

January 18, 2005

Cliff Hunter  
Authorized Account Representative  
WCI Steel, Inc.  
1040 Pine Avenue, SE  
Warren, OH 44483-6528

Re: Off-Season Linearity Check Results to Quality Assure Ozone Season Data for Unit B004 at WCI Steel (Facility ID (ORISPL) 880034)

Dear Mr. Hunter:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that EPA is treating your recent telephone conversation with EPA staff, concerning the April, 2004 linearity checks of gas monitors on Unit B004 as a petition to use these linearity checks to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, 2004 “inside-the-ozone-season” linearity check requirement of §75.74(c)(3)(ii) and to report quality-assured NO<sub>x</sub> emission data for certain hours, instead of using missing data substitution.

Unit B004 is subject to the NO<sub>x</sub> Budget Trading Program. Therefore, WCI Steel, Inc (WCI) is required to monitor and report NO<sub>x</sub> mass emissions for this unit, in accordance with subpart H of 40 CFR part 75. The monitoring plan for this unit indicates that you have elected to report NO<sub>x</sub> mass emissions only during the ozone season, i.e., from May 1 through September 30. According to §75.74(c), when the ozone season-only reporting option is selected, certain quality-assurance (QA) tests of the NO<sub>x</sub> monitoring system are required prior to the ozone season, and certain other QA tests are required inside the ozone season.

It has come to EPA’s attention that the NO<sub>x</sub> monitoring system installed on Unit B004 has not met all of the quality-assurance test requirements for the 2004 ozone season. In particular, the requirement of §75.74(c)(3)(ii) to perform a 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter linearity check of the monitoring system inside the ozone season (i.e., in May or June) was not met. Failure to meet this QA test requirement causes data from the NO<sub>x</sub> monitoring system to be invalidated, beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing until a linearity check is performed and passed. The use of missing data substitution is required during this period.

Apparently, the QA requirements in §§75.74(c)(2) and (c)(3) for ozone season-only reporters have been misunderstood by the owners or operators of several sources, including Unit

B004. It appears that several owners or operators conducted the pre-ozone season linearity checks required by §75.74(c)(2)(i) in April (i.e., in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter), but did not understand that §75.74(c)(3)(ii) requires an additional 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter linearity check in May or June, inside the ozone season.

#### EPA's Determination

EPA conditionally approves WCI's request to use the April 2004 linearity checks of the gas monitors installed on Unit B004 to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, 2004 "inside-the-ozone-season" linearity check requirement of §75.74(c)(3)(ii). EPA is granting this one-time exception to the requirement of §75.74(c)(3)(ii), for the following reasons. First, the pre-season linearity checks (which could have been performed any time from October 1, 2003 through April 30, 2004) were actually performed within the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2004 (April), and the monitors were operated and quality-assured by means of daily calibration error checks for the remainder of the quarter. This provides reasonable assurance of the quality of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter data generated by the gas monitors. Second, for sources that report emissions data year-round, Part 75 requires only one linearity check per quarter, under normal circumstances (e.g., in the absence of monitor replacements under §75.20(b)), to provide assurance that the monitors are generating accurate data. Therefore, EPA believes that the emissions data for Unit B004 should be treated as quality-assured in the time period extending from July 1, 2004 to the completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 2004 linearity checks, and the Agency waives the requirement of §75.74(c)(3)(ii) to perform missing data substitution in that time period. The conditions of this approval are as follows:

- (1) If, as a result of the missed 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter "inside-the-ozone-season" linearity checks, WCI used missing data substitution in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 2004 electronic data report (EDR) for Unit B004, WCI may resubmit the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 2004 EDR within 7 days of the date of receipt of this letter, replacing the substitute data with the actual emissions data recorded by the gas monitors; and
- (2) In the resubmitted 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 2004 report, WCI shall include a note in EDR record type 910, indicating that EPA approved the use of the April, 2004 linearity checks to satisfy both the pre-ozone season linearity check requirement of §75.74(c)(2)(i) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter "inside-the-ozone-season" linearity check requirement of §75.74(c)(3)(ii).

Please be advised that this is a one-time waiver of the QA requirements of §75.74(c)(3)(ii) and applies only to the 2004 ozone season. In 2005 and beyond, EPA expects the QA test requirements for ozone season-only reporters to be fully met. Otherwise, missing data substitution will be required, without exception. If you have any questions about this determination, please contact Louis Nichols at (202) 343-9008. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Sam Napolitano, Director  
Clean Air Markets Division

cc: Cecelia Mijares, Region 5  
Todd Brown, OEPA  
Louis Nichols, CAMD