



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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

April 15, 2008

RE: TRUMBULL COUNTY  
RMI TITANIUM CO. - NILES PLANT  
OHIO EPA PERMIT NO. 3IC00026  
NPDES PERMIT NO. OH0010863  
COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION

Mr. Richard Mason  
Director - Environmental Affairs  
RMI Titanium Company Niles Plant  
1000 Warren Avenue  
Niles, OH 44446

Dear Mr. Mason:

On April 1, 2008, a meeting and limited-scope Compliance Evaluation Inspection was conducted at the above referenced manufacturing facility by Ms. Giovanna Toppi and the undersigned. RMI was represented by Messrs. Dave Micsky and Robert Dellick. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the planned replacement of the main (old) sanitary treatment system; the inspection also evaluated the facility's compliance with the terms and conditions of the referenced NPDES permit.

***Treatment System Improvements:***

The issue regarding the age and structural integrity of the steel treatment system has been a topic of discussion for many years. As an alternative to replacement, RMI had been engaged in discussions with the City of Niles regarding the possible extension of municipal sanitary sewers to the area. As no agreement has been reached to date with the City, RMI is electing to pursue the replacement option at this time.

The replacement treatment system being considered will be located in an open area east of the current plant. The existing headworks pump station will remain and be updated as necessary. The concrete "package" treatment system will include a flow equalization basin, extended aeration activated sludge treatment process, secondary clarifier, effluent disinfection, and a sludge holding tank. Treated effluent from the system (Outfall 601) will commingle with other plant water flows prior to the waste treatment ponds, i.e. Outfall 001.

It was noted that the facility expects to initiate procurement of the system immediately upon review and issuance of a permit-to-install (PTI) by Ohio EPA.

**Inspection Findings:**

At the time of the inspection, the following observations, findings, and comments were noted:

1. The effluent from the L.C.R. sanitary wastewater treatment systems appeared to have a grayish cast, indicative of incomplete treatment.
2. The quality of the effluent from the treatment pond appeared to be of visually-acceptable quality. There was no evidence of foam, oil, or floating debris being discharged to the Mahoning River from Outfall 001.

- Ohio EPA has recently adopted and/or revised rules regarding operator certification requirements for sewage treatment systems (OAC 3745-7) and placement of signs at discharge outfalls (OAC 3745-33-08). The facility is encouraged to review these rules and implement the required changes, e.g. OAC 3745-7-02 and 3745-07-09, as expeditiously as practicable.

A review of the facility's Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs), formerly known as monthly operating reports (MORs), for the period January 2007 through February 2008 indicate violations of the terms and conditions of the NPDES permit. The specific instances of noncompliance are as follows:

3IC00026: Numeric Effluent Violations			1/1/07 – 3/1/2008			
Reporting Period	Station	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
February 2008	001	CBOD 5 day	1D Qty	29.3	29.3337	2/6/2008
May 2007	001	Fecal Coliform	1D Conc	2000	2700.	5/2/2007
August 2007	001	Fecal Coliform	1D Conc	2000	3700.	8/8/2007
August 2007	001	Fecal Coliform	30D Conc	1000	3700.	8/1/2007
February 2008	001	Fluoride, Total (F)	30D Qty	7.8	10.5601	2/1/2008
May 2007	001	Oil and Grease, Total	1D Qty	18.9	20.3784	5/16/2007
September 2007	001	pH, Minimum	1D Conc	6.5	6.3	9/26/2007
February 2008	001	Total Suspended Solids	1D Qty	37.9	105.601	2/6/2008
February 2008	001	Total Suspended Solids	30D Qty	28.4	52.8007	2/1/2008
December 2007	001	Zinc, Total Recoverable	1D Conc	228	516.	12/13/2007
December 2007	001	Zinc, Total Recoverable	1D Qty	0.431	1.66791	12/13/2007
February 2008	001	Zinc, Total Recoverable	1D Qty	0.431	.59254	2/6/2008
November 2007	001	Zinc, Total Recoverable	30D Conc	95	101.	11/1/2007
December 2007	001	Zinc, Total Recoverable	30D Conc	95	516.	12/1/2007
February 2008	001	Zinc, Total Recoverable	30D Conc	95	101.	2/1/2008
December 2007	001	Zinc, Total Recoverable	30D Qty	0.180	1.66791	12/1/2007
February 2008	001	Zinc, Total Recoverable	30D Qty	0.180	.59254	2/1/2008
August 2007	601	CBOD 5 day	1D Conc	40	45.	8/8/2007
February 2008	601	CBOD 5 day	1D Conc	40	45.	2/6/2008
August 2007	601	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	25	45.	8/1/2007
February 2008	601	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	25	45.	2/1/2008
August 2007	601	Total Suspended Solids	1D Conc	45	77.	8/8/2007
February 2008	601	Total Suspended Solids	1D Conc	45	1024.	2/6/2008
March 2007	601	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	30	42.	3/1/2007
August 2007	601	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	30	77.	8/1/2007
February 2008	601	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	30	1024.	2/1/2008
February 2007	602	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	25	40.	2/1/2007
February 2007	602	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	30	33.	2/1/2007

