



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

NOV 13 2012

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Alan Lamore  
Manager  
Farmers Elevator Company of Whitaker  
7690 E 9000N Road  
Grant Park, Illinois 60940

Re: Notice of Violation  
Farmers Elevator Company of Whitaker, Grant Park, Illinois

Dear Mr. Lamore:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is issuing the enclosed Notice of Violation (NOV) to Farmers Elevator Company of Whitaker (you) under Section 113(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a)(1). We find that you are violating the Illinois State Implementation Plan at your Grant Park, Illinois facility, as set forth in the enclosed NOV.

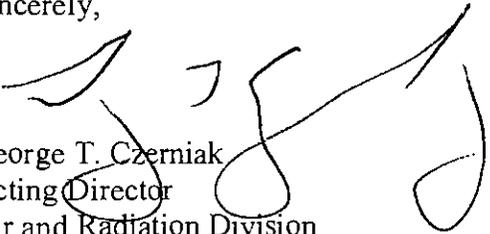
We have several enforcement options under Section 113(a)(3) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a)(3). These options include issuing an administrative compliance order, issuing an administrative penalty order and bringing a judicial civil action.

We are offering you an opportunity to confer with us about the violations alleged in the NOV. The conference will give you the opportunity to present information on the specific findings of violation, the efforts you have taken to comply, and the steps you will take to prevent future violations.

Please plan for your facility's technical and management personnel to attend the conference to discuss compliance measures and commitments. You may have an attorney represent you at this conference.

The EPA contact in this matter is Jennifer Wilson. You may call her at 312-353-3115 to request a conference. You should make the request within 10 calendar days following receipt of this letter. We should hold any conference within 30 calendar days following receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,



George T. Czerniak  
Acting Director  
Air and Radiation Division

Enclosure

cc: Ray Pilapil  
Compliance and Systems Management Section  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency



5. IPCB Rule 103 is codified at 35 Ill. Admin. Code §§ 201.142 and 201.143 and set forth in the Illinois SIP at Rules 103(a)(1) and 103(b)(1).

6. The Illinois SIP at Rule 103(a)(1) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 201.142] requires that no person shall cause or allow the construction of any new emission source or any new air pollution control equipment, or cause or allow the modification of any existing emission source of air pollution equipment, without first obtaining a construction permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

7. The Illinois SIP at 103(b)(1) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 201.143] requires that no person shall cause or allow the operation of any emission source or new air pollution control equipment, for which a construction permit is required, without first obtaining an operating permit from IEPA.

8. On February 21, 1980, EPA approved IPCB Rule 203 as part of the federally enforceable SIP for the State of Illinois. *See* 45 Fed. Reg. 11493. IPCB Rule 203 is codified at 35 Ill. Admin. Code §§ 212.461, 212.462 and 212.463, and set forth in the Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9).

9. The Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(A) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.461(b)] establishes certain housekeeping practices that all grain-handling and grain-drying operations must implement regardless of size, including:

i. Air pollution control devices shall be checked daily and cleaned as necessary to insure proper operation.

ii. Cleaning and Maintenance.

a. Floors shall be kept swept and cleaned from boot pit to cupola floor. Roof or bin decks and other exposed flat surfaces shall be kept clean of grain and dust that would tend to rot or become airborne.

b. Cleaning shall be handled in such a manner as not to permit dust to escape to the atmosphere.

c. The yard and surrounding area, including but not limited to ditches and curbs, shall be cleaned to prevent the accumulation of rotting grain.

iii. Dump pit.

a. Aspiration equipment shall be maintained and operated.

b. Dust control devices shall be maintained and operated.

iv. Head House. The head house shall be maintained in such a fashion that visible quantities of dust or dirt are not allowed to escape to the atmosphere.

v. Property. The yard and driveway of any source shall be asphalted, oiled, or equivalently treated to control dust.

vi. Housekeeping Check List. Housekeeping check lists to be developed by the Agency shall be completed by the manager and maintained on the premises for inspection by Agency personnel.

10. The Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(D) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.461(c)] states “any grain-handling operation or grain-drying operation for which construction or modification commenced prior to June 30, 1975, located outside of a major population area which is required to apply for a permit pursuant to the Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(B) and Rule 203(d)(9)(C) [35 Ill. Admin Code §§ 212.462 and 212.463], respectively, shall receive such permit notwithstanding the control requirements of those respective rules provided said operation can demonstrate that the following conditions exist upon application for, or renewal of, an operating permit: 1) The requirements of the Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(A) [35 Ill. Admin. Code §212.461(b)] are being met; ...”

11. The Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(B) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.462] applies to existing grain handling operations with a throughput greater than 300,000 bushels/year.

12. The Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(B) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.462] provides that “existing grain-handling operations with a total annual grain throughput of 300,000 bushels or more shall apply for an operating permit pursuant to Rule 103 of Part 1 [35 Ill. Admin. Code 201].”

13. The Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(B)(ii)(a)(1) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.462(b)(1)(A)] requires that grain-handling operations apply induced draft to major dump pits and their associated equipment (including, but not limited to, boots, hoppers and legs) to such an extent that a minimum face velocity is maintained, at the effective grate surface, sufficient to contain particulate emissions generated in unloading operations in accordance with the formula provided.

