# ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AIR QUALITY PROGRAM

In the Matter of:

United States Steel Corporation Clairton Works 400 State Street Clairton, PA 15025 Violation No. 210801

Violations of Article XXI ("Air Pollution Control") at property:

United States Steel Corporation – Clairton Plant

# **ENFORCEMENT ORDER**

**NOW**, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021 the Allegheny County Health Department (hereinafter "ACHD") issues this Enforcement Order after it has found and determined the following:

- 1. The Director of the ACHD has been delegated authority pursuant to the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. Sections 7401 -7671q (hereinafter "CAA"), and the Pennsylvania Air Pollution Control Act, 35 P.S. Sections 4001-4014 (hereinafter "APCA"), and the ACHD is a local health agency organized under the Local Health Administration Law, 19 P.S. §§ 12001- 12028, whose powers and duties include the enforcement of laws relating to public health within Allegheny County including, but not limited to, the ACHD's Rules and Regulations, Article XXI, Air Pollution Control (Allegheny County Code of Ordinances Chapters 505, 507 and 535) (hereinafter "Article XXI").
- 2. United States Steel Corporation (hereinafter "U. S. Steel") is a corporation organized under the state of Delaware and operates coke ovens at its Clairton facility situated in the City of Clairton, Allegheny County, PA.

- 3. On June 4, 2021, U. S. Steel indicated in ACHD Breakdown Report No. 21997, submitted to ACHD on June 1, 2021, that from 11:30 to 11:45 AM, approximately 8,449 lbs. of anhydrous ammonia had been released to the atmosphere.
- 4. The release resulted when a scaffolding contractor working in #1 Control Room inadvertently opened a bleeder valve while erecting his scaffolding, which led to anhydrous ammonia being released to the atmosphere from the Clairton facility.
- 5. Anhydrous Ammonia is designated as a toxic chemical by EPA. ACHD has determined the release of 8,449 lbs. of anhydrous ammonia by U. S. Steel to be a violation of Article XXI §2101.11.b which reads as follows:

## **§2101.11 PROHIBITION OF AIR POLLUTION**

- b. It shall be a violation of this Article for any person to:
  - 1. Operate, or allow to be operated, any source in such manner as to allow the release of air contaminants into the open air or to cause air pollution as defined in this Article, except as explicitly permitted by this Article.

#### **ORDER**

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted to the ACHD by Article XXI § 2109.03.a.1 and the Local Health Administration Law, 19 P.S. § 12010, it is hereby ORDERED that:

6. For the violation set forth in the preceding paragraphs, U. S. Steel, is hereby assessed a civil penalty of **FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS** (\$5,500.00). The civil penalty is as follows:

# A. Gravity Based Component

	<b>Gravity Based</b>		<b>Total Gravity</b>
Violation	Penalty	<b>Violations</b>	Penalty
Release of Anhydrous Ammonia, June 1, 2021	\$2,500.00	1	\$2,500.00
(Article XXI, § 2101.11 Prohibition of Pollution)			
<b>Gravity Component Subtotal</b>			\$2,500.00
B. Adjustment Factors			
Compliance History			\$2,500.00
Title V Source			\$500.00
TOTAL CIVIL PENALTY			\$5,500.00

- 7. U. S. Steel shall pay the civil penalty amount within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order. Payment shall be made by corporate or certified check, or the like, made payable to the "Allegheny County Clean Air Fund", and sent to Air Quality Program Manager, Allegheny County Health Department, 301 39th Street, Bldg. #7, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.
- 8. The ACHD has determined the above penalty in accordance with Article XXI § 2109.06.b. reflecting relevant factors including, but not limited to: the nature, severity and frequency of the alleged violations; the maximum amount of civil and criminal penalties authorized by law; the willfulness of such violations; the impact of such violations on the public and the environment; the economic benefit gained by failing to comply with the ACHD's regulations; the actions taken by U. S. Steel to minimize such violations and to prevent future violations.
- 9. The gravity-based component of the civil penalty reflects the severity of the violation and the potential harm to the public or environment from the violation. The gravity-based component may be adjusted for factors and circumstances unique to the violator.

10. Pursuant to Article XI ("Hearings and Appeals") of the Allegheny County Health

Department Rules and Regulations, you are notified that if you are aggrieved by this Order you

have thirty (30) days from the date of issuance or receipt of this Order in which to file an appeal.

Such a Notice of Appeal shall be filed in the Office of the Director at 542 Fourth Avenue,

Pittsburgh, PA 15219. This Order is enforceable upon issuance and any appeal of this Order

shall not act as a stay unless the Director of ACHD so orders. In the absence of a timely appeal,

the terms of this Order shall become final.

11. Please be aware that if you wish to appeal this Order, you are required within 30

days of receipt of this Order to either forward the penalty amount of the ACHD for placement in

an escrow account or post an appeal bond to the ACHD in the amount of the penalty. Please

review the specific requirements for prepaying the penalty or posting the appeal bond found in

Article XXI §§ 2109.06.a.2-3. A copy of Article XXI and Article XI may be found at

https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Health-Department-Regulations.aspx.

12. The provisions of this Order shall apply to, be binding upon, and inure to the

benefit of the ACHD and U. S. Steel, and upon their respective officers, directors, agents,

contractors, employees, servants, successors, and assigns.

**DONE** and **ENTERED** this 27th day of August, 2021, in Allegheny County,

Pennsylvania.

Dean DeLuca

Air Quality Program Manager

8/27/W21
Date