

## Department of Environmental Protection

Central Regional Office • 8 New Bond Street, Worcester MA 01606 • 508-792-7650

Charles D. Baker Governor

Karyn E. Polito Lieutenant Governor Kathleen A. Theoharides Secretary

> Martin Suuberg Commissioner

October 28, 2022

Via Electronic Mail

Kristina A. Engberg, Esq. Lawson & Weitzen, LLP 88 Black Falcon Avenue, Suite 345 Boston, MA 02110 kengberg@lawson\_weitzen.com RE: Mass Natural Fertilizer 65 Bean Porridge Hill Road

Dear Attorney Engberg:

This letter serves as the Department's response to your correspondence dated October 21, 2022. In your correspondence, you requested that public meetings "...be suspended for the time being." You further stated that "we do not believe that a modification to the IRA Plan is necessary, in that we are not stopping public involvement, only suspending one element."

As stated in our September 27, 2022 correspondence to Massachusetts Natural Fertilizer Company, Inc., your client's July 14, 2022 IRA Plan Modification and Status Report included a commitment to continue to hold public meetings by Zoom. MassDEP issued a Conditional Approval of the IRA Modification on August 18, 2022, including your client's proposal to hold public meetings. The Department's September 27, 2022 correspondence also stated that requests to modify the public meeting schedule shall be submitted to the Department in an IRA Plan Modification, subject to MassDEP approval.

Your proposal to "suspend" public meetings is a request for modification of the approved IRA Plan. MassDEP is denying this proposed IRA Plan modification. There are new drinking well water PFAS6 exceedances still being identified, and as such, newly impacted residents who may wish to attend the meetings.

Accordingly, per the Department's September 27, 2022 correspondence, your client shall continue conducting quarterly public meetings, with the next meeting on ore before November 3, 2022.

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Glynis Bugg at 617-348-4040. TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370 MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep Printed on Recycled Paper Kristina Engberg, Esq. Massachusetts Natural Fertilizer Company, Inc. IRA Plan Modification Denial RTN 2-0021866

Your client may continue utilizing the same format that it has previously employed for public meetings, with written questions submitted in advance. To the extent that any attendees ask about matters directly impacted by ongoing litigation, we expect that you would advise your client and LSP as you deem necessary for those specific questions.

As a reminder, per the Department's August 18, 2022 IRA Conditional Approval, your client should ensure that your October 21, 2022 correspondence and the Department's response are uploaded to the public information website, westminsterpfas.com.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Bernard T. Hayes Bernard T. Hayes Regional Counsel Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup

BTH

cc: Westminster Board of Health; epenney@westminster-ma.gov Westminster Board of Selectmen; tchiarelli@westminster-ma.gov Massachusetts Natural Fertilizer Company, Inc.; mnatural49@yahoo.com Otter Farm, Inc.; 35 Wilkins Rd., Gardner, MA 01440 Seaman Paper Company of Massachusetts, Inc.; 35 Wilkins Rd., Gardner, MA 01440 Joseph R. Brendel, Esq.; Clark Hill PLC; jbrendel@clarkhill.com Lawrence Lessard, LSP; llessard@lessard-environmental.com Jeffery Arps, LSP; jlarps@tighebond.com George Hailer, Esq; ghailer@lawson-weitzen.com Greif, Inc., Ole.Rosgaard@greif.com The Newark Group, Inc., 100 Newark Way, Fitchburg MA 01420 Seth Jaffe, SJaffe@foleyhoag.com Corporation Service Company, 84 State St., Boston, MA 02109 Mary Jude Pigsley, Regional Director, MassDEP-CERO Elizabeth Callahan, Acting Assistant Commissioner, BWSC, MassDEP-Boston Mark Baldi, Deputy Regional Director, BWSC, MassDEP-CERO Marielle Stone, Deputy Regional Director BWR, MassDEP-CERO Doug Fine, Deputy Regional Director BAW, MassDEP-CERO File:Database Entry [ IRA/APWRIT ]