14. The Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(B)(ii)(a)(2) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.462(b)(1)(B)] requires that the induced draft air stream from the dump pits for grain-handling facilities having a grain throughput not greater than 2,000,000 bushels per year or located outside of a major population area is collected and conveyed through air pollution control equipment which has an overall rated and actual particulate collection efficiency of not less than 90% by weight.

15. The Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(B)(ii)(a)(4) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.462(b)(1)(D)] also requires that means or devices (including, but not limited to, quick-closing doors, air curtains or wind deflectors) be employed to prevent a wind velocity in excess of 50% of the induced draft face velocity at the pit; provided, however, that such means or devices do not have to achieve the same degree of prevention when the ambient air wind exceeds 25 mph.

16. The Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(B)(iii) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.462(c)] requires pollution controls for the internal transferring area. The rule provides:

(a) Internal transferring area shall be enclosed to the extent necessary to prohibit visible particulate matter emissions directly into the atmosphere.

(b) Air contaminants collected from internal transfer operations for grain-handling facilities having a grain throughput of not more than 2 million bushels per year or located outside a major population area shall be conveyed through air pollution control equipment which has a rated and actual particulate removal efficiency of not less than 90% by weight prior to release into the atmosphere.

17. The Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(B)(i)(b) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.462(a)(2)] requires truck and hopper car loading to “employ socks, sleeves or equivalent devices which extend 6 inches below the sides of the receiving vehicle.”

18. On May 29, 2002, EPA approved revisions to Section 9(f) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(f), which modified the particulate matter control requirements for certain rural grain elevators in Illinois. *See* 67 Fed. Reg. 37323-37325.

19. Effective July 29, 2002, EPA incorporated by reference Section 9 (including revised Section 9(f)) into the federally enforceable SIP for the State of Illinois. Section 9 was set forth in the Illinois SIP as Act 9.

20. Act 9 of the Illinois SIP [Section 9(f) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, 415 ILCS 5/9] states in pertinent part that any grain elevator located outside of a “major population area” shall be exempt from the requirements of the Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(B) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.462], provided that the elevator:

(a) does not violate the pollution prohibitions in subsection (a) of Act 9 of the Illinois SIP [Section 9(a) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(a)], or does not have a certified investigation on file with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; and

(b) is not required to obtain a Clean Air Act Program Permit pursuant to [415 ILCS 5/39.5]. Notwithstanding the above exemption, new stationary source performance standards for grain elevators, established pursuant to Section 9.1 of the [Illinois Environmental Protection] Act (Act 9.1 of the Illinois SIP) and Section 111 of the CAA, shall continue to apply to grain elevators.

21. The Illinois SIP at Part 211 (M words) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 211.3610] defines “major population area” *inter alia* to include “the municipalities of Kankakee, Bradley and Bourbonnais, plus a zone extending two miles beyond the boundaries of said municipalities in Kankakee County.”

22. Pursuant to Act 9 of the Illinois SIP [Section 9(a) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(a)], “[n]o person shall: (a) Cause or threaten or allow the discharge or emission of any contaminant into the environment in any State so as to cause or tend to cause air pollution in Illinois, either alone or in combination with contaminants from other sources, or so as to violate regulations or standards adopted by the Board under this Act.”

23. The Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(C) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.463] requires operating permits for dryers with a total grain-drying capacity in excess of 750 bushels/hour at five percent moisture extraction.

## **Factual Background**

24. Farmers owns and operates a grain handling operation (i.e. a grain elevator) located at 7690 E 9000N Road, Grant Park, Kankakee County, Illinois 60940 (the Facility). The Facility commenced operations on or before 1914.
25. The Facility is located more than two miles beyond the boundaries of Kankakee, Bradley and Bourbonnais, and thus is not located in a “major population area” as defined in the Illinois SIP at Part 211 (M words) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 211.3610].
26. The Facility processes soybeans, corn, and wheat with the aid of trucks, dump pits, belt conveyors, cleaners, a dryer, and storage bins in a manner that creates particulate matter.
27. During 2011, the Facility processed about 1.5 million bushels of grain.
28. The Facility has two column dryers. One was installed in 1993 and has a design capacity of 3,500 bushels/hour at 5% moisture extraction, thus meeting the requirements for an operating permit under the Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(C) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.463]. This dryer, however, is not covered by either an air pollution construction permit or an air pollution operating permit. The other dryer was installed in 2012 and has a design capacity of 4,000 bushels/hour at 5% moisture extraction, again meeting the requirements for an operating permit under the Illinois SIP at Rule 203(d)(9)(C) [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.463]. This dryer also is not covered by an air pollution construction permit or an air pollution operating permit.
29. EPA representatives performed an inspection at the Facility on July 16, 2012, and observed the following:
1. Operating Permits: The Facility did not have an air pollution operating permit and representatives of the Facility did not produce an air pollution construction or operating permit application for the Facility or for either dryer.
  2. Dump pit area: The dump pits do not have aspiration or induced draft.
  3. Property: An accumulation of rotting grain was scattered on the driveways and on the yard of the Facility.
  4. Internal Transferring Area: Air contaminants from the internal transferring area were not collected and conveyed to air pollution control equipment with the requisite particulate collection efficiency.
  5. Housekeeping Checklist: The Facility did not have a housekeeping checklist.
30. During the inspection, a representative of the Facility stated to EPA that the Facility does not close the doors of the dump pit when trucks dump their contents into the pit.
31. The Facility representative also stated that the Facility does not always use socks or sleeves during truck loading.

