

## PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5, Water Division (WN-16J)  
77 West Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Surface Water  
Lazarus Government Center  
50 West Town Street, Suite 700  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Public Notice No.:

Public Notice Date:

**ACTION:** Notice of tentative decision to grant, pursuant to Section 301(g) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), a modification of an existing variance from best available technology economically achievable (BAT) treatment requirements for the nonconventional pollutant, ammonia (as N), for:

ArcelorMittal Steel, Cleveland Works  
3060 Eggers Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44127  
NPDES Permit Number OH0000957

**SUMMARY:** ArcelorMittal Steel, pursuant to Sections 301(g) of the CWA, requested modification of a previously-approved variance from the BAT treatment requirements for the nonconventional pollutant ammonia (as N) discharged from its blast furnace through external outfall 005 (monitored internally at outfall 604) ArcelorMittal Steel operates an integrated steel mill with no coke-making operations at its Cleveland Works. Outfall 604 contains blowdown from the common gas cooling and scrubber process water treatment and recycle system for the No. C5 and C6 blast furnaces. The treatment and recycle system includes clarifiers for removal of particulates removed from the blast furnaces gas, a mechanical draft cooling tower for cooling the re-circulating water and ancillary pump stations and sludge dewatering equipment. A portion of the re-circulating water is used for cooling slag generated from the blast furnaces and a low volume blow-down is discharged through Outfall 604. The discharge from Outfall 604 is combined with non-contact cooling water, storm water and groundwater and is discharged via Outfall 005 to the Cuyahoga River.

Section 301(g) of the CWA authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to modify the BAT requirements for nonconventional pollutants provided a satisfactory demonstration is made that, among other factors, such modification will not interfere with the attainment of water quality standards that assure the protection of public water supplies and aquatic life, and will not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) reviewed the ArcelorMittal Steel application to modify the original variance and recommended that U.S. EPA approve the modification. The proposed modified effluent limitations (PMELs) for the internal outfall 604, which would be in effect if the modification is granted, are compared with the best practicable technology currently available (BPT) and BAT limitations:

Effluent Limitations	30 Day Average (kg/day)	Daily Maximum (kg/day)
BAT	24.5	73.6
BPT	451	1,353
Ohio EPA WQBELS		
Summer	N/A	3,135
Winter	N/A	2,472
2001 Section 301(g) Approved Limitations		
Summer	62.4	85.6
Winter	81.6	211
Modified PMELs Section 301(g) Variance		
Year-round	224	294

The modified PMELs are reflective of existing discharge conditions and will meet the applicable Ohio water quality standards at the edge of the mixing zone. U.S. EPA has analyzed the merits of the ArcelorMittal Steel request and believes that it satisfies all of the statutory criteria. Therefore, U.S. EPA, in conformance with the Tentative Decision of the Region 5 Regional Administrator, is today proposing to grant the ArcelorMittal Steel request to modify its previous Section 301(g) variance for ammonia (as N).

**PROCEDURES FOR FINAL DETERMINATION:** Interested persons may submit written comments on the Tentative Decision to grant a modification of the Section 301(g) variance to the U.S. EPA Regional Administrator within 30 days of the date of this public notice at the address below. Comments should be specific and include the basis and relevant facts upon which they are made. Anyone who is interested in commenting on this Tentative Decision should be aware of the obligation to raise issues, and to provide supporting information, for consideration during this public comment period in order to raise those issues in a subsequent appeal (40 CFR §§ 124.13, 124.64(b) and 124.19). All comments will be considered in the formulation of a final decision on this variance.

A public hearing on this Tentative Decision may be held if significant public interest in a public hearing is expressed (40 CFR § 124.12). Interested persons should submit their requests for a public hearing along with their issues of concern during the period specified above for submitting written comments (40 CFR § 124.11).

Following the close of public comment period, U.S. EPA will make a final decision on the ArcelorMittal Steel Section 301(g) variance request. An appeal of the final decision on the variance may be made under 40 CFR §§ 124.64(b) and 124.19.

The application, Tentative Decision, Tentative Decision Support Document, and administrative record are available for review at U.S. EPA Region 5 offices at the address below and at OEPA. Documents may also be viewed or downloaded from <http://.....> All comments regarding the Tentative Decision submitted on or before 30 days after publication of this notice will be considered and should be sent to the Region Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Attention: Water Division (WN-16J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60604, with a copy to Ohio Environmental Protection Agency,

Division of Surface Water, Lazarus Government Center, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049.

For further information regarding this variance decision, please contact Mr. Robert Pepin, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Water Division (WN-16J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60604 (telephone: (312) 886-1505; email: [pepin.robert@epa.gov](mailto:pepin.robert@epa.gov)).