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Air Quality Division
Warren Office

January 8, 2024

Mr. Iranna Konanahalli
Senior Environmental Engineer
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy
27700 Donald Court
Warren, MI 48092

N6207
Man

Re: Response to Violation Notice
Blue Water Renewables, Inc. (SRN: N6207)
6797 Smiths Creek Road, Smiths Creek, MI
St. Clair County
MI-ROP-N6207-2018 Section 2

Dear Mr. Konanahalli:

N6207-RVN-20240108

Blue Water Renewables, Inc. (Blue Water) hereby submits its response to the Violation Notice dated December 19, 2023 (VN). The details of Blue Water's response, as detailed herein, are solely limited to the alleged violations for the Blue Water Renewable Energy Plant (Blue Water Plant) as detailed in Table 2 of the VN.

On October 10 and 18, 2023, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Air Quality Division (AQD), conducted an inspection of Smiths Creek Landfill (SCL) located at 6779 Smiths Creek Road, Smiths Creek (Kimball), Michigan. During the October 18, 2023 visit, the Blue Water Plant was visited and handheld air monitoring was performed by EGLE AQD staff. EGLE staff indicated a permit condition violation as outlined below:

Table 2: Violation for Blue Water Renewable Energy Plant
(Section 2 of ROP No. MI-ROP-N6207-2018)

Rule/Permit Condition Violated	Comments
40 CFR 63.1959(b)(2)(iii)	Collected landfill gas sent to a control system that does not comply with the federal standard. Landfill gas condensate is being vented to atmosphere which is creating foul odors.
40 CFR 63.1959(b)(2)(iii)(D)	

Blue Water believes this alleged violation to be in error. The area identified by EGLE staff was subsequently discussed with Mr. Konanahalli on November 14 and 15, 2023 and it was explained that the vent was not for landfill gas condensate. Rather, the line identified is a drain line off the bottom of the engine exhaust silencer. This line is used to drain water out of the engine exhaust silencer on a periodic basis. Water collects in the silencer from rain as well as moisture condensing out of the engine exhaust as it cools.

40 CFR 63.1959(b)(2)(iii) and 40 CFR 63.1959(b)(2)(iii)(D) (Rules) apply to the control of landfill gas and venting of landfill gas condensate systems. The equipment identified in the VN does not utilize, nor contain any landfill gas or landfill gas condensate. As such, these Rules do not apply to the equipment and are cited in error in the VN. Accordingly, Blue Water hereby requests that EGLE withdraw this portion of the VN.

Blue Water takes compliance with environmental regulations very seriously. Please contact Maureen Bennett at either maureen.bennett@dteenergy.com or 313-548-8754 if you have any questions regarding this issue. We look forward to collaboratively working with EGLE to resolve this matter.

Sincerely,

BLUE WATER RENEWABLES, INC.

Douglas W Ayers

Douglas Ayers
Director of Operations

1/8/24

cc: Jenine Camilleri, EGLE
Kevin Dobson, DTE Vantage
Maureen Bennett, DTE Vantage
Charles McNew, DTE Vantage
Jeff Neumann, Blue Water Renewables, Inc.
Nick Diedrich, DTE Vantage
Justin Vandeputte, DTE Vantage