to DRP’s operation of sufficient intensity, frequency and duration to constitute a violation of Rule 901 were occurring on these occasions.

DRP appreciates MDEQ’s assistance in its ongoing efforts to minimize odor impact. In order to enable DRP to respond most effectively to odor concerns, we ask that MDEQ notify Mark Fletcher, Director of EHS at 313.963.0749 and [mfletcher@detroitrenewable.com](mailto:mfletcher@detroitrenewable.com) as soon as possible with all essential details when any odor complaint potentially relating to DRP is received. This will allow DRP to immediately investigate and potentially respond to the complaint and report the results back to MDEQ. Also, please provide us with any field notes or reports concerning the investigations to aid in our review of these concerns.

If you have questions concerning this response, please feel free to contact Mark Fletcher at the phone number above.

Sincerely,

Detroit Renewable Power

  
Robert J. Suida – Plant Manager

Cc: Paul Max, City of Detroit, BSEED  
John Leone, MDAG  
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