

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

Civil Action Number:

UNITED STATES, )  
PLAINTIFF, and the )  
 )  
STATE OF MINNESOTA, BY ITS )  
MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL )  
AGENCY, )  
Plaintiff-Intervenor. )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
AL-CORN CLEAN FUEL COOPERATIVE, )  
AND )  
AL-CORN CLEAN FUEL LIMITED )  
PARTNERSHIP, )  
Defendants. )

CONSENT DECREE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|      |  |    |
|------|--|----|
| I.   | <u>JURISDICTION AND VENUE</u> .....          | 3  |
| II.  | <u>APPLICABILITY</u> .....                   | 3  |
| III. | <u>FACTUAL BACKGROUND</u> .....              | 4  |
| IV.  | <u>COMPLIANCE PROGRAM SUMMARY</u> .....      | 5  |
| V.   | <u>COMPLIANCE PROGRAM</u> .....              | 8  |
|      | A. <u>Installation Of Controls</u> .....     | 8  |
|      | B. <u>Permitting and Modifications</u> ..... | 11 |
|      | C. <u>Emission Limits</u> .....              | 12 |
|      | D. <u>Demonstration of Compliance</u> .....  | 17 |
|      | E. <u>Recordkeeping and Recording</u> .....  | 18 |
| VI.  | <u>CIVIL PENALTY</u> .....                   | 19 |
| VII. | <u>STIPULATED PENALTIES</u> .....            | 20 |
| VIII | <u>RIGHT OF ENTRY</u> .....                  | 23 |
| IX.  | <u>FORCE MAJEURE</u> .....                   | 23 |
| X.   | <u>DISPUTE RESOLUTION</u> .....              | 26 |
| XI.  | <u>GENERAL PROVISIONS</u> .....              | 28 |
| XII. | <u>TERMINATION</u> .....                     | 32 |

## CONSENT DECREE

WHEREAS, Plaintiff, the United States of America (hereinafter "Plaintiff" or "the United States"), on behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (herein, "EPA"), has, simultaneously with lodging of this Consent Decree, filed a Complaint alleging that Defendant, Al-Corn Clean Fuel Cooperative and Defendant Al-Corn Clean Fuel Limited Partnership (collectively referred to herein as, "Al-Corn" or "Defendant") commenced construction of a major emitting facility and major modifications of a major emitting facility in violation of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration ("PSD") requirements at Part C of the Clean Air Act (the "Act"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 7470-7492, and the regulations promulgated thereunder at 40 C.F.R. § 52.21 (the "PSD Rules");

WHEREAS, Plaintiff further alleged that Defendant commenced construction of an emitting facility or modified an emitting facility without first obtaining the appropriate preconstruction permits and installing the appropriate air pollution control equipment required by 40 C.F.R. § 52.21 and the Minnesota State Implementation Plan ("SIP") approved pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 7410;

WHEREAS, Plaintiff further alleged that potential air emissions from the Defendant's facility were underestimated;

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota, through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency ("MPCA" or "Plaintiff-Intervenor"), has, simultaneously with lodging of this Consent Decree, filed a Complaint in Intervention, alleging that Al-Corn was and is in violation of the Minnesota SIP, by failing to obtain the appropriate pre-construction permits, by failing to accurately report

emissions increases, and by failing to install appropriate pollution control technology, in violation of applicable state laws, including Minnesota Rule ("Minn. R.") 7007.3000:

WHEREAS, in 1995, three hundred fifty-four (354) farm families in the Claremont area in south central Minnesota organized themselves into a cooperative known as Al-Corn to build an ethanol plant;

WHEREAS, MPCA issued a minor source permit for the plant on April 29, 1996, and ethanol production began in 1996;

WHEREAS, Al-Corn is a small facility that has produced ethanol in the following quantities:

- 1996 11.73 million gallons
- 1997 13.14 million gallons
- 1998 14.47 million gallons
- 1999 16.69 million gallons
- 2000 17.71 million gallons
- 2001 17.89 million gallons;

WHEREAS, in January, 2001, Al-Corn's Board of Directors voted to spend approximately \$2.0 million to install a thermal oxidizer:

WHEREAS, Al-Corn ordered its thermal oxidizer in November, 2001. On October 17, 2001, Al-Corn applied for an amendment to its MPCA permit in order to install its thermal oxidizer and expand its plant:

