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September 8, 2014

Mr. Glen Erickson
Department of Environmental Quality
301 East Louis Glick Highway
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Sent Via: Certified Mail



Dear Mr. Erickson,

This letter is in response to the letter AAATA (Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority) received from the DEQ dated August 21, 2014 pertaining to the violation of Rule 901 which occurred during the routine cleaning of our oil-water separator tanks on August 14, 2014 during the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.

As you are aware AAATA has been working on taking preventative measures to help control the odor problem during the cleaning process of the oil-water separator tanks. These steps have included changing the frequency of the service, adding pool chemicals to treat the water as well as using a scented air mist spray which had been recommended by DTE to help reduce or eliminate the odor problem. In addition to these preventative measures prior to the cleaning of the tanks AAATA has made every effort possible to contact neighboring businesses, DTE, the fire Department and residents by notifying them of when we would be doing the cleaning in an attempt to minimize concerns, emergency calls, or problems.

To date, I would agree AAATA has been unsuccessful in its attempts to manage this problem on its own and it is now time to seek the assistance of some professional services from which specialize in this area in order to help find a suitable solution.

Our purchasing process for these types of services requires us to follow FTA (Federal Transit Administration) guidelines and we must issue an RFP (Request for Proposals). The process includes developing the specifications, issuing the RFP, 20 business day of advertising to provide firms a reasonable time to respond, evaluation of the bids received and awarding a contract for the services. We are currently in the process of preparing specifications for the RFP to engage an environmental engineering firm that will assist us in rectifying this problem. I will work closely with our purchasing department to move this process forward as soon as possible. I will keep you posted on the progress we make and will contact you with our proposed approach how best to handle this situation for your feedback.

Department of Environmental Quality

Page 2.

Much like the DEQ, AAATA would like to find a suitable solution to this problem. Our next scheduled cleaning will be early December. Prior to this cleaning we will put every effort possible into finding a remedy to the problem which addresses the issues and satisfies everyone. In the meantime we will also contact the neighboring businesses and let them know we are working to find a remedy to the problem to prevent any further disruptions to their business.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry D Black". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Terry D Black
Manager of Maintenance