



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northwest District Office

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Ted Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor
Chris Korleski, Director

August 21, 2008

Certified Mail

Mr. Joe Clark, Corporate Director- Environmental, Safety and Health
Bridgestone APM
P O Box 1505
1800 Industrial Dr.
Findlay, OH 45839

Re: Notice of Violation (NOV) to Bridgestone APM-FPD (0388010051) based on 2004 modification of polyurethane foam seat lines #1 and #2 with response due by September 19, 2008. (HPV GC-9, M1C)

Dear Mr. Clark:

On March 28, 2008, Bridgestone APM, Foam Products Division (BAPM) and Ohio EPA-Northwest District Office (NWDO) engaged in a meeting to discuss a notice of resolution (NOR) letter that was issued to the company on January 18, 2008. This letter was preceded by a notice of violation (NOV) letter issued on July 27, 2006. The NOR was issued based on our understanding at the time that past, alleged violations of the requirements of OAC rules 3745-31 for two polyurethane foam seat lines, emissions units P005 and P006, did not occur. Based on our current knowledge, we no longer believe this to be true.

The following represents a recent chronological history of the events leading to our withdrawing the NOR and issuing this NOV:

1. NWDO has issued NOV's to BAPM in the past based on confusion, both on our part and the company's, of what the true potential to emit (PTE) is for P005 and P006. From the start-up of this facility circa 1998 until 2004, the true potential volatile organic compound (VOC) emission rates for these lines had never been accurately identified, mainly due to the company's failure to understand the concept of PTE. Finally, after many discussions and meetings, PTI 03-13782 (administrative modifications) were issued on February 4, 2003 and April 6, 2004 with the understanding that both P005 and P006 were now finally permitted at their PTE.
2. Almost immediately after issuance of the final administrative modification, the company began exceeding permit limits and a NOV was issued. Again, discussions and meetings were held to determine what was happening. The company again insisted that modifications had not been made to either line and the PTE's we thought were correct, may not have been. A permit modification application to obtain yet another administrative modification for the two polyurethane foam seat lines was received by NWDO on May 23, 2005.

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Resolutions for emission exceedances during this time were initially thought to be able to be done through an administrative modification; however, the potential VOC increases being requested raised the specter that major New Source Review requirements may have been violated when these lines were installed. An inspection of the facility was conducted on June 1, 2006 and our concerns were expressed in a July 27, 2006 NOV where PSD violations were alleged. In the interim, emission exceedances from the two lines were reduced through internal operational restrictions imposed by the company and emission levels were brought under the limits established in the April 6, 2004 administrative modification.

3. In another meeting on December 19, 2007 to further discuss these issues, BAPM requested their application be withdrawn and claimed that the permitted PTE's for the P005 and P006 were accurate and no permit modifications would be necessary or requested. Based on this information, NWDO concluded that the PSD violations did not take place and that issue was resolved. The NOR letter of January 18, 2008 mentioned above was then issued.
4. Within three weeks of sending this NOR letter, NWDO received a phone call from the company stating that the short-term mold waxing allowable limits for both P005 and P006 were being exceeded and needed to be increased. In addition, the company indicated the increases would require them to request synthetic minor restrictions on material usage. Mold release application rates could not be maintained below current permit limits.

With this sudden, unexplainable modification request for P005 and P006, NWDO went back and reviewed all past correspondence related to the prior NOV's, including a letter from BAPM dated October 9, 2006. Based on all this information and later confirmed in our discussions during our meeting on March 28, 2008, BAPM did indeed modify both emissions units back in 2004 by increasing their line speeds and using larger mold sizes. Both these physical changes/changes in the method of operation increased pouring and mold release usage rates.

We now believe the exceedances in the annual emission rates for P005 and P006 in calendar years 2004 and 2005 are directly attributed to these modifications. Ohio EPA has determined, at a minimum, that BAPM modified these emissions units in violation of the requirements of OAC rule 3745-31-02, does not employ "best available technology" (BAT) in violation of OAC rule 3745-31-05 and is again operating these lines in violation of the emission limitations in its permit, all of which are also violations of ORC 3704.05. An additional NOV may be forthcoming.

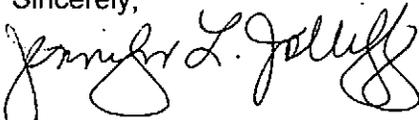
Since the March meeting, BAPM has applied for a PTI to obtain permit modifications. However, the application is incomplete since the company did not address BAT requirements. BAPM needs to review and submit a complete evaluation of what best available technology (BAT) is for both polyurethane foam seat lines.

The company should provide an update on the progress it is making with preparing the BAT determination by September 19, 2008. Please note that the submission of the requested information to respond to this letter does not constitute waiver of the Ohio EPA's authority to seek civil penalties pursuant to ORC section 3704.06. The Ohio EPA will make a decision on whether to pursue or decline to pursue such penalties regarding this matter at a later date.

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Should you have any questions or comments concerning this letter, please feel free to contact me at (419) 373-4112 or electronically at jennifer.jolliff@epa.state.oh.us.

Sincerely,



Jennifer L. Jolliff
Division of Air Pollution Control

JLJ/lb

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PS Form 3800, June 2002 See Reverse for Instructions