## Violations

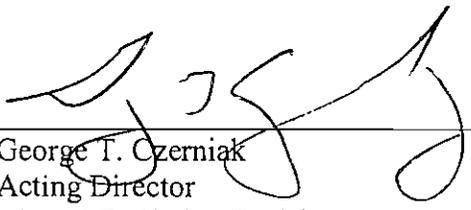
32. Farmers violated Rule 203(d)(9)(B) of the Illinois SIP [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.462] by failing to obtain an air pollution operating permit for the Facility.
33. Farmers violated Rule 103(a)(1) of the Illinois SIP [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 201.142] by failing to obtain air pollution construction permits for the dryers.
34. Farmers violated Rules 103(b)(1) and 203(d)(9)(C) of the Illinois SIP [35 Ill. Admin. Code §§ 201.143 and 212.463] by failing to obtain air pollution operating permits for the dryers.
35. Farmers violated Rule 203(d)(9)(A)(iii)(a) and (b) of the Illinois SIP [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.461(b)(3)(A) and (B)] by failing to operate aspiration and dust control equipment on its dump pits.
36. Farmers violated Rule 203(d)(9)(A)(ii)(a)(c) of the Illinois SIP [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.461(b)(2)(C)] by failing to properly perform housekeeping cleaning and maintenance on the yard and surrounding open area at the Facility to prevent the accumulation of rotting grain.
37. Farmers violated Act 9 and Rule 102 of the Illinois SIP [Section 9(a) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(a) and 35 Ill. Admin. Code § 201.141] by allowing particulate matter to be discharged or emitted into the environment from the Facility, so as to: (i) cause or tend to cause air pollution in Illinois either alone or in combination with contaminants from other sources; or (ii) violate regulations or standards under the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, 415 ILCS 5/1, *et seq.*, or Title 35 of the Illinois Administrative Code.
38. Farmers violated Rule 203(d)(9)(B)(ii)(a)(4) of the Illinois SIP [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.462(b)(1)(D)] by failing to employ means or devices, including quick-closing doors, air curtains or wind deflectors, to prevent a wind velocity in excess of 50% of the induced draft face velocity at the dump pit area.
39. Farmers violated Rule 203(d)(9)(B) (ii)(a)(2) of the Illinois SIP [35 Ill. Admin. Code §§ 212.462(b)(1)(A) and (B)] by failing to apply induced draft to the dump pits that is collected and conveyed through air pollution control equipment which has an overall rated and actual particulate collection efficiency of not less than 90% by weight.
40. Farmers violated Rule 203(d)(9)(B) (iv)(a) of the Illinois SIP [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.462(d)(1)] by failing to use socks or sleeves or equivalent devices that extend six inches below the sides of vehicles during loading.
41. Farmers violated Rule 203(d)(9)(B)(iii) of the Illinois SIP [35 Ill. Admin. Code § 212.462(c)(2)] by failing to collect and convey the contaminants from the internal transferring area through air pollution control equipment which has a rated and actual particulate removal efficiency of not less than 90% by weight.
42. Violations of the Illinois SIP constitute violations of the CAA.

### Environmental Impact of Violations

43. Violation of the pollution control requirements for grain elevators in the Illinois SIP increases public exposure to unhealthy particulate matter. Acute respiratory effects of the inhalation of particulate matter include narrowing of the airways and asthma attacks. Chronic respiratory effects include damage to lung tissue, increased pulmonary resistance, and fibrotic changes in lung tissue. Increased pulmonary resistance and fibrosis may lead to cardiovascular impairment.

Date

11/13/12



George T. Czerniak  
Acting Director  
Air and Radiation Division

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

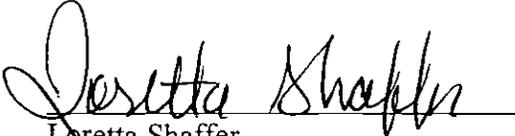
I, Loretta Shaffer, certify that I sent a Notice of Violation, No. EPA-5-12-IL-21, by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to:

Alan Lamore  
Manager  
Farmers Grain and Supply Company  
51 West Fourth Street  
Manteno, Illinois 60950

I also certify that I sent copies of the Notice of Violation by first-class mail to:

Ray Pilapil, Manager  
Bureau of Air  
Compliance and Enforcement Section  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
1201 Grand Avenue East  
Springfield, Illinois 62702

On the 19 day of November 2012

  
Loretta Shaffer  
Administrative Program Assistant  
AECAB, PAS

CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT NUMBER: 7009 1680 0000 7667 4447