



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

Re: Fulton County
The Cremation Center
Premise # 0326000197
Notice of Violation (NOV)
& Return to Compliance (RTC)

January 15, 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Scott Grisier
The Cremation Center
216 South Fulton
Wauseon, Ohio 43567

Dear Mr. Grisier:

This letter shall serve as follow-up to the various inspections conducted at The Cremation Center's facility, located at 419 W. Elm St., in Wauseon, Ohio. The purpose of this inspection was to respond to multiple complaints of heavy black smoke coming from the stack at the facility and to determine the compliance status of all air contaminant emissions units located there.

Based on my discussions, my observations during the inspection, and a review of the company's files, my findings are as follows:

1. After multiple attempts by both parties to discuss the smoke coming from the property and the potential issues associated with that, a meeting was planned for October 16, 2012, where visible emissions (VE) readings could be conducted on the emissions point for the human cremation incinerator, emissions unit N001. Permit to Install (PTI) 03-17014 was issued for N001 on August 11, 2005, and the facility is operating under that permit until the Permit to Install and Operate (PTIO) is issued.
2. N001's secondary combustion chamber was observed to be operating at approximately 1600°F, which is below the 1800°F temperature requirement in term II.B.1 of PTI 03-17014. Failure to meet this operational restriction is a violation of the terms and conditions of the PTI and Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3704.05.
PTI 03-17014 term II.A.2.b states the following requirement, "Visible particulate emissions from emissions unit N001 shall not exceed 5% opacity except for 6 minutes in any continuous 60 minute period during which the opacity shall not exceed 10%." USEPA Method 9 readings were conducted for 32 minutes on N001 on October 16, 2012, and based on my observations the facility violated the 10% opacity restriction 11 minutes after readings began for a period of 6 minutes when the average opacity was 32.1%. Additionally, the facility violated the 5% opacity restriction 17 minutes after readings began for a period of 6 minutes when the average opacity was 5.6%. Each item above constitutes a violation of the terms and conditions of PTI 03-17014 and Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3704.05.

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3. After consulting the manufacturer and the contracted maintenance provider, the facility increased the operating temperature set points to comply with the requirements of the permit and a variable speed exhaust fan motor was installed, which was reported to help adjust and increase the residence time in the secondary combustion chamber. The facility felt that these changes had returned the emissions unit to compliance and requested that the unit again be tested for compliance.
4. On December 13, 2012, Ohio EPA returned and conducted another set of USEPA Method 9 readings on N001 which demonstrated compliance with the opacity limits established in PTI 03-17014.

As of December 13, 2012, after the completing the modifications identified in item #4 above, the company has resolved the above mentioned violations and returned to compliance..

The company had also mentioned, per the recommendation of the manufacturer and the contracted maintenance provider, that the installation of the variable speed exhaust fan may now make the unit operate more effectively within the 1600°F temperature range. As discussed during my last visit, a permit modification would be needed to complete that request. Should the company choose to explore this option, please contact Mark Barber of the Division of Air Pollution Control, at (419) 373-3131, or via e-mail at mark.barber@epa.state.oh.us.

Please also note that this does not preclude the Director from seeking civil penalties pursuant to ORC section 3704.06 for these violations. The decision on whether to pursue or decline to pursue such penalties regarding this matter is dependent on several factors, one of which is the company's future compliance with applicable Ohio EPA requirements.

If you have any questions concerning this letter or the regulations, please feel free to call me at (419) 373-3137 or e-mail at thomas.cikotte@epa.state.oh.us.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Cikotte
Division of Air Pollution Control

/cg

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