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2002, the MPCA issued a permit to Al-Corn allowing it to install its thermal oxidizer and expand its plant:

WHEREAS, the thermal oxidizer is expected to be operational during the late summer of 2002;

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2002, the MPCA met with representatives of the ethanol plants in Minnesota, including Al-Corn, to discuss VOC test results, VOC emissions, and related compliance issues;

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2002, Al-Corn executed a letter of commitment to negotiate with EPA and MPCA for the installation of controls on its plant to address the possible exceedance of air quality limits;

WHEREAS, Al-Corn has worked cooperatively with EPA and MPCA regarding the alleged violations and voluntarily provided requested information without information requests under Section 114 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7414;

WHEREAS, the Defendant does not admit the violations alleged in the Complaints;

WHEREAS, the United States and Plaintiff-Intervenor (collectively "Plaintiffs"), and the Defendant have agreed that settlement of this action is in the best interest of the parties and in the public interest, and that entry of this Consent Decree without further litigation is the most appropriate means of resolving this matter; and

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs and the Defendant consent to entry of this Consent Decree without trial of any issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, without any admission of fact or law, and without any admission of the violations alleged in the Complaints, it is hereby ORDERED AND DECREED as follows:

#### **I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. The Complaints state a claim upon which relief can be granted against the

Defendant under Sections 113 and 167 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7413 and 7477, and 28 U.S.C. § 1355. This Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter herein and over the parties consenting hereto pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1345 and pursuant to Sections 113 and 167 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7413 and 7477. Venue is proper under Section 113(b) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(b), and under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c).

## **II. APPLICABILITY**

2. The provisions of this Consent Decree shall apply to and be binding upon the Plaintiffs and upon the Defendant as well as the Defendant's officers, employees, agents, successors and assigns. In the event Defendant proposes to sell or transfer its facility (i.e., a plant or mill) subject to this Consent Decree before termination of the Consent Decree, it shall advise such proposed purchaser or successor-in-interest in writing of the existence of this Consent Decree, and shall send a copy of such written notification by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the EPA Regional Administrator for the region in which the facility is located before such sale or transfer, if possible, but no later than the closing date of such sale or transfer. The Defendant shall provide a copy of the Consent Decree and the Control Technology Plan required in Paragraph 15 of this Consent Decree to the proposed purchaser or successor-in-interest. In the event the Defendant sells or otherwise assigns any of its right, title, or interest in its facility, prior to termination of the Consent Decree, the conveyance shall not release the Defendant from any obligation imposed by this Consent Decree unless the party to whom the right, title or interest has been transferred agrees in writing to fulfill the obligations of this Consent Decree.

## **III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND AND APPLICABLE DEFINITIONS**

3. (a) Al-Corn is a “person” as defined in Section 302(e) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e), and the federal and state regulations promulgated pursuant to the Act.

(b) Al-Corn owns and operates a plant in Claremont, Minnesota, for the manufacture of ethanol. Al-Corn receives whole corn which is then milled, cooked, and fermented. After fermentation, the raw product is distilled to produce ethanol. Distillation separates the liquid ethanol from the corn meal, which Al-Corn may dry or sell as wet mash for animal feed. The Plaintiffs allege that in the course of these manufacturing activities significant quantities of particulate matter (“PM”), particulate matter at or below 10 microns (“PM<sub>10</sub>”), carbon monoxide (“CO”), volatile organic compounds (“VOCs”), nitrogen oxides (“NO<sub>x</sub>”) and other pollutants are generated, including hazardous air pollutants (“HAPs”) listed under Section 112(b)(1), 42 U.S.C. § 7412(b)(1) of the Act. The primary sources of these emissions are the feed dryers, fermentation units, gas boilers, cooling cyclones, ethanol truck load-out systems, and the fugitive dust emissions from the facility operations, including roads.

(c) Plaintiffs allege that Al-Corn’s ethanol plant in Claremont, Minnesota is a “major emitting facility,” as defined by Section 169(1) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7479(1), and the federal and state regulations promulgated pursuant to the Act.

(d) Definitions: Unless otherwise defined herein, terms used in this Consent Decree shall have the meaning given to those terms in the Act, and the federal and state regulations promulgated pursuant to the Act.

