



April 12, 2017

Ms. Gina McCann
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Air Quality Division
Saginaw Bay District Office
401 Ketchum Street, Suite B
Bay City, MI 48708

SUBJECT: Violation Notice Response
Midland Sanitary Landfill, Midland County
SRN: N6004, Midland County

Dear Ms. McCann:

This letter has been prepared in response to the Violation Notice sent to the City of Midland – Utilities Division (CML) dated March 22, 2017. Included in the letter were two separate (but related) violations resulting from a routine quarterly surface emissions monitoring event conducted on May 8, 2015. Specifically, CML was cited for:

1. Lack of reporting or re-monitoring a methane reading of 17,000 ppm documented during a surface emissions monitoring event, and
2. Not reporting the methane reading as an exceedance in the semi-annual and annual air compliance reports covering this period.

In accordance with 40 CFR 60.755(c), CML contracted with CTI and Associates, Inc. (CTI) to complete quarterly surface emissions monitoring on May 8, 2015 along the perimeter of the gas collection area and following a pattern that traverses the landfill at 30-meter intervals. As noted in your letter, the purpose of this monitoring is to verify cover integrity and methane capture efficiency of the gas collection and control system.

During that event, CTI noted an area of apparent missing vegetation approximately 10 meters from the surface emissions walking path being traversed by the technician. In accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR 60.753(d) the condition was investigated to determine whether it was indicative of a cover integrity issue. Upon investigation, it was discovered that what had originally appeared as missing vegetation was actually a damaged steel leachate manhole cover flush with the surrounding ground surface and obscured with sediment. Elevated methane detections were noted as a direct result of the damaged manhole lid and associated vapors from the leachate collection system. This observation was reported to Mr. Scott O’Laughlin, the City of Midland Landfill Superintendent on May 8, 2015. Appropriate repairs to the structure were made by May 15, 2015.

At the time of the observation, it was assessed that emissions resulting from a hole in a steel manhole associated with the leachate collection system are not part of the landfill cover system. The CML respectfully asserts that vapors originating directly from the interior of leachate manholes are not subject

to the requirements of the surface emissions monitoring program as manholes are not part of the cover system of the landfill. As such, we do not believe reporting the exceedance was required. In a good faith effort to provide total transparency, the evaluation into the apparent missing vegetation was described and documented in the written surface emissions report provided to the DEQ via email on June 25, 2015. A second copy of the report was subsequently provided to the MDEQ on February 1, 2017 with additional follow up on February 10, 2017.

The CML believes that the issue does not constitute a violation, was responsibly addressed within a reasonable period of time, communicated in writing to appropriate MDEQ authorities, and the occurrence did not involve integrity of the cover system. We do, however, look forward to working with you going forward to establish additional levels of communication to ensure that we are working collaboratively on matters such as this which are not specifically addressed in rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott O'Laughlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "O".

Scott O'Laughlin
City of Midland Landfill Superintendent

CC: Joseph Sova, City of Midland
James Branson, City of Midland
Erin Berish, CTI and Associates, Inc.
Paul M. Collins, Miller Canfield