3IC00026: Monitoring/Reporting Violations (*)			1/1/07 – 3/1/2008			
Reporting Period	Station	Parameter	Sample Frequency	Expected	Reported	Violation Date
February 2007	602	Color, Severity	1/Day	1	0	02/01/2007
February 2007	602	Odor, Severity	1/Day	1	0	02/01/2007

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3IC00026: Monitoring/Reporting Violations (*)			1/1/07 - 3/1/2008			
Reporting Period	Station	Parameter	Sample Frequency	Expected	Reported	Violation Date
February 2007	602	Turbidity, Severity	1/Day	1	0	02/01/2007
March 2007	001	Chlorine	1/Quarter	1	0	03/01/2007
March 2007	001	Antimony	1/Quarter	1	0	03/01/2007
March 2007	001	Aluminum	1/Quarter	1	0	03/01/2007
March 2007	001	Mercury	1/Quarter	1	0	03/01/2007
June 2007	001	Chlorine	1/Quarter	1	0	06/01/2007
June 2007	001	Antimony	1/Quarter	1	0	06/01/2007
June 2007	001	Aluminum	1/Quarter	1	0	06/01/2007
June 2007	001	Mercury	1/Quarter	1	0	06/01/2007
August 2007	001	Chlorine	1/Quarter	1	0	08/01/2007
August 2007	001	Antimony	1/Quarter	1	0	08/01/2007
August 2007	001	Aluminum	1/Quarter	1	0	08/01/2007
August 2007	001	Mercury	1/Quarter	1	0	08/01/2007
November 2007	001	Water Temperature	1/2Weeks	1	0	11/01/2007
November 2007	001	Total Suspended Solids	1/2Weeks	1	0	11/01/2007
November 2007	001	CBOD 5 day	1/2Weeks	1	0	11/01/2007
November 2007	001	Oil and Grease	1/2Weeks	1	0	11/01/2007
December 2007	001	Chlorine	1/Quarter	1	0	12/01/2007
December 2007	001	Antimony	1/Quarter	1	0	12/01/2007
December 2007	001	Aluminum	1/Quarter	1	0	12/01/2007
December 2007	001	Mercury	1/Quarter	1	0	12/01/2007

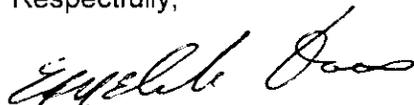
(\*) – Quarterly reporting months are March, June, August, and December.

**Summary/Conclusion**

Please be advised that failure to comply with the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit may be subject to enforcement actions pursuant to Chapter 6111 of the Ohio Revised Code. Such actions can result in fines of up to \$10,000 per day of violation. Please inform this office, in writing, within 10 days of receipt of this notification as to the actions taken or proposed to address the above violation and/or deficiencies. Your response **shall** include specific dates for completion of the actions. Please be advised that past or present issues of noncompliance can continue as subjects of future enforcement actions by Ohio EPA.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact this office.

Respectfully,



Ermelindo Gomes  
 Environmental Engineer  
 Division of Surface Water

EG/mt

Enclosure: Operator of Record Form