



December 19, 2023

Commissioner Katrina Kessler
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Commissioner Kessler:

I am writing in response to your letter dated December 8, 2023.

Smith Foundry Company Inc. (Smith Foundry) appreciates your recognition of our cooperation and commitment to East Phillips residents. As you know, we are new to the neighborhood, having acquired the facility just a year ago in December 2022, but in this short period we have worked diligently to establish relationships in the community, respond to any neighborhood concerns (including by sharing information and attending community meetings), and improve the company and its operations.

Most importantly, we have made significant investments in our building, equipment, and processes to ensure the foundry is operating safely and rectify the neglect left by the previous owner. For example, we have replaced a portion of the roof, sealed holes and gaps on machines, tanks, ducts, and hoses, secured windows and doors, and repainted the building. We have also installed new end covers and skirts for ducts and equipment, curtains on doorways, and canvas tarps on machines, cleaned ducts, floors, walls, and ceilings, and repaired hoods and broken air lines to machines. In addition, we have hired a new maintenance manager, provided regular training on dust collector inspection and maintenance for all staff, regularly changed filters, and completed weekly preventative maintenance on the equipment. All of these efforts are designed to improve the operations and environmental compliance measures at our facility.

Smith Foundry will continue to provide information to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the community to build trust and demonstrate that the foundry operates in compliance with its permit and the applicable rules and regulations. To that end, we would like to explore forming a committee comprised of members of the community, the MPCA and Smith Foundry to help facilitate a transparent and productive approach to engaging the community in the air permitting process. We look forward to discussing this idea with the MPCA and the community.

We also agree to provide an air emissions testing, monitoring, and reporting plan (EMP). This letter serves as Smith Foundry's response and proposed timeline to develop an EMP, as requested by MPCA. We have already initiated conversations with engineering and source testing firms with extensive experience with air quality testing and monitoring to help us prepare the EMP. We plan to select a firm by the end of the month or early January. Starting in January 2024, we will provide updates to MPCA at the end of each month regarding our progress in preparing the EMP. And we will meet your timeline by submitting the EMP by mid-April 2024.



1855 EAST 28TH STREET, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55407
PHONE (612) 729-9395 FAX (612) 729-2519
WWW.SMITHFOUNDRY.COM





With respect to MPCA's requests related to lead, we would like to note that, for unknown reasons, the previous owner of our facility appears to have used the maximum allowable lead emissions under EPA guidelines for reporting his company's lead emissions. We strongly believe that these reported emissions are *not* reflective of the actual emissions from Smith Foundry. In fact, in November 2023, Smith Foundry submitted a sample of the two raw materials used at the foundry—pig iron ingots and steel clips—as well as a casting that was produced at the foundry from those materials, to Element Materials Testing to confirm that the raw materials and the casting do not contain any detectable amount of lead. Enclosed with this letter are the results from those tests. In our 2023 air emission inventory (to be filed in 2024), we will discontinue the previous owner's approach to reporting lead emissions; instead, the lead emissions data will reflect the foundry's actual lead emissions, as determined through the stack testing that took place at the foundry earlier this month.

In addition to the raw materials and casting testing, the results of the stack testing that Smith Foundry conducted earlier this month will provide further evidence that lead emissions are not an issue. Smith Foundry agrees to share with MPCA the results of the stack testing when we provide the results to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Finally, I confirm we are assessing the workplace conditions at Smith Foundry and discussing the same with the local Teamsters. Also, as you may be aware, Minnesota OSHA recently visited the facility and we look forward to hearing from them and addressing any of their concerns. Safety is a top priority at Smith Foundry and we are committed to ensuring the well-being of our employees.

