



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

Rolf Westphal
Sprague Operating Resources, LLC
59 Main Street
South Portland, Maine 04106

April 11, 2023

Dear Mr. Westphal,

This letter follows our onsite meeting this afternoon to discuss the recent complaints of coal dust impacting neighboring Portland residents. The concern is about fine particulate generated when the coal pile is being added to or otherwise moved around, and the winds are from the southwest.

Claire Briggs and I arrived on site around 1pm and met you and Jason Littlefield next to the coal pile. We discussed the complaints received and you mentioned having just received 45,000 tons of coal which was completed March 25th. You added as part of normal procedures following offloading, a crusting agent is spray-applied to the pile surface to help reduce water infiltration issues. An added benefit of that procedure is it also minimizes emissions of fine particulate. At the time of our meeting, workers had finished “sealing” the top of the pile and were working on the sides. We then had a full discussion about best management practices for controlling fugitive dust and Jason agreed to review current policies and make any necessary changes. Although he said there were procedures in place, he didn’t recall they included a timeline for completing those, acknowledging today marks the 17th day since contractors finished offloading. He agreed to forward an updated copy of Sprague’s procedures by this coming Friday, April 14th, and the plan was to complete the sealing process by then as well. We then discussed options for controlling dust during the actual offloading of coal and you thought more could be done by the contractor such as applying water.

Thank you for meeting us today and discussing your plans to keep fugitive coal dust to a minimum. I look forward to receiving Sprague’s updated fugitive BMP later this week.

Sincerely,

Rick Perkins
Division of Licensing & Compliance, BAQ

ec: Jason Littlefield, Sprague
Ann Machado, City of Portland

DEP Files

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