

# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Regional Director, Region 3

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February 3, 2017

Clean Air for Orangetown

[Cleanair4orangetown@aol.com](mailto:Cleanair4orangetown@aol.com)

**Re: Aluf Plastics, Town of Orangetown, Rockland County, NY**

Dear Members of Clean Air for Orangetown:

Thank you for your November 30, 2016 correspondence regarding the Aluf Plastics facility in Orangetown, New York (Aluf). I am responding on behalf of Governor Cuomo, Commissioner Seggos and other New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) executive staff members.

As you know, the facility extrudes virgin polyethylene and recycled polyethylene to make plastic garbage bags. The facility operates pursuant to a DEC issued air state facility permit which has no expiration date because it was issued prior to DEC regulations requiring expiration dates for air permits. The Rockland County Department of Health regulated this facility through their Air and Odor unit until Rockland County disbanded that unit in 2013. DEC then required Aluf to raise their stacks and install a carbon unit in order to help control emissions as a result of complaints about the facility in 2013. It was not until March 2016 that DEC began receiving complaints again about odors from residents and other community members. In response to the complaints, DEC inspected Aluf approximately 21 times between March 2016 and November 2016.

During the inspections, DEC staff observed that Aluf failed to have certain emission control devices in a satisfactory state of repair, and DEC initiated an enforcement action. On December 13, 2016, DEC entered into an Order on Consent with API Industries, Inc., the owner of Aluf, to address the violations of the Environmental Conservation Law. In addition to payment of civil penalties, the Order required API to undertake a comprehensive investigation of the facility and submit a report to DEC by January 21, 2017 summarizing the investigation and proposing solutions to eliminate the odors. DEC has received the report, and DEC engineers are currently reviewing the report. DEC staff will be meeting with Aluf representatives in the next few weeks to discuss the submission and implementation of remedial actions.

As part of the investigation, Aluf will also undertake stack testing at the facility. DEC will require that Aluf stack test emissions from two processing areas (the reprocessed material and the virgin material), and emissions will be tested for all semi-volatiles and volatiles including Aldehydes. DEC will make the stack testing protocol



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and the results available in response to Freedom of Information Law requests. This stack testing is expected to take place within the next month, and the results will supplement the analytical results of the ambient air sampling conducted in September 2016. The results of the September 2016 air sampling revealed that all readings were below DEC action levels. The New York State Department of Health also reviewed the sampling and agreed with DEC's interpretation.

In the interim, DEC also required Aluf to take immediate steps to address odor issues at the facility. Over the last few weeks, Aluf has repaired internal exhaust ductwork, made improvements to the carbon filtration, conducted carbon bed testing, and decreased the amount of fragrance used at the facility. Since the facility decreased the amount of fragrance, DEC staff have not received any complaints of fragrance odors. However, we understand that odor complaints from community members continue, and are reviewing the results of the comprehensive investigation. DEC staff are also actively inspecting other facilities in the area.

I have attached a copy of the Consent Order, the September 2016 ambient air sampling results, the carbon bed test results, and Aluf's Engineering Investigation of Air Emission Controls and Identification of Remedial Actions, for your information. Please know that DEC remains committed to resolving the issues at the facility and the concerns of the public, and DEC staff will continue to monitor Aluf's compliance with the permit.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kelly R. Turturro", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kelly R. Turturro  
Acting Regional Director

cc: Senator David Carlucci  
Assemblymember Ellen Jaffee  
Town Supervisor Andy Stewart