

June 4, 2019

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 91 7199 9991 7038 4331 5651

Mr. Edward Nesselbeck
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. Nesselbeck:

The Department of Environmental Protection ("Department") has reviewed the Quarterly Compliance Reports for the periods October 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, and January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019, submitted in accordance with Title V Operating Permit 25-00029 ("Permit"), Section E, Group Name: 7 - NESHAP For Coke Ovens, Condition #026.

- a) The January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019 report revealed the following violations from Erie Coke Corporation ("Erie Coke").
1. There were seven (7) days where daily average opacity exceeded 15% in violation of 40 CFR §63.7333(e)(1), and the Permit, Section E, Group Name: 7 – NESHAP For Coke Ovens, Condition #015(e)(1) (page 123).
 2. There were forty-four (44) days where the daily average fan RPMs were not at or above minimum requirements, in violation of 40 CFR §63.7333(d)(3)(i), and the Permit, Section E, Group Name: 7 – NESHAP For Coke Ovens, Conditions #015(d)(3)(i) (page 122) and Condition #029(b)(3)(ii) (page 133).
 3. There were nine (9) days where pushed ovens were not observed during the reporting period, in violation of 40 CFR §63.7334(a)(1) and the Permit, Section E, Group Name: 7 – NESHAP for Coke Ovens, Condition #016(a)(1) (page 123).
 4. There were thirteen (13) ovens that were not pushed and observed during the reporting period, in violation of 40 CFR §63.7334(a)(2) and the Permit, Section E, Group Name: 7 – NESHAP for Coke Ovens, Condition #016(a)(2) (page 123).

- b) The October 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 report revealed the following violations from Erie Coke.
1. There were thirteen (13) days where pushed ovens were not observed during the reporting period, in violation of 40 CFR §63.7334(a)(1) and the Permit, Section E, Group Name: 7 – NESHAP for Coke Ovens, Condition #016(a)(1) (page 123).
 2. There were eleven (11) ovens that were not pushed and observed during the reporting period, in violation of 40 CFR §63.7334(a)(2) and the Permit, Section E, Group Name: 7 – NESHAP for Coke Ovens, Condition #016(a)(2) (page 123).
 3. There were sixty-five (65) days where the daily average fan RPMs were not at or above minimum requirements, in violation of 40 CFR §63.7333(d)(3)(i), and the Permit, Section E, Group Name: 7 – NESHAP For Coke Ovens, Conditions #015(d)(3)(i) (page 122) and Condition #029(b)(3)(ii) (page 133).
 4. There were forty-eight (48) days where checks of the baghouse fan RPM's every 8 hours were not recorded, in violation of 40 CFR §63.7333(d)(3)(ii), and Permit, Section E, Group Name: 7 – NESHAP for Coke Ovens, Condition #015(d)(3)(ii) (page 122).
 5. There were fifty-three (53) days daily washing of the Quench Tower baffles were not recorded, in violation of 40 CFR §63.7334(e)(2), and the Permit, Section E, Group Name: 7 – NESHAP for Coke Ovens, Condition #016(e)(2) (page 123).
- c) The Department inspected the Erie Coke facility on May 15, 2019, and identified the following violations not otherwise identified above:
1. The facility does not monitor and maintain records of liquid flow rate through the H₂S absorber, in violation of the Permit, Section D, Source 805, Conditions #005(b) (page 39), #005(c), #006(a)(ii), and #007(c) (page 40).
 2. There were 43 identified excursions of the permitted pressure drop range (1" - 7" inches) across the H₂S absorber in February 2019, and 36 excursions in April 2019, in violation of the Permit, Section D, Source 805, Condition #010(a)(page 41).
 3. The Stack Emission Observation Form including documentation of occurrences, causes, and repairs associated with visible emission exceedances is not being maintained by Erie Coke, in violation of the Permit, Section D, Source 805, Condition #014(page 44).
 4. Records maintained for the Coke Side Shed baghouse indicate exceedances of the permitted pressure drop range on February 2, 3, 5, 6, and 27, 2019, in violation of the Permit, Section E, Group 9, Condition #002 (page 151).

5. On April 5 – 9 and April 17 - 22, the daily average fan RPMs of the West baghouse were not at or above minimum requirements, in violation of 40 CFR §63.7333(d)(3)(i), and the Permit, Section E, Group Name: 7 – NESHAP For Coke Ovens, Conditions #015(d)(3)(i) (page 122) and Condition #029(b)(3)(ii) (page 133).
6. Records maintained for the Coke Side Shed baghouse for February and April 2019 fail to document the inspection criteria and requirements required by the NESHAP and they do not show that the capture system (Coke Side Shed) has been inspected, in violation of 40 CFR §63.7335(b)(1), 40 CFR §63.7300(c)(1) and the Permit, Group 7, Conditions #017(b)(1) and #032(c)(1) (pages 124 and 134, respectively).
7. The daily quench tower rinse cycle report for February 2019 was missing and not provided, in violation of 40 CFR § 63.7334(e)(2) and the Permit, Section E, Group 7, Condition #016(e)(2) (page 124).
8. The daily quench tower rinse cycle records are also not completed correctly on days on which the temperature appears to be below 30 degrees F. On January 10 – 14, 19-21, 25-26, and 30-31, 2019 and March 1-6, 8-9, 18, 22, 25-26, 2019, it appears that only one temperature was recorded. The entire day needs to be monitored to be exempt from baffle washing and the temperatures each shift that day should be entered into the form. In addition, on days when the temperature was less than 30 degrees F, the employee signed in the column indicating that the baffles had been washed instead of the columns for when the temperature is less than 30 degrees F. Failure to properly complete the form constitutes a violation of 40 CFR §§ 63.7295(b)(2) and 63.7334(e)(2), and the Permit, Section E, Group 7, Condition #016(e)(2) (page 124).
9. Visible fugitive emissions of unburned coke oven gas were leaking from the collecting main near Oven #32, in violation of 25 Pa Code § 123.23(a) and the Permit, Section D, Source 805, Condition #002(a) (page 38).
10. Visible fugitive emissions of unburned coke oven gas were leaking from the Battery A liquor pot, in violation of 25 Pa Code §127.441 and the Permit, Section E, Source Group Name: 11 – RACT II, Condition #003(c) (page 74).
11. During coke pushing, fugitive emissions of greater than 20% opacity were observed escaping from around the edges of the Coke Side Shed, from the joints of the Coke Side Shed, and through smaller holes in the Coke Side Shed, in violation of Pa 25 Code §129.15(c) and the Permit, Section D, Source 802, Condition #001(c) (page 34).
12. The west side of the Coke Side Shed baghouse was operating below the RPM level established during the last stack test, in violation of 40 CFR § 63.7290(b) and the Permit, Section E, Group Name: 7 – NESHAP For Coke Ovens, Condition #029(b)(3)(ii) (page 133).

13. Fugitive emissions were observed being emitted to atmosphere from holes in the Coke Side Shed and between the two batteries. This is a violation of 25 Pa Code §127.25 and the Permit, Section B, Condition #008(b) (page 9).

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 814-332-6977.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Painter
Air Quality District Supervisor
Air Quality Program

cc: C. Ballard, OCC
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