

**SOUTHWEST OHIO  
AIR QUALITY AGENCY**

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June 7, 2012

Certified mail

Pat Gallo  
AK Steel Corporation  
1801 Crawford Street  
Middletown, Ohio 45043

Re: NOTICE OF VIOLATION - Exceedance of Visible Opacity Limitations at the Basic Oxygen Furnace in violation of 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart FFFFF and the terms and conditions of the Title V Operating Permit

Facility ID: 1409010006  
Emissions Unit(s): P926 and P927, Basic Oxygen Furnace Vessels  
AK STEEL  
Location: 1801 CRAWFORD STREET  
Middletown, Ohio 45043  
Butler County

Dear Mr. Gallo:

On June 6, 2012, an Environmental Compliance Specialist from the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency (the agency) observed fugitive particulate emissions on three occasions coming from the roof of the Basic Oxygen Process Furnace (BOPF) shop at AK Steel Corporation in Middletown. The Specialist performed Method 9 visible emissions observations of the fugitive dust clouds and documented exceedances. The visible emissions opacity limit from any opening at the Basic Oxygen Furnace Shop is 20% as a three minute average.

The following exceedances were documented:

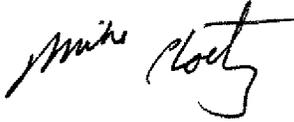
At 3:25 pm the opacity was observed at 53.3 %  
At 4:41 pm the opacity was observed at 38.8 %  
At 5:01 pm the opacity was observed at 37.5 %

Failing to maintain the opacity of secondary emissions that exit any opening in the Basic Oxygen Process Furnace shop at or below 20% on a three minute average is a violation of 40 CFR Part 63, Subpart FFFFF, the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing Facilities and a violation of the terms and conditions of AK Steel's Title V Operating Permit for emissions units P926 and P927.

Please submit to the HCDOES a written plan of corrective action detailing what actions AK Steel will undertake to eliminate or minimize fugitive emissions escaping from the BOPF shop at least to the extent that the 20 % opacity limit is not exceeded. This corrective action plan should be submitted within thirty days of the receipt of this notice.

Acceptance by the Ohio EPA of a schedule for compliance does not constitute a waiver of the Ohio EPA's authority to seek civil penalties as provided in section 3704.06 of the Ohio Revised Code. The determination to pursue or decline such penalties in this case will be made at a later date. Failure to comply with the requirements of this letter may result in additional enforcement action including possible referral of this case to the Office of the Attorney General. The violations identified above also constitute a violation of the City of Middletown Health Department rules. City of Middletown Health Department air pollution rules are enforced by the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Ploetz". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Mike Ploetz  
Environmental Compliance Specialist

cc: Bruce Weinberg, Ohio EPA  
William MacDowell, Region 5, USEPA