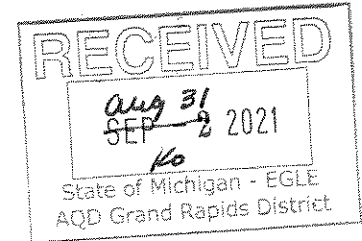


August 27, 2021



VIA EMAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Ms. Kaitlyn DeVries
 Senior Environmental Quality Analyst
 Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (“EGLE”)
 Air Quality Division (“AQD”)
 Grand Rapids District
 350 Ottawa Avenue NW, Unit 10
 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Re: Generate Fremont Digester, LLC (“GFD”) Response to EGLE AQD
 August 6, 2021 Violation Notice

Dear Ms. DeVries :

We are providing this letter on behalf of our client, GFD. On August 6, 2021, EGLE AQD issued a Violation Notice (“VN”) alleging the following violations of Permit to Install (PTI) No. 378-08B at the GFD facility in Fremont, Michigan (SRN: N8210):

Process Description	Rule/Permit Condition Violated	Comments
FGBIOGAS	PTI No. 378-08B, FGBIOGAS, Special Condition (SC) II.2	Exceedance of the H ₂ S material limit.
FGICENGINES	PTI No. 378-08B, FGICENGINES, SC V.2	Failure to verify SO ₂ emission rates from each engine in FGICENGINES within 180 days after issuance of the permit.

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The VN notes that “since testing is scheduled for August 19, 2021, the response for the failure to conduct required testing has been satisfied.” However, as discussed between yourself and Mr. Leon Scott last week, the testing is being rescheduled due to a mechanical issue with the engines that needs resolution before testing can be done. Mr. Scott is working on rescheduling the testing and will let EGLE know as soon as a date is confirmed. Consequently, this written response focuses on the alleged violation of FG BIOGAS, SC II.2.

FG BIOGAS – Causes, Duration, and Corrective Actions

As part of its commitment to operate the Fremont facility in compliance with PTI No. 378-08B and applicable air quality regulations, GFD implements a Preventative Maintenance/Malfunction Abatement Plan that includes, among other measures, routine inspection of the digesters, desulfurization system, and biogas transfer systems. Also included is checking that pressure and oxygen levels are within acceptable ranges. In addition, sampling of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) concentration levels in the biogas is conducted a minimum of three times per week.

Upon identification of an operating condition outside of the acceptable range, equipment not operating in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations, or biogas H₂S concentration levels approaching the permit-allowable limit, GFD immediately implements corrective measures to bring the equipment back into proper operating condition and/or to lower H₂S concentration levels. Because the primary biogas-generating process is anaerobic digestion, the rate of biogas generation and resultant H₂S concentration levels are dependent upon many variables, including the type and amount of feed material currently in the digester. Therefore, it is often not possible to immediately reduce H₂S concentration levels during periods of corrective action (i.e., the H₂S levels decrease at a rate dependent on many factors).

On three occasions, GFD’s inspection activities observed process operating conditions that resulted in a total of seven H₂S concentrations above the permit-allowable limit of 1,730 ppmv, as noted in the VN. The date of occurrence, resultant H₂S concentration, root cause and duration of high concentrations, and corrective actions implemented by GFD to maintain compliance with the permit-allowable limit are described in the attached table (see Enclosure 1). As shown by the corrective actions implemented, GFD quickly responded to operational and/or malfunction situations that could lead to high emission levels or adverse air quality impacts.

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Because GFD is committed to regulatory compliance, GFD hired Barr Engineering to assist in evaluating air emissions and assisting in providing solutions to site issues. Barr established that although H₂S concentrations in the biogas were measured above the 1,730 ppmv limit, the amount of biogas actually generated during this period was much lower than the amount used to establish the sulfur dioxide (SO₂) hourly emission limit in PTI No. 378-08B. *Therefore, at no time did actual SO₂ emissions from the Fremont facility exceed the permit-allowable emission limit of 6.11 pounds per hour* (the permit does not limit hourly H₂S emissions). Calculations showing actual hourly SO₂ emissions during the time periods referenced in the VN are attached (see Enclosure 2).

Note that the permit-allowable SO₂ emission limit was established to be protective of the national ambient air quality standards (“NAAQS”), based on dispersion modeling analyses conducted as part of the application supporting issuance of the PTI. Therefore, since actual hourly SO₂ emissions during the periods referenced in the VN were less than the permit-allowable limit, at no time did off-site SO₂ concentrations exceed the NAAQS. Further, at no time during the periods referenced in the VN did GFD or AQD receive a complaint of off-site odors from the Fremont facility.

GFD is committed to maintaining regulatory compliance. GFD appreciates the positive working relationship it has with you and other EGLE personnel. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Dan Meccariello, Operations Manager, GFD at (262) 258 8367.

Very truly yours,

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC



By: _____

Anna M. Maiuri

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Enclosures

CC: Mr. Floriano Ferreira, GFD
Mr. Dan Meccariello, GFD
Ms. Sarie Lovell, GFD
Mr. Leon Scott, GFD
Ms. Mary Ann Dolehanty, EGLE
Dr. Eduardo Olaguer, EGLE
Ms. Jenine Camilleri, EGLE
Mr. Christopher Ethridge, EGLE
Ms. Heidi Hollenbach, EGLE

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