

5-6-09 received

File



To: Peter Lowitt
From: Craig Core
Subj: Evergreen Solar's Response to the April 1 Letter from the DEC.
Date: April 30, 2009

Dear Mr. Lowitt:

Having received your letter of April 1, 2009, we are pleased to report we have taken a number of steps to address the noises that were being heard from the neighboring area. From the information that you provided the Noise Specialist determined the source of the offending noise to be our VOC scrubber equipment. We made repairs to that equipment. The repairs included replacing the motor and the blower fan that were believed to be the sources of the noise. In addition to replacing these parts, an acoustic blanket has been placed around this equipment. These repairs took place between April 6 and April 13, 2009. From a non-instrument based review of the current noise levels, we believe the noise level has been reduced dramatically.

In addition to the VOC scrubber repairs, we have discussed the noise concerns directly with the neighbors on Old Mill Road, with the primary contact being Jay Wallace from the Dunroven Farm. From our conversations with Mr. Wallace we determined other noise sources that the neighbors have noticed and proactively took steps to quiet these sources.

Steps taken include:

- Shutting off door exit alarms on the back side of the building.
- Taking offline a pump from the chiller unit, and effecting repairs.
- Closing all large rollaway doors that had previously been left open and allowed noise to exit the building. We have instructed facility personnel to keep these doors shut in the future unless they are actively being used for loading and unloading materials and products.

We have also determined that the delivery of liquefied gas to the plant can produce a loud noise. This noise is created when the liquid gas is transferred from the delivery trucks to the storage tanks. We are working with our liquefied gas vendor, Praxair, Inc., to resolve this issue. Attached is a plan from Praxair with both near term and long term solutions. Part of the near term solutions includes attempting to position the trucks between the tanks and the Evergreen building in order to use the tanks and evaporation equipment to block the noise that might otherwise be directed off of our property. Previously there has been nothing between the trucks and the property line during the delivery process.

In light of the numerous steps that have already been taken at our facility, I propose your noise specialist revisit the site to assess the improvements that we have made and confirm that we have addressed the problem. To be able to compare this measurement to your specialist's previous recordings, the measurements should be made when there is no Praxair delivery in progress. We think these measurements will confirm the original noise concerns have been addressed. In the meantime and thereafter we will continue to work on addressing the noise associated with the deliveries by Praxair.

Please give me a call and we can discuss when to take this next step or if you have other questions.

Regards,



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Tom Cusson – MA DEP.

Praxair Plan Attached

Noise Mitigation Plan
 Evergreen Solar
 Devens, MA

Required Action	Decision Required	Completion Required	Accountable	Comments
Short Term Solutions				
Stage empty box trailers between tanks & property line to shield noise during filling operation.	5/1/09	5/1/09	Evergreen Solar	Inadequate room exists. Would block fire lane.
Modify fill procedure to reduce noise from pump operation.	5/1/09	5/8/09	Praxair/Evergreen	Work with Praxair Operations and Logistics to determine viability.
Relocate fill lines to opposite side of the pad. Tanks and vaporizers would provide some measure of buffering.	4/30/09	5/15/09	Praxair	Test concept with temporary hoses.
	5/1/09	5/30/09		Lead time on valves is at least two weeks.
Long Term Solution				
Install ground mounted pumps on argon and nitrogen systems.				
Determine minimum quantity required.	5/1/09	5/1/09	Praxair	Determine if pumps can be shared between products.
Prepare proposal	5/5/09	5/5/09	Praxair	
Issue PO	5/8/09	5/8/09	Evergreen Solar	
Design system	5/15/09	5/15/09	Praxair	
Order equipment	5/18/09	5/18/09	Praxair	Pump lead time is 20 weeks ARO
System installation & commissioning	10/16/09	10/16/09	Praxair	