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NANCY MARVEL
Regional Counsel
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

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DAVID H. KIM
Assistant Regional Counsel
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105
(415) 972-3882

REGISTRATION CLEAR

Attorneys for Complainant

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 9
75 HAWTHORNE STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105

IN RE:)	
)	DOCKET NO. CAA-9-2010-00_04
)	
NATIONAL SPECIALTY AGGREGATES, LLC,)	COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF
)	OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING
)	
RESPONDENT)	
_____)	

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Complainant, the Director of the Air Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), Region 9, is issuing this Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (“Complaint”) pursuant to Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act (the “Act”), as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d). The Administrator of EPA (“Administrator”) delegated the authority to issue complaints such as this one in the state of Arizona to the Regional Administrator of Region 9 and the Regional

Administrator, in turn, re-delegated that authority to Complainant. Respondent is National Specialty Aggregates, LLC (“National” or “Respondent”).

Complainant will show that Respondent violated Regulation III, Rule 316 of Maricopa County Air Quality Department (“MCAQD” or the “Department”) as incorporated into the State Implementation Plan (“SIP”) for Arizona pursuant to Section 110 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7410.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY BACKGROUND

1. The primary purpose of the Act is to protect and enhance the quality of the nation’s air resources so as to promote the public health and welfare and the productive capacity of its population. See 42 U.S.C. § 7401(b)(1).
2. The Administrator of EPA, pursuant to authority under Section 109 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7409, promulgated the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (“NAAQS”) for certain criteria air pollutants. 40 C.F.R. §§ 50.9, 50.10.
3. Pursuant to Section 107(d) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7407(d), the Administrator promulgated lists of attainment status designations for each air quality control region (“AQCR”) in every state. These lists identify the attainment status of each AQCR for each of the criteria pollutants. The attainment status designations for the Arizona AQCRs are listed at 40 C.F.R. § 81.303.
4. Section 110 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7410, requires each state to adopt and submit to EPA a plan which provides for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of primary and secondary NAAQS in the State. Upon approval by EPA, the plan becomes part of the applicable SIP for the State. Pursuant to Section 113(a)(1) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a)(1), EPA may enforce violations of the SIP.
5. EPA has designated Maricopa County as a nonattainment area for the NAAQS for particulate

matter. See 40 C.F.R. § 81.303.

6. MCAQD Regulation I, Rule 2 was approved into and made a part of the federally enforceable SIP pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 7410 on August 17, 1982.¹
7. MCAQD Regulation III, Rule 316 was approved into and made a part of the federally enforceable SIP pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 7410 on January 8, 2010.²
8. Section 81 of MCAQD Rule 2 defines “source” as “any facility, equipment, machine, incinerator, structure, building, device or other article (or combination thereof) which is located on one or more contiguous properties and which is owned or operated by the same person (or by persons under common control) and which emits or may emit an air pollutant.”
9. Section 71 of MCAQD Rule 2 defines “pollutant” as “an air contaminant the emission or ambient concentration of which is regulated pursuant to these rules and regulations.”
10. Section 7 of MCAQD Rule 2 defines “air contaminants” to include “smoke, vapors, chemical, paper, dust, soot, grime, carbon, fumes, gases, sulfuric acid mist, aerosols, aerosol droplets, odors, particulate matter, windborne matter, radioactive materials, noxious chemicals, or any other material in the outdoor atmosphere.”
11. Section 69 of MCAQD Rule 2 defines “person” as “any public or private corporation, company, partnership, firm, association or society of persons, the Federal Government and any of its departments or agencies, the State and any of its agencies, departments or political subdivisions, as well as a natural person.”
12. MCAQD Rule 316 is intended to “limit the emission of particulate matter into the ambient air from any nonmetallic mineral processing plant and/or rock product processing plant.”

¹47 Fed. Reg. 26382 (June 18, 1982).

²74 Fed. Reg. 58553 (November 13, 2009).

See Section 101, MCAQD Rule 316.

