



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

June 8, 2011

RE: AIRGAS MERCHANT GASES, LLC
CANTON FACILITY
3IN00286*DD
STARK COUNTY

Mr. Paul Keiffer
Airgas Merchant Gases, LLC
2505 Shepler Church Rd. SW
Canton, Ohio 44706

Dear Mr. Keiffer:

On May 17, 2011 this writer conducted an inspection of your facility for the purpose of gathering information to determine compliance with the above referenced NPDES permit. Airgas, Inc. produces Nitrogen, Oxygen and Argon gas.

Nothing has changed as it relates to the NPDES permit since the last inspection on June 28, 2007. During the production process ambient air is compressed via large air compressors to facilitate the separation process. The compressors are water cooled. Three cooling towers recycle the non-contact cooling water. Blowdown from the cooling towers comprises the discharge from outfalls 003 and 004. Non-contact cooling water and stormwater are the only direct discharges to waters of the State. Biocides are used to control algae and scaling. Chlorine is used to control the algae. Due to the high residual chlorine in the cooling tower blowdown, sodium bisulfite is added to dechlorinate the blowdown prior to passing through the permitted outfalls. At the time of the inspection no obvious visual problems were noted with either outfall. A review of your compliance history for the time period of June 2007 through April 2011 revealed the following violations as identified by our SWIMS tracking system:

Numeric Violations

Station	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
003	pH	1D Conc	6.5	6.4	1/9/2008
003	pH	1D Conc	6.5	6.49	6/27/2007
003	pH	1D Conc	6.5	6.3	7/28/2008
003	Oil and Grease, Total	1D Qty	0.35	.40878	3/10/2011

Frequency Violations

Station	Parameter	Sample Frequency	Expected	Reported	Violation Date
003	Oil and Grease, Total	1/Quarter	1	0	08/01/2007
004	Oil and Grease, Total	1/Quarter	1	0	08/01/2007

Northeast District Office
2110 East Aurora Road
Twinsburg, OH 44087-1924

330 | 963 1200
330 | 487 0769 (fax)
www.epa.ohio.gov

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If you should have any questions concerning this letter, feel free to contact this writer at (330) 963-1136 or by e-mail at phil.rhodes@epa.state.oh.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Rhodes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Philip P. Rhodes, P.E.
Environmental Specialist II
Division of Surface Water

PPR/mt

File: Industrial Permit/Compliance