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# REGIONAL AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

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RAPCA

January 16, 2008

**Certified Mail**

Mr. Phillip Custer

Project Engineer

Springfield Gas Company, Inc.

419 Englewood Drive

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION - Non HPV**

**Summary:**

On May 30, 2007, the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) performed a full compliance inspection at the Springfield Gas Company Inc. (SGC). Permit to Install 08-04217 for emissions unit F001, Landfill Gas Active Collection System and Enclosed Flare, was modified on January 9, 2007. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine whether Springfield Gas was operating emissions unit F001 in compliance with PTI 08-04217 and all applicable rules. The following violations of PTI 08-04217 for emissions unit F001 were documented during the inspection: (1) failure to operate the enclosed flare at the minimum required temperature, (2) failure to maintain the wellheads under required operating parameters, (3) failure to measure and record the percent methane sent to the enclosed flare, (4) failure to submit timely quarterly and annual compliance reports, and (5) failure to submit a timely synthetic minor fee emissions report (SMFER) for 2006. Enforcement orders may be issued in the future to resolve these violations.

Dear Mr. Custer:

The Springfield Gas Company (Ohio EPA facility 0812710566) owns and operates emissions unit F001, Landfill Gas Active Collection System and Enclosed Flare, at the Tremont City Landfill. Springfield Gas is a gas-to-energy project that recovers landfill gas from Tremont City Landfill to sell for use as boiler fuel. Permit to Install 08-04217 was issued to Springfield Gas on August 16, 2001 for the installation of emissions unit F001 and was modified on January 9, 2007. The Permit to Operate (PTO) for F001 was issued on February 5, 2007. On May 30, 2007, RAPCA performed a full compliance inspection at SGC to determine compliance with all

applicable emissions limits and regulations. During the compliance inspection, RAPCA determined that SGC failed to operate the enclosed flare at the minimum required temperature, failed to maintain the wellheads under required operating parameters, failed to measure and record the percent methane sent to the enclosed flare, failed to submit quarterly and annual compliance reports, and failed to submit the SMFER for 2006.

**I. Failure to maintain minimum required temperature of the enclosed flare**

Pursuant to term B.5 of PTI 08-04217, the "permittee shall maintain an average combustion temperature for the enclosed flare as determined during the most recent stack test that demonstrated compliance." The minimum average combustion temperature for the enclosed flare as determined during the July 14-15, 2005 stack test is 1622 degrees Fahrenheit. A review of the enclosed flare monitoring records during the May 30, 2007 inspection indicated that in 2006 and 2007, SGC operated the flare at less than 1622 degrees Fahrenheit. The operator of SGC, Sean Williams, confirmed that the enclosed flare operated at less than 1622 degrees Fahrenheit while landfill gas was flowing to the enclosed flare. The operation of the enclosed flare below the combustion temperature, as determined during the July 2005 stack test, is a violation of the terms and conditions of PTI 08-04217 and Ohio Revised Code (RC) 3704.05.

**II. Failure to maintain wellheads under required operating parameters**

Pursuant to term B.2 of PTI 08-04217, the "permittee shall operate the active collection system with a negative pressure at each wellhead..." Pursuant to term B.3 of PTI 08-04217, the "permittee shall operate each interior wellhead in the collection system with a landfill gas temperature less than 55 degrees Celsius and with either a nitrogen level less than 20% or an oxygen level less than 5%." SGC is monitoring the oxygen level to fulfill this requirement. The permittee may establish other operating parameters with regards to the pressure and oxygen level with supporting data. During the May 30, 2007 compliance inspection, RAPCA determined that SGC operates numerous wellheads at positive pressure and at an oxygen level greater than 5%. This is also documented in the 2006 first and second quarterly deviation reports submitted by SGC. To date, SGC has not requested alternative operating parameters or submitted supporting data to indicate that other operating parameters are warranted. Failure to maintain the minimum required operating parameters of the wellheads is a violation of the terms and conditions of PTI 08-04217 and ORC 3704.05.

**III. Failure to measure and record the percent methane**

Pursuant to term C.4 of PTI 08-04217, the permittee shall install a "methane measuring device that provides a measure of the percent methane by volume at the fuel inlet to the flare and shall be read and recorded every 15 minutes." During the May 30, 2007, compliance inspection, SGC had no records documenting the percent methane at the fuel inlet to the enclosed flare had been recorded. Failure to monitor and record the percent methane at the fuel inlet to the enclosed flare is a violation of the terms and conditions of PTI 08-04217 and ORC 3704.05.

