



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

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

Re: Lucas County
Air Liquide
Industrial
Storm Water

December 21, 2011

Mr. Wayne McConnell, Plant Manager
Air Liquide Industrial U.S. LP
1720 Trade Road
Holland, Ohio 43528

Dear Mr. McConnell:

I apologize for the delay in this letter. On August 10, 2011, I inspected Air Liquide, located at 1720 Trade Road, Spencer Township (photos taken). The purpose of my visit was to evaluate compliance of the site with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for storm water discharges associated with industrial activity, Facility ID No. 2GR00326. You were present to provide information. As a result of the inspection, I have the following comments:

1. The facility produces Nitrogen, Oxygen, and Argon gases. It has a primary SIC code of 2813, Industrial Gases. NPDES permit coverage was granted in 2006. Industrial activities with potential exposure of pollutants to storm water include: loading and unloading areas (product, various oils and hydraulic fluids), scrap metal storage, garbage dumpster, and vehicle fueling areas.
2. While the current version of the permit has expired, your coverage remains in effect until Ohio EPA issues a new general permit. Ohio EPA is currently in the process of renewing the general permit, called the Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP). The draft permit may be viewed at:
http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/permits/IndustrialStormWater_draft_GP_oct10.aspx.

Once the general permit is renewed, Ohio EPA will send an application packet to all permittees instructing them on how to renew coverage. You will have 90 days from receipt of these instructions to renew permit coverage.

At this time, I recommend reviewing the MSGP. Sections 1 through 8 pertain to all facilities. Subpart C outlines some of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) required for your industry. Please be aware that the draft Multi-Sector General Permit will require at least quarterly routine documented inspections of all areas of the facility where industrial activities or materials are exposed to storm water and of all storm water control measures used to comply with this permit.

3. There did not appear to be any discharges from the facility's storm sewers at the time of my visit. Facility sampling is not required under the current permit and has not been performed. However, routine monitoring will be required under the MSGP. At this time, the Agency is currently revising the frequency of monitoring in the draft permit. Once the permit is issued final, guidance on MSGP monitoring can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/msgp_monitoring_guide.pdf.
4. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) was available onsite. It was last revised July 2008. The SWP3 included: the Pollution Prevention Team and their responsibilities; a site map; Preventative Maintenance; a Spill Prevention and Response Plan; the Non-Storm Water Discharge Certification; Inspections; Employee Training; and Sediment and Erosion Controls. The site map did not appear completely accurate. The drainage area for each outfall must be outlined. The locations of the garbage dumpster, spill kits, secondary containment, diesel fuel shut-off switch, and scrap metal (south of the truck garage) were not shown on the site map. *The missing details are a violation of Part IV.D. of the permit.*

Please remember when revising the SWP3 that **any report or document created for the permit must include the certification statement and be signed in accordance with Part VII.G. of the permit.**

The NPDES permit requires that the SWP3 describe and ensure implementation of storm water controls. These controls must address several different components of facility operations that are listed in the permit. Storm water control implementation issues were noted for the following facility operations:

5. Good Housekeeping - This item requires BMPs that result in the maintenance of a clean, orderly facility. Most containers of petroleum products and used oil were stored inside. Overall, the facility appeared neat and orderly. The SWP3 appeared to lack commitment to specific actions/timeframes for Good Housekeeping measures, since several frequencies were listed in the SWP3 as "as needed" or "routinely". *This is a violation of Part IV. D.3.a. of the permit.* The SWP3 needs to describe when an activity is needed and specific timeframes instead of "routinely".
6. Inspections- Air Liquide conducts a visual inspection quarterly and prior to a forecasted rain event. I viewed inspection reports for the past year. These included information on the outfalls, site observations, signature, and date. The reports did not include the certification statement, *which is a violation of Part VII.G. of the permit.* The diesel additive tank (contains urea) located southwest of the Machine House is placed inside a walled area, serving as secondary containment. I understand that employees use the odor of the liquid to determine if the contents of the secondary containment area are safe to

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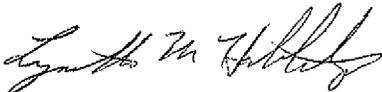
release. *Air Liquide must document this Spill Prevention measure and the results of this inspection (date/observation/amount discharged).*

7. Employee Training – The permit requires training programs that shall inform personnel at all levels of the components and goals of the SWP3. Training should address topics such as spill response, good housekeeping and material management practices. The SWP3 shall identify periodic dates for such training. Air Liquide requires introductory and annual SPCC training. The draft Multi-Sector General Permit will require at least annual employee training of all employees who work in areas where industrial activities or materials are exposed to storm water, or who are responsible for implementing activities necessary to meet the conditions of this permit (e.g. inspectors, maintenance personnel).

I reviewed training documentation for individual employees, which included employee signatures, training date, and a quiz. It appeared acceptable.

Within 30 days of the date on this letter, please submit to this office **written notification** as to the actions taken or proposed to address the compliance issues. Your response should include the dates, either actual or proposed, for the completion of the actions. It must also include a written certification that the requested changes to the SWP3 have been made. If there are any questions, please contact me at (419) 373-3009.

Sincerely,



Lynette M. Hablitzel, P.E.
Division of Surface Water
Storm Water Section

/jlm

ec: Inspection Tracking