



REGION 5

CHICAGO, IL 60604

May 14, 2024

Chrissy Bartovich
Environmental Director
Minnesota Ore Operations
United States Steel Corporation
P.O. Box 417
Mt. Iron, Minnesota 55768

Subject: Notice of Clean Water Act Violations, United States Steel Corporation - Keetac Mining Operations and Keetac Tailings Basin

Dear Chrissy Bartovich:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 (EPA) has identified violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA) by United States Steel Corporation (US Steel) at the Keetac Mining Operations and Tailings Basin located in Keewatin, Minnesota (Facility). Specifically, EPA has found that US Steel has violated federally enforceable sulfate effluent limits required by the Facility's National Permit Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

Under Section 309 of the CWA, the EPA has several enforcement options to resolve the alleged violations including issuing an administrative compliance order, issuing an administrative penalty order and bringing a judicial action. The EPA would like to reach an agreement under which US Steel will bring the Facility into compliance with the CWA.

If US Steel would like to confer with the EPA about this letter and the attached Notice of Violation (NOV), you should make the request within 10 calendar days following receipt of this letter. We should hold any conference within 30 calendar days following receipt of this letter. In addition, to make the conference more productive, we encourage you to submit responsive information prior to the conference date. Please plan for your Facility's technical and management personnel to attend the conference to discuss compliance measures and commitments. US Steel may have an attorney at this conference.

The statements in this letter and the NOV are for notification and are not final EPA positions.

If you submit additional information to the EPA in response to this letter, you may assert a claim of business confidentiality under 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. Information subject to a

business confidentiality claim is available at 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. If you do not assert a business confidentiality claim when you submit the information, the EPA may make this information available to the public without further notice.

If you would like to schedule a meeting to discuss the NOV or if you have any questions, the EPA contact on this matter is Jake Berger who can be reached at (312) 353-8024 or berger.jake@epa.gov, or your legal counsel may contact Jolie McLaughlin at (312) 886-4179 or mclaughlin.jolie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Harris
Division Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

Enclosure: Clean Water Act Notice of Violation