U.S. Department of Justice

Environment and Natural Resources Division

DJ No. 90-5-2-1-09915

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February 14, 2012

Ray Pilapil, Manager
Compliance and Systems Management Section
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Ave.
Springfield, IL 62702

Re: Notice of Violation: Marathon Refinery in Robinson, Illinois

Dear Mr. Pilapil:

For several years, the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("U.S. EPA"), the Department of Justice ("DOJ"), and Marathon Petroleum Company LP ("Marathon") have been engaged in cooperative negotiations designed to minimize the amount of flaring done at each of Marathon's refineries—including its refinery in Robinson, Illinois—and to ensure that, when gas is flared, it is adequately combusted. Through the course of these negotiations, Marathon already has taken significant steps to reduce flaring and to ensure adequate combustion efficiency. We hope to file a Consent Decree soon that will memorialize the measures already taken and also will require additional measures.

The scope of the injunctive relief in the draft Consent Decree is broad and comprehensive. If the Consent Decree is lodged and entered, MPC will have to, among other things, submit and implement a waste gas minimization plan to minimize the amount of gas sent to its flares; limit the total amount of flaring at each refinery; install and operate vent gas and steam flow monitors on each flare; automate the introduction of steam and natural gas to the flares; and agree to certain flare operating parameters that are designed to ensure a 98% combustion efficiency at the flares.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with notice that, if we file the Consent Decree described above, the United States also will file a complaint that will allege that Marathon violated numerous federal provisions, their corresponding state SIP requirements, and additional state SIP requirements related to flare emissions. Because of Marathon's cooperation, U.S. EPA undertook only an abbreviated inspection of the Robinson Refinery. Therefore, if the Consent Decree is finalized, we expect to allege, on information and belief, violations of the following provisions:

a. The Prevention of Significant Deterioration ("PSD") requirements found in 42 U.S.C. § 7475 and 40 C.F.R. §§ 52.21(a)(2)(iii) and 52.21(j)–52.21(r)(5);

b. The Non-Attainment New Source Review ("NNSR") requirements found in 42 U.S.C. §§ 7502(c)(5), 7503(a)–(c) and 40 C.F.R. Part 51, Appendix S, Part IV, Conditions 1–4;

c. The New Source Performance Standards ("NSPS") promulgated 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subparts A, J, VV, VVa, GGG, and GGGa pursuant to Section 111 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7411;

d. The National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants ("NESHAPs") promulgated at 40 C.F.R. Part 63, Subparts A, CC, and UUU, pursuant to Section 112 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412;

e. The requirements of Title V of the CAA found at 42 U.S.C. §§ 7661a(a), 7661b(c), 7661c(a), and the regulations promulgated thereunder 40 C.F.R. §§ 70.1(b), 70.5(a) and (b), 70.6(a) and (c), and 70.7(b);

f. The portions of Title V permits of MPC's Refineries that implement, adopt, or incorporate the provisions cited in Subparagraphs a–d and g–h; and

g. The federally enforceable State Implementation Plan for Illinois that adopts, incorporates, and/or implements the federal requirements set forth in Subparagraphs a–e;

h. Several Illinois SIP provisions that are relevant to and derived from the above-referenced claims; and

i. The emergency notification requirements of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), and EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(b).

PSD/NNSR Allegations. With respect to the PSD and NNSR allegations, if this settlement goes forward, we expect to assert that, on information and belief, Marathon engaged in a major modification of its Robinson Refinery that resulted in a significant emissions increase of sulfur dioxide ("SO_2"), hydrogen sulfide ("H_2S"), volatile organic compounds ("VOCs"), and carbon monoxide ("CO") and a significant net emissions increase of these pollutants from the flares at the Robinson Refinery.

NSPS/NESHAP Allegations. With respect to the NSPS/NESHAP allegations, if this settlement goes forward, we expect to assert that, on information and belief, Marathon violated: (1) the NSPS Subpart J limit on H_2S in fuel gas directed to flares; (2) the NSPS Subpart J requirement that requires an H_2S continuous emissions monitoring system on flares; (3) the NSPS and NESHAP Subpart A flare control requirements (40 C.F.R. §§ 60.18 and 63.11(b)), including violations of the requirement that flare gas have a net heating value of 300 BTU/scf, and violations of the requirement that flares be monitored to ensure operation according to design; (4) the NSPS and NESHAP Subpart A requirement (40 C.F.R. §§ 60.11(d) and 63.6(e)(1)(i)) that good air pollution control practices be used at flares to minimize emissions (the claim is that Marathon oversteamed its flares, resulting in emissions of uncombusted H_2S and VOCs).

Title V and Title V Permit Allegations. If this settlement goes forward, we expect to assert that, on information and belief, Marathon violated Title V and Title V permit requirements based on the acts and omissions identified above. These claims are wholly derivative of the substantive claims identified above.

Illinois SIP. If this settlement goes forward, we expect to assert that, on information and belief, Marathon violated the provisions of the Illinois SIP that adopt, incorporate, and/or implement the federal requirements identified above. These claims are wholly derivative of the substantive claims identified above.

In addition, if this settlement goes forward, we expect to assert that, on information and belief, as a result of Marathon's oversteaming and poor operation of the flares its Robinson Refinery, Marathon violated Ill. Admin. Code title 35, § 201.141 (general prohibition against air contaminant discharges that cause air pollution in Illinois); Ill. Admin. Code title 35, § 214.301 (limit of 2000 ppm of sulfur dioxide); Il. Admin. Code title 35 § 215.441(a) (limit of organic materials from various petroleum refining sources); and Ill. Admin. Code title 35, § 201.149 (prohibition against operation during malfunctions and breakdowns if such operation would violate any standards).

CERCLA/EPCRA. If this settlement goes forward, we expect to assert that, on information and belief, the oversteaming mentioned earlier resulted in emissions of H_2S and SO_2 in excess of the reportable quantities.

If a Consent Decree in this matter is entered, it will resolve the claims in the Complaint.

In the fall of last year, Marathon informed U.S. EPA and me that it met with representatives from Illinois EPA to advise them of this matter. Marathon advised us that Illinois EPA elected not to participate.

No action on your part is required. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me (202 514-4213).

Sincerely yours,

Annette M. Lang

Annette M. Lang
Trial Attorney

cc: Brian Dickens, EPA R5
Bill Wagner, EPA R5
Robert Parrish, EPA HQ