Sincerely,

Adolfo Quiroga

Adolfo Quiroga
President

Enclosure



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Element Materials Technology
 662 Cromwell Avenue
 St Paul, MN
 55114-1720 USA

P 651 645 3601
 F 651 659 7348
 T 888 786 7555
 info.stpaul@element.com
 element.com

Smith Foundry Company
 1855 E. 28th Street
 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55407

TEST CERTIFICATE — EAR-CONTROLLED DATA

Date: 11/20/2023 Rev. 1 12/11/23
 Purchase Order Number: 90978
 Work Order Number: SMI041-11-07-78537-1
 Rev. 1

Part No.: Sample 1
Material: Pig/Ingot
Specification: NS

CHEMISTRY

Element		Results %		
		XRF	OES	ICP
Mn	=	<LOD	0.01	0.01
Cr	=	0.02	0.02	0.04
Ni	=	<LOD	0.02	0.03
Cu	=	<LOD	0.01	0.01
Pb	=	<LOD	<0.01	<0.0001
Cd	=	<LOD	NA	<0.0010

Chemical analysis by optical emission spectrometry performed in accordance with SOP CHEM-10
 Chemical analysis by X-ray fluorescence using Thermo Scientific Niton™ XL3t GOLDD Portable X-ray
 Fluorescence (XRF) Analyzer, SN 94944, verified before use
 Chemical analysis by ICP per SOP 17.00, trace elements were determined by AA/Graphite per SOP
 10.10 performed by Element Materials Technology, Huntington Beach, CA, an A2LA accredited laboratory

DATA PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

LOD = Limit of Detection
 NA = Not analyzed – not in instrument calibration

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Respectfully Submitted

Sierra Walker
 Associate Chemist
 Materials Testing and Analysis Group

Unless otherwise specified, measurement uncertainty was not taken into account when making statements of conformity to a specification. All testing was performed in accordance with the latest edition of the applicable test method in effect at the time of test unless otherwise noted. Electronic signatures are utilized on our certifications and are considered equivalent to handwritten signatures. Information and statements in this report are derived from material, information and/or specifications furnished by the client and exclude any expressed or implied warranties as to the fitness of the material tested or analyzed for any particular purpose or use. The test results only pertain to the samples submitted for testing and not necessarily to other sections of non-homogeneous materials, similar products or similar materials. Our testing and inspection methods do not add mercury to test specimens. This report is the confidential property of our client and may not be used for advertising purposes. This report shall not be reproduced except in full, without written approval of this laboratory. The recording of false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entries on this document may be punished as a felony under federal statutes including Federal Law Title 18, Chapter 47.



Element Materials Technology
 662 Cromwell Avenue
 St Paul, MN
 55114-1720 USA

P 651 645 3601
 F 651 659 7348
 T 888 786 7555
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Date: 11/20/2023 Rev. 1 12/11/23
 Purchase Order Number: 90978
 Work Order Number: SMI041-11-07-78537-1
 Rev. 1

Part No.: Sample 2
Material: Casting 2" x 3" x 1"
Specification: NS

CHEMISTRY

Element		Results %		
		XRF	OES	ICP
Mn	=	0.32	0.28	0.28
Cr	=	0.05	0.04	0.05
Ni	=	<LOD	0.04	0.04
Cu	=	0.29	0.21	0.25
Pb	=	<LOD	0.01	<0.0001
Cd	=	<LOD	NA	<0.0010

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 Chemical analysis by ICP per SOP 17.00, trace elements were determined by AA/Graphite per SOP
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Date: 11/20/2023 Rev. 1 12/11/23
 Purchase Order Number: 90978
 Work Order Number: SMI041-11-07-78537-1
 Rev. 1

Part No.: Sample 3
Material: Slip/Scrap Cutting 1" x 6" x .25"
Specification: NS

CHEMISTRY

Element		Results %		
		XRF	OES	ICP
Mn	=	0.79	0.79	0.83
Cr	=	0.03	0.03	0.03
Ni	=	<LOD	0.01	0.01
Cu	=	0.02	0.02	0.02
Pb	=	<LOD	<0.01	<0.0001
Cd	=	<LOD	NA	<0.0010

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12/11/23 Rev. 1: Fixed decimal error on sample 1.

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