



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

FEB 16 2010

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:
A-18J

Jeff Smith
Director
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194

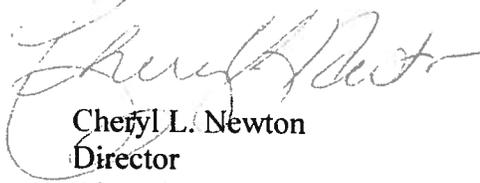
Dear Mr. Smith:

I am pleased to transmit to you the final report of the combined Title V operating permit program and new source review (NSR) permit program evaluation that occurred on July 28, 2008. The evaluation is part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's continued oversight of both the Title V and NSR permitting programs. The purpose of these permit program evaluations is to note practices that are helpful to other permitting authorities, to document areas needing improvement and to learn how EPA can assist permitting authorities in achieving these improvements. This review was intended to identify any persisting issues that have not been addressed or new issues that have emerged since the last program evaluation in 2003.

Based on the program elements included in this review, EPA found the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to be running a strong combined construction and operating permit program. Specifically, for the combined permit program, MPCA has instituted several process improvements to enhance proficiency and productivity with the goal of improving the rate of permit issuance. In addition, MPCA has rectified their Delta system incompatibility issues by providing a great deal of permit information on the internet, such as rules, draft permits and supporting documents, air permit application forms, etc. Specifically for Title V, MPCA is making steady progress in reducing their Title V permit backlog through new hiring programs and offering financial incentives to staff to assist in Title V renewal permit issuance. MPCA has also instituted a number of process improvements aimed at streamlining overall Title V permit issuance. Recommendations from EPA include ensuring more consistency in incorporating Compliance Assurance Monitoring requirements in Title V renewal permits and proceeding with new construction program funding options with an awareness of Title V program integrity. Please refer to the final report for EPA's detailed findings.

We would like to thank your staff for their assistance with the evaluation and their efforts to respond to our questionnaire. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Jennifer Darrow at (312) 886-6315.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cheryl L. Newton".

Cheryl L. Newton
Director
Air and Radiation Division

Enclosures