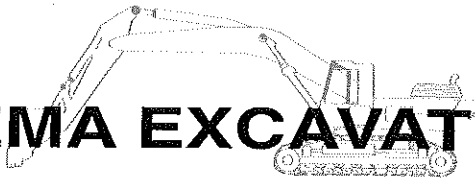


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# BALKEMA EXCAVATING, INC.

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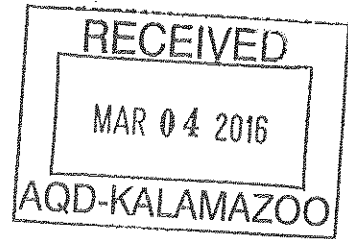
## DEVELOPMENT AND UNDERGROUND CONTRACTORS

1500 RIVER STREET  
PHONE (269) 345-5289

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49048  
FAX (269) 345-1137

March 2, 2016

Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Attn: Matt Deskins  
Environmental Quality Analyst  
Air Quality Division  
7953 Adobe Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009



**RE: Revised Violation Notice, SRN: U39090291, Kalamazoo County.**

Dear Mr. Deskins,

Please allow this letter to serve as Balkema Excavating, Inc.'s (Balkema's) response to the above-referenced Revised Violation Notice. The incident occurred on February 3, 2016, as Balkema was burning trees and brush as part of a land clearing project. Balkema had notified the local township officials and fire department prior to commencing the burning. The burning took place without incident beginning on or about January 18, 2016.

At approximately 2:00 PM on February 3, a nearby resident called the local landfill office to ask how much longer the burning would be going on. She stated that she was able to smell the wood burning. The resident called the landfill because she mistakenly assumed the landfill was conducting the burning; it was not.

However, a landfill representative, per his usual practice in responding to any concerns or complaints, went immediately to the resident's house to investigate the situation. After speaking with her, the landfill representative realized that Balkema was conducting the burning that triggered the resident's call. Apparently, the direction of the wind had shifted and the smoke began to cause issues. The landfill representative reported the problem to the appropriate Balkema personnel, who took prompt action.

The local fire department was contacted at approximately 3:00 PM on February 3. By 4:00 PM, the fire had been extinguished. Balkema has not resumed burning on this property, nor does it intend to. The appropriate Balkema personnel have been spoken to by management and will

not conduct burning on this property again without a plan and procedures in place to monitor wind direction and smother the fire as necessary to prevent nuisance conditions. It is Balkema's hope that this response resolves the alleged violation. Should you have any questions, please contact me at the number above. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Balkema". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Dan Balkema  
President