



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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July 14, 2016

Ms. Cathy Boudreaux
Specialty Minerals, Inc.
35 Highland Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Dear Ms. Boudreaux:

This letter is to formalize our communication regarding the pH measured in Specialty Minerals Inc. Camas' (SMI Camas') discharge on May 25, 2016. The maximum pH measurement on that day was 12.5, exceeding the limit of 12.4 set in the facility's State Waste Discharge Permit ST-6103.

SMI Camas completed an investigation and identified the cause as an unexpected change in the programming for the pH controls. This resulted in the pH exceedance lasting no more than 40 seconds. SMI corrected the issue and notified the Department of Ecology (Ecology) of plans for an internal process review to prevent future recurrence. Ecology requires no further action at this time. Please note that recurrence may result in additional follow-up and enforcement actions.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 360-407-6064 or ha.tran@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Ha Tran, P.E.
Industrial Section, Pulp and Paper Unit
Washington State Department of Ecology

cc: Vance Rowe, SMI Plant Manager