#### **IV. COMPLIANCE PROGRAM SUMMARY**

4. Al-Corn shall implement a program of compliance at its ethanol distillation facility to attain the emission levels required under this Consent Decree for VOC, PM, PM<sub>10</sub>,

CO, and NO<sub>x</sub>. Al-Corn's compliance program is summarized below in Paragraphs 5 through 10, and implemented through Paragraphs 15 through 17 and 26 through 28 of this Consent Decree.

5. Al-Corn shall implement a program to control and minimize fugitive particulate matter emissions from facility operations as set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan required under Part V of this Consent Decree and which is Attachment 1 to this Consent Decree.

6. Al-Corn shall demonstrate compliance with the required emission levels on a unit-by-unit basis as set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan.

7. Al-Corn shall demonstrate compliance with the emission limits established under this Consent Decree by the use of performance testing, parametric monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting, or initial and periodic compliance testing, where appropriate, as set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan.

8. Al-Corn shall maintain records to demonstrate compliance with New Source Performance Standards ("NSPS"), Part 60, Subparts Dc, Kb, and VV, and its fugitive dust management program.

9. Al-Corn shall accept source-wide allowable emission caps equivalent to 95 tons per year ("TPY"), for each pollutant, for VOCs, PM, PM<sub>10</sub>, sulfur dioxide ("SO<sub>2</sub>"), NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO based on a 12-month rolling sum, rolled monthly, and recorded monthly.

10. Al-Corn shall apply for a modification to its federally-enforceable operating permit to incorporate the 95 TPY allowable emission caps and the lower emission limits applicable to each unit as set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan.

11. Al-Corn shall obtain a federally-enforceable permit prior to beginning construction or operation of any future modification that will result in a significant net emission

increase as defined by 40 C.F.R. Part 52, but will not exceed the 95 TPY allowable emission caps. The modifications required in Part V Section A ("Installation of Controls and Applicable Emission Limits") of this Consent Decree and any modification that qualifies under Minnesota Rule 7007.1250 and 7007.1450 subp. 2 are excluded from the requirements of this Paragraph. For purposes of determining whether a modification will result in a significant net emissions increase, Al-Corn shall use results from its initial compliance testing to determine its past actual emissions baseline. Al-Corn shall include in its application for the federally-enforceable permit, and MPCA shall propose to incorporate in the permit, the 95 TPY allowable emission caps or a schedule to meet the 95 TPY allowable emission caps and all emission limits, monitoring and recordkeeping requirements as set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan and this Consent Decree, and Al-Corn shall not contest what is contained in its permit application.

12. If, as a result of any future modifications, prior to termination of the Consent Decree, the total limited potential emissions of VOCs, PM, PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and CO will exceed the 95 TPY allowable emission caps, then Al-Corn shall complete and submit for MPCA approval a source-wide PSD/NSR permit application that includes the approved Control Technology Plan requirements as set forth in this Consent Decree. To the extent that Al-Corn demonstrates, through results of compliance tests or evidence of operating conditions, that its facility has operated below the 95 TPY emission caps for 24 months, the facility shall be treated as a synthetic minor for air permitting requirements and permit requirements for future modifications will be governed by applicable state and federal regulations.

13. Except as provided in Paragraph 12, if as a result of any future modifications, prior to termination of the Consent Decree, the total limited potential emissions of VOCs, PM,

PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and CO will exceed the 95 TPY allowable emission caps , then Al-Corn shall obtain a PSD/NSR permit prior to beginning construction of those modifications. Following termination of the Consent Decree, Al-Corn shall obtain necessary permits or permit amendments, as required under applicable state and federal regulations.

14. Al-Corn shall include in its application, and MPCA shall propose to incorporate, the emission limits, monitoring and recordkeeping requirements of the approved Control Technology Plan and this Consent Decree into any existing or new permit issued to the source as federally-enforceable Title I permit conditions and such emission limits, monitoring and recordkeeping requirements shall remain applicable to the source for the life of its operation or until changed through a permit amendment. Al-Corn shall not contest what is contained in its permit application. Requirements under this Consent Decree excluded under this Paragraph as Title I conditions are NSPS Subparts Dc, Kb, and VV, and the fugitive emission control program referenced in Paragraphs 15(j) and (h), respectively. In addition, the Consent Decree shall be referenced in the permit as the legal basis for all applicable requirements created by the Consent Decree.

## V. COMPLIANCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### A. Installation Of Controls And Applicable Emission Limits

15. Al-Corn shall implement a plan for the installation of air pollution control technology (“Control Technology Plan”) capable of meeting the