



February 20, 2019

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 91 7199 9991 7038 4330 6543

Mr. Anthony Nearhoof
Plant Superintendent
Erie Coke Corporation
P.O. Box 6180
Erie, PA 16512

Re: Erie Coke Corporation
City of Erie, Erie County
Title V Operating Permit No: 25-00029

Dear Mr. Nearhoof:

On February 17, 2019 at 8:21am, Erie Coke Corporation ("Erie Coke") notified the Department of Environmental Protection ("Department") the H₂S absorber and thionizer (Source ID C805A) were not in operation beginning at 8:03am, February 17, 2019.

On February 18, 2019 at 12:00pm, Erie Coke notified the Department the H₂S absorber was in operation at 11:00am, February 18, 2019; however, the thionizer vent line was blocked and the thionizer was venting through the cover directly to atmosphere.

On February 19, 2019, Erie Coke notified the Department the thionizer was no longer venting through the cover at 1:30 pm, February 19, 2019.

Based on the information provided by Erie Coke, the Department has determined the following violation:

In accordance with Title V Operating Permit No. 25-00029, Section D, Source 805 (Coke Oven Battery- Underfiring System), Condition #013, the permittee shall operate the control device at all times that the source is in operation.

The failure of Erie Coke Corporation to operate the H₂S Absorber and thionizer at all times the source is in operation is a violation of 25 Pa. Code § 127.444.

Based on the information provided by Erie Coke, the H₂S absorber was not in operation from February 17, 2019 to February 18, 2019. The Department has determined the following violation:

In accordance with Title V Operating Permit No. 25-00029, Section D, Source 805 (Coke Oven Battery- Underfiring System), Condition #002 (b), no person may permit the flaring or combustion of a coke oven byproduct gas which contains sulfur compounds, expressed as equivalent hydrogen sulfide, in concentrations greater than 50 grains per 100 dry standard cubic feet.

The failure of Erie Coke to prevent the flaring or combustion of coke oven by-product gas with hydrogen sulfide concentrations greater than 50 grains per 100 dry standard cubic feet is a violation of 25 Pa. Code §§ 123.23(b) and 127.444.

Based on the information provided by Erie Coke, the thionizer was venting through the cover between February 18, 2019 to February 19, 2019. The Department has determined the following violation:

In accordance with Title V Operating Permit No. 25-00029, Section E, Group 13-Thionizer, Condition #001, the thionizer clean out covers shall not be opened during thionizer operation.


The failure of Erie Coke to prevent the venting of the thionizer directly to atmosphere is a violation of 25 Pa. Code § 127.444.

Any violation of the Air Pollution Control Act subjects a person to enforcement actions, including civil and criminal penalties. Each day the violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

This Notice of Violation is neither an order nor any other final action of the Department. It neither imposes nor waives any enforcement action available to the Department under any of its statutes. If the Department determines that an enforcement action is appropriate, you will be notified of the action.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at 814-332-6634.

Sincerely,



Lori L. McNabb
Environmental Group Manager
Air Quality Program

cc: C. Ballard, OCC (via email)
AQ/Fac/Case/25-000-00029
ra-epaircompliance@pa.gov
W. Schneider, Erie Coke Corp (via email)