



# Department of Environmental Quality

*To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.*



Matthew H. Mead, Governor

John Corra, Director

Monday, March 19, 2012

Certified #7008 1830 0004 7090 9279  
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. J.P. Maguire  
Refinery Manager  
Sinclair Oil Corporation (40.025)  
P O Box 277  
Sinclair, WY 82334

**RE: Issuance of Notice of Violation**

Dear Mr. Maguire:

Enclosed is a Notice of Violation (NOV) issued to your facility for violation(s) of the Wyoming Hazardous Waste Rules and Regulations (HWRR).

On June 11, 2007, Sinclair Wyoming Refining Company (SWRC), formerly Sinclair Oil Corporation (SOC), was issued a hazardous waste renewal permit for the Aggressive Biological Treatment Unit (ABTU).

On October 26, 2011, Sinclair Wyoming Refining Company (SWRC) identified two safety relief valves that released gasoline to a sump that drains to the sewer at the base of the gasoline caustic treating vessels in the refinery alkylation unit. When the error was discovered the material was immediately diverted to ABTU cell # 2 to eliminate discharge of elevated benzene concentrations from the ABTU. The effluent sample was reported at 1.4 mg/L, and 0.73 mg/L benzene.

Specifically, the NOV has been issued for the following violation(s):

Permit condition Part IV(B).D.7. (2007 Permit) of the permit states, "The Permittee shall maintain the ABTU such that the concentration of benzene in the effluent remains below 0.5 mg/L and the Permittee shall verify this benzene level on a weekly basis." Permit condition I.D.6. states, "The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Permit. Proper operation and maintenance includes effective performance, adequate funding, adequate operator staffing, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance/quality control procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems only when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the Permit."



5729



Mr. Maguire, 3/19/2012



Therefore, on October 26, 2011, SWRC was in violation of permit condition, Part IV(B).(D).7, for exceeding the ABTU effluent limitation of 0.5 mg/L benzene and permit condition, Part I.D.6.

During our followup to this incident, Sinclair committed to minimizing or preventing similar incidents in the future by investing in hard-piped diversion of the relief valve (RV) discharge away from the ABTU to hydrocarbon recovery or other more appropriate management. It is our understanding this project is planned for completion in the April-June, 2012 period. We are not seeking a penalty at this time pending our receipt of basic documentation Sinclair has followed through with the stated resolution.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the attached NOV, please feel free to contact Charles Plymale at (307) 332-6951 or Bob Breuer at (307) 473-3454.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Anderson", is written over a horizontal line.

Carl Anderson, PhD  
Administrator  
Solid and Hazardous Waste Division

Attachment: NOV

C: Charlie Plymale, WDEQ Lander  
Bob Breuer, I&C Program Manager, WDEQ Casper  
Matt Bucholz, WDEQ Cheyenne  
Tim Link, WDEQ Cheyenne  
Cheyenne File



**BEFORE THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL  
STATE OF WYOMING**

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
NOTICE OF VIOLATION  
ISSUED TO:

SINCLAIR WYOMING REFINING CO. (40.025)	)	
100 E. Lincolnway	)	
Sinclair, WY 82334	)	DOCKET NO. 4976-12
	)	
	)	

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:

1. On June 11, 2007, Sinclair Wyoming Refining Company (SWRC), formerly Sinclair Oil Corporation (SOC), was issued a hazardous waste renewal permit for the Aggressive Biological Treatment Unit (ABTU).
2. On October 26, 2011, SWRC identified two safety relief valves that released gasoline to a sump that drains to the sewer at the base of the gasoline caustic treating vessels in the refinery alkylation unit. When the error was discovered, the material was immediately diverted to ABTU cell # 2 to eliminate discharge of elevated benzene concentrations from the ABTU. The effluent sample was reported at 1.4 mg/L, and 0.73 mg/L benzene in the October, 2011 analytical report obtained by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ).
3. Permit condition Part IV(B).D.7. (2007 Permit) of the permit states, "The Permittee shall maintain the ABTU such that the concentration of benzene in the effluent remains below 0.5 mg/L and the Permittee shall verify this benzene level on a weekly basis." Permit condition I.D.6. states, "The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Permit. Proper operation and maintenance includes effective performance, adequate funding, adequate operator staffing, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance/quality control procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems only when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the Permit."

Therefore, on October 26, 2011, SWRC was in violation of permit condition, Part IV(B).(D).7, for exceeding the ABTU effluent limitation of 0.5 mg/L benzene and permit condition, Part I.D.6.

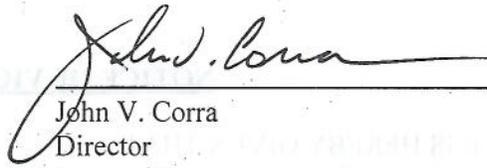


ANY PERSON who violates any provision of the Environmental Quality Act, or any rules, standard, permit, license, or variance adopted thereunder is liable to a penalty of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each day of violation, which penalty may be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General in the name of the People of the State of Wyoming; and

THIS NOTICE OF VIOLATION is being sent to you pursuant to Wyoming Statute 35-11-701(c) which requires that in any case of the failure to correct or remedy an alleged violation the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality shall cause a written notice to be issued and served upon the person alleged to be responsible.

Signed this 20th day of March, 2012

  
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Carl Anderson, Ph.D.  
Administrator  
Solid & Hazardous Waste Division

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John V. Corra  
Director  
Dept. of Environmental Quality