**IV. Failure to submit timely quarterly and annual reports**

Pursuant to D.1 of PTI 08-04217, the permittee shall submit quarterly deviation (excursion) reports identifying:

- a. any exceedance of the rolling, 365-day landfill gas usage restriction of 321.3 million standard cubic feet;
- b. any exceedance of the rolling, 365-day CO emission limit of 60.24 tons;
- c. any exceedance of the cumulative, landfill gas usage restriction for each month of operation during the first 12 calendar months of operation following the issuance of the permit to install;
- d. any periods of time during which the average combustion temperature of the enclosed flare is less than the average temperature recorded during the most recent stack test;
- e. any periods of time during which the generation rate exceeded the demand and the enclosed flare did not operate;
- f. any period when the total gas extraction flow rate is greater than 1500 dscf/min, and the actual flow rate; and
- g. the downtime for the enclosed flare and monitoring equipment when the collection and flare system was in operation.

Pursuant to D.2, the permittee shall submit an annual report that specifies:

- a. the total landfill gas usage, in mm scf;
- b. the rolling, 365-day CO emissions, in tons, for the previous calendar year;
- c. all periods when the collection system and the enclosed flare were not operating in excess of 5 days;
- d. any record indicating the date of installation and the location of each well head or collection system expansion added;
- e. any record which indicates that the gauge pressure in the gas collection header at each individual well was positive;
- f. any record which indicates that the nitrogen or oxygen concentration in the landfill was greater than 20% or 5%, respectively;
- g. any record which indicates that the temperature of the landfill gas was greater than 55 degrees Celsius (131 degrees Fahrenheit); and
- h. any record which indicates that the surface concentration of methane was greater than 500 parts per million above background.

On November 13, 2007, RAPCA received the quarterly reports for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2006 through the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2007 and the annual report for 2006. The quarterly reports did not identify any periods of time during which the average combustion temperature of the enclosed flare is less than 1622 degrees Fahrenheit. The annual report incorrectly stated there were no positive well head pressure readings and did not include information pertaining to the nitrogen or oxygen concentration in the landfill. Failure to submit the quarterly and annual reports by the due dates and failure to submit accurate and correct reports is a violation of the terms and conditions of PTI 08-04217 and ORC 3704.05.

#### **V. Failure to submit a timely Synthetic Minor Fee Emission Report**

Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 3745-78 and ORC 3745.11, SGC is required to submit a SMFER based upon the actual annual emissions from the facility. The fee emission report for 2006 was due by April 15, 2007. On February 26, 2007, Ohio EPA sent the SMFER

SGC

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reminder letter and forms to SGC. On September 7, 2007, Ohio EPA issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to SGC for failure to submit the 2006 SMFER. This letter was refused. On August 30, 2007, Elisa Thomas with Ohio EPA left a voice mail message and sent an email to you. On November 13, 2007, RAPCA received the 2006 SMFER. Failure to submit the SMFER by the due date is a violation of OAC rule 3745-78 and ORC 3745.11.

The violations listed above were also included in a Warning Letter (WL) issued to SGC on August 22, 2007. This WL required SGC to submit a compliance plan addressing the violations within 30 days of receipt of the WL. The WL was received by SGC on August 24, 2007 and therefore the compliance plan was to be submitted to RAPCA by September 25, 2007. On November 13, 2007, RAPCA received the delinquent reports identified in the WL. However, SGC has, to date, not submitted a compliance plan addressing the operating parameter and recordkeeping violations identified in the WL.

In response to the violations listed in this NOV, RAPCA requires that Springfield Gas submit a compliance plan and schedule to bring emissions unit F001 into compliance with all applicable air pollution control regulations. At a minimum, the compliance plan shall include operating the flare at the required minimum temperature and performing all parametric monitoring, record keeping, and reporting as required by PTI 08-04217.

The compliance plan and schedule for emissions unit F001 shall be submitted within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. Acceptance of the compliance plan and schedule by RAPCA does not constitute a waiver of the Ohio EPA's and RAPCA's authority to seek civil penalties as provided in section 3704.06 and 3707.49 of the Ohio Revised Code. The determination whether to pursue such penalties will be made by Ohio EPA and RAPCA at a later date.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Eileen Moran at (937) 225-4004 or me at (937) 496-7540.

Sincerely,



Jennifer S. Marsee  
Supervisor, Abatement Unit  
Regional Air Pollution Control Agency

cc: John Paul, RAPCA  
Jefferis Canan, RAPCA  
Michael Matis, MCCHD  
Lisa Holscher, USEPA  
Tom Kalman, OEPA

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 419 ENGLEWOOD DRIVE  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15237

PS Form 3811, June 2002 See Reverse for Instructions

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<p>1. Article Addressed to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MR PHILLIP CUSTER          SPRINGFIELD GAS CO          419 ENGLEWOOD DRIVE          PITTSBURGH, PA 15237</p>	<p>3. Service Type  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail    <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail  <input type="checkbox"/> Registered        <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise  <input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail       <input type="checkbox"/> C.O.D.</p>
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