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September 9, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Rhonda Banks Thompson
Chief, Bureau of Air Quality
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
thompsrb@dhec.sc.gov

Re: New-Indy stack test and request for notification waiver

Dear Ms. Thompson:

This law firm represents New-Indy Catawba LLC. As you know, New-Indy performed a stack test at its facility in Catawba, South Carolina, during the period of June 21-27. The test was performed during the startup period under the construction permit issued by the DHEC for the conversion project, because it was required under the applicable emergency order.¹ However, this time period also coincided with work being performed by a contractor at the facility to demonstrate substantial completion of the conversion project. This meant that the stack testing was performed during a period when the operating conditions were abnormal resulting in very conservative (i.e., high) emissions numbers. Specifically, because of the construction work the mill was being operated at a low kappa, resulting in fibers being “cooked” for an extended period of time, the “cooking liquid” had higher-than-normal sulfidity, the boiler was not running at the normal firing rate, and the boiler was not being fed with the normal ratio of bark and other tree-derived fuel.

The end result is that the stack test performed showed higher emissions than would typically be seen under normal operating conditions after completion of startup.² By conducting a re-test with the mill operating in a manner consistent with the conditions on which the permit and proposed permit modification are based (kappa at a level consistent with typical unbleached pulp mills for production of linerboard, typical sulfidity, boiler firing at the typical rate and being fed with typical ratio of bark, etc.), the results will be far more representative of typical operating conditions. Testing under “normal process operating conditions” is what is envisioned for stack testing for compliance purposes. USEPA, Mem., *Issuance of the Clean Air Act National Stack*

¹ DHEC, *Order to Correct*, dated May 7, 2021, ¶5.

² Further, because the stack test results were artificially high and conservative, the air dispersion model submitted to DHEC on or about August 28, 2021, is similarly conservative.

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Testing Guidance, dated April 27, 2009. Thus, New-Indy requests DHEC's participation and observation in an additional stack test.

New-Indy anticipates having the mill operating under "normal" conditions during the week of September 27, and respectfully requests that DHEC authorize a stack test to be conducted during the week of September 27 and waive the advance notification time requirement. New-Indy's test plan is attached for review and approval. New-Indy appreciates DHEC's consideration to observe the stack testing for that week.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

WILLOUGHBY & HOEFER, P.A.



Randolph R. Lowell

cc: Sara Martinez, Esquire
James Cobery, Esquire
Stephanie Blackman, Esquire