13. Section 102 of MCAQD Rule 316 provides that MCAQD Rule 316 “shall apply to any commercial and/or industrial nonmetallic mineral processing plant and/or rock product processing plant.”
14. Section 235 of MCAQD Rule 316 defines “nonmetallic mineral processing plant” as “[a]ny facility utilizing any combination of equipment or machinery that is used to mine, excavate, separate, combine, crush, or grind any nonmetallic mineral including, but not limited to, lime plants, coal fired power plants, steel mills, asphalt plants, concrete plants, Portland cement plants, raw material storage and distribution, and sand and gravel plants.”
15. Section 234 of MCAQD Rule 316 defines “nonmetallic mineral” to include crushed and broken stone, including limestone, dolomite, granite, rhyolite, traprock, sandstone, quartz, quartzite, marl, marble, slate, shale, oil shale, and shell; sand and gravel; clay; rock salt, and gypsum.
16. Section 214 of MCAQD Rule 316 defines “crusher” as “[a] machine used to crush any nonmetallic minerals including, but not limited to, the following types: jaw, gyratory, cone, roll, rod mill, hammermill, and impactor.”
17. Section 249 of MCAQD Rule 316 defines “screening operation” as “[a] device that separates material according to its size by passing undersize material through one or more mesh surfaces (screens) in series and retaining oversize material on the mesh surfaces (screens).”
18. Section 257 of MCAQD Rule 316 defines “transfer point” as “[a] point in a conveying operation where nonmetallic mineral is transferred from or to a belt conveyor except for transfer to a stockpile.”
19. Section 301.2(b) of MCAQD Rule 316 provides that the owner and/or operator of a crushing

and/or screening operation must permanently mount watering systems (e.g., spray bars or an equivalent control) at the inlet and outlet of all crushers; outlet of all shaker screens; and outlet of all material transfer points, excluding wet plants.

20. Section 301.2(c) of MCAQD Rule 316 provides that the owner and/or operator of a crushing and/or screening operation must operate watering systems (e.g., spray bars or an equivalent control) on the points listed in Section 301.2(b) of MCAQD Rule 316 for crushers, shaker screens, and material transfer points, excluding wet plants, to continuously maintain a 4% minimum moisture content.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

21. National is an Arizona corporation based in Mesa, Arizona.
22. At all times relevant to this notice, National engaged in aggregate processing operations at its facility (the “Facility”) at 4310 S. 80th Street, Mesa, Arizona. The Facility is subject to the jurisdiction of the Department.
23. The Facility is a “commercial and/or industrial nonmetallic mineral processing plant and/or rock product processing plant” as defined by MCAQD Rule 316.
24. National is a “person” as that term is defined in Section 69 of MCAQD Rule 2 and Section 302(e) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e).
25. National is an “owner and/or operator” within the meaning of MCAQD Rule 316.
26. On or about April 22, 2010, inspectors from EPA inspected the Facility.
27. During the April 22, 2010 inspection of the Facility, the EPA inspectors observed that the Facility engaged in crushing, screening, processing, storage and/or export of gravel and/or other bulk materials.
28. During the April 22, 2010 inspection of the Facility, the EPA inspectors observed that the

Facility lacked permanently mounted watering systems (e.g., spray bars or an equivalent control) to control fugitive dust emissions at: (1) the outlet of the material transfer point between the feed hopper and screen #1; (2) the outlet of the material transfer point between the feed hopper and screen #2; (3) the outlet of the material transfer point between the feed hopper and screen #3; (4) the outlet of the material transfer point between the feed hopper and screen #4; (5) the outlet of screen #3; (6) the outlet of screen #4; (7) the outlet of the screen associated with the Svedala crusher; and (8) the outlet of the small shell crusher.

COUNTS 1-8: FAILURE TO PERMANENTLY MOUNT WATERING SYSTEMS TO CONTROL FUGITIVE DUST EMISSIONS; MCAQD RULE 316, SECTION 301.2(b).

29. Paragraphs 1 through 28 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
30. Section 301.2(b) of MCAQD Rule 316 provides that the owner and/or operator of a crushing and/or screening operation must permanently mount watering systems (e.g., spray bars or an equivalent control) at the inlet and outlet of all crushers; outlet of all shaker screens; and outlet of all material transfer points, excluding wet plants.
31. On or about April 22, 2010, National violated Section 301.2(b) of MCAQD Rule 316 by failing to permanently mount watering systems (e.g., spray bars or an equivalent control) to control fugitive dust emissions at: (1) the outlet of the material transfer point between the feed hopper and screen #1; (2) the outlet of the material transfer point between the feed hopper and screen #2; (3) the outlet of the material transfer point between the feed hopper and screen #3; (4) the outlet of the material transfer point between the feed hopper and screen #4; (5) the outlet of screen #3; (6) the outlet of screen #4; (7) the outlet of the screen associated with the Svedala crusher; and (8) the outlet of the small shell crusher.

PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY

Section 113(d) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), authorizes a civil administrative penalty of up to Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$37,500) per day for each violation of the Act, provided that the total amount of penalty assessed does not exceed Two Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$295,000). For purposes of determining the amount of the civil penalty to be assessed, Section 113(e) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(e), requires EPA to consider the size of the business, the economic impact of the penalty on the business, the violator's compliance history and good faith efforts to comply, the duration of the violation as established by any credible evidence, payment by the violator of penalties previously assessed for the same violation, the economic benefit of noncompliance, and the seriousness of the violation. Accordingly, Complainant requests that after consideration of these statutory assessment factors, the Administrator assess against Respondent a civil administrative penalty of up to \$37,500 for each violation of the Act set forth above.

OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A HEARING

The Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits ("Consolidated Rules of Practice"), 40 C.F.R. Part 22, govern these proceedings. A copy of the Consolidated Rules of Practice accompanies this Complaint.

Under these rules, you have the right to request a hearing. Any request for a hearing must be in writing and must be filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Complaint. In the event that you intend to request a hearing to contest any material facts set

forth in the Complaint, to dispute the amount of the penalty proposed in the Complaint, or to assert a claim for judgment as a matter of law, you must file a written Answer to this Complaint with the Regional Hearing Clerk at the above address within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Complaint.

A copy of your Answer should also be sent to:

David H. Kim
Assistant Regional Counsel (ORC-3)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Your Answer should clearly and directly admit, deny, or explain each factual allegation contained in this Complaint with regard to which you have any knowledge. The Answer should state: (1) the circumstances or arguments which are alleged to constitute the grounds of defense; (2) a concise statement of the facts which you intend to place at issue in the hearing; and (3) whether a hearing is requested. Hearings held in the assessment of the civil penalties will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 551 et seq., and the Consolidated Rules of Practice. See 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

If you fail to file an Answer to this Complaint with the Regional Hearing Clerk within thirty (30) days of receipt, such failure shall constitute an admission of all facts alleged in the Complaint and a waiver of your right to a hearing under Section 113(d)(2).

SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

EPA encourages all parties against whom civil penalties are proposed to pursue the possibilities of settlement through informal conferences. Therefore, whether or not you request a hearing, you may confer informally with the Agency concerning the alleged violation or the amount of the proposed penalty. You may wish to appear at the conference yourself or be represented by counsel. If a settlement is reached, it shall be finalized by the issuance of a written Consent

Agreement and Final Order by the Regional Judicial Officer, EPA, Region 9. The issuance of such Consent Agreement and Final Order shall constitute a waiver of your right to request a hearing of any matter stipulated to therein.

To explore the possibility of settlement in this matter, address your correspondence to:

David H. Kim
Assistant Regional Counsel (ORC-3)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

His telephone number is (415) 972-3882.

After this Complaint is issued, the Consolidated Rules of Practice prohibit ex parte (unilateral) discussion of the merits of any action with the EPA Regional Administrator, Chief Judicial Officer, Administrative Law Judge, or any person likely to advise these officials in the decision of this case.

Dated at San Francisco, California on this 27th day of September 2010.



Deborah Jordan

Director, Air Division
USEPA, Region 9

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the original and a copy of the foregoing Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was hand delivered to:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

and that a true and correct copy of the Complaint; the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. Part 22; and the Clean Air Act Stationary Source Civil Penalty Policy were placed in the United States Mail, certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the following:

Dean Lipski
Plant Manager
National Specialty Aggregates, LLC
4310 South 80th Street
Mesa, AZ 85212
Certified Mail No. 7003 3110 0006 2000 9172

Dated: 9/28/2010

By: Joseph Westwood
~~Office of Regional Counsel~~ Air Enforcement
USEPA, Region 9