



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
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OFFICE OF
AIR AND WASTE

APR 09 2019

Bernard P. Leber, Jr.
Environmental Engineering Manager
Kaiser Aluminum Fabricated Products, LLC
PO Box 15108
Spokane Valley, Washington 99215

Re: Response to Hooding Questions at Kaiser Trentwood in Spokane Valley, Washington

Dear Mr. Leber:

This is a response to your letter to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA), Region 10 on behalf of Kaiser Aluminum Fabricated Products, LLC's (Kaiser), dated January 10, 2019, requesting clarification related to a request for a potential future hooding impracticability determination under 40 CFR, part 63, subpart RRR: *National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Secondary Aluminum Production*. Consistent with prior communications, your letter indicates that Kaiser may replace one or more existing furnaces at its Trentwood facility in Spokane Valley, Washington with new round top melting furnaces and, as a consequence, may request one or more hooding impracticability determinations under 40 CFR 63.1512(e)(5) and (e)(6) in the future. In addition, you request clarification on several points.

In particular, your letter requests that the EPA confirm whether:

1. A specific impracticability determination request can be issued quickly once further details of Kaiser's project become clear and the requested information has been forwarded to EPA.
2. An impracticability determination can be issued timely prior to construction and before an NOC¹ application is submitted by Kaiser to the local air permitting agency.
3. The six measures for minimizing unmeasured emissions from Kaiser's August 16, 2016 letter, along with the two measures proposed in Kaiser's January 10, 2019 letter (use of a new top ring and ceramic seal and operating at near neutral pressure) are sufficient under 40 CFR 1512(e)(5)(ii) and (7).

¹ An NOC, or *Notice of Construction*, is the name used in Washington's State Implementation Plan for a pre-construction permit, sometimes called a *new source review permit* or *permit to construct*.

EPA Response to Clarification Request #1

According to 40 CFR 63.1512(e)(5)(ii), an owner or operator of a new round top furnace located at an area source of hazardous air pollutants may petition the Administrator at least 180 days prior to testing for a determination that hooding is impracticable. Hooding is considered impracticable if any of the conditions in 40 CFR 63.1512(e)(6) exist. There is a minimum amount of time (180 days) before the required test specified in the regulation for the submission of a petition. However, the regulation specifies no maximum amount of time. Kaiser may petition the Administrator as far in advance as it is certain of having accurate information about the project. Any approval granted by the EPA would be valid as long as the project constructed matches the description provided to the EPA and the applicable section of regulation does not change substantively in the interim. We can confirm that EPA will promptly respond to a petition submitted by Kaiser once further details of Kaiser's project become clear and Kaiser submits a petition for an impracticability determination with the information identified in the regulations, clarified in EPA's July 17, 2018 letter. In this regard, we are reiterating that the information outlined in our July 17, 2018 letter is needed for EPA to fully evaluate Kaiser's request and respond to such a petition. We disagree with Kaiser's January 10, 2019 letter's suggestion that such information may not be required.

EPA Response to Clarification Request #2

The Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency's administration of the new source review permitting program and the EPA's authority to grant a petition that hoods are impracticable pursuant to 40 CFR 63.1512(e)(5)(ii) are separate and independent evaluations, although the new source review permit cannot be issued unless the permitting authority determines that the proposed new source or modification will comply with, among other things, applicable national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants. See WAC 173-400-112(a)(1); Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency Regulation I, Article V, Sections 5.02.O and 5.09.D. The EPA may grant a petition after construction is completed or before it has begun, provided a design is specified in sufficient detail to demonstrate that hooding is impracticable as provided in the regulations. From the EPA's perspective, we can evaluate a petition regarding hooding impracticability regardless of whether an NOC application has been submitted.

Whether the EPA can grant a petition in a timely manner depends on the sufficiency of the information submitted by Kaiser in its petition. Please see our July 17, 2018 letter for additional detail on this issue. As we note in that letter, "*We expect that a hooding impracticability determination for any proposed new furnaces in the DC-2 and DC-8 casting complexes would be based on the same considerations discussed in EPA's letter dated February 8, 2018 with respect to Unit DC-0.*" Nothing has changed in this regard.

EPA Response to Clarification Request #3

The EPA does not "pre-approve" requests before a petition is submitted. However, much as we expect a hooding impracticability determination for similar furnaces to be based on similar considerations, it is reasonable to expect that an evaluation of measures for minimizing unmeasured emissions from similar furnaces during compliance tests to also be based on similar considerations. Based on the information submitted thus far, and assuming the use of a new top ring and ceramic seal and operating at near neutral pressure result in negligible visible emissions from the round top furnace throughout the melt cycle (including initial burner firing), we agree that the eight measures proposed by Kaiser are appropriate for minimizing unmeasured emissions under the circumstances presented. A final determination on that

issue, however, must await submission of a petition containing the specific information for the new furnace or furnaces in question.

If you have any further questions, please contact Geoffrey Glass of my staff at (206) 553-1847 or glass.geoffrey@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kelly McFadden in black ink, followed by the text "for:".

Kelly McFadden, Manager
Stationary Source Unit

Cc: Julie Oliver, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
April Westby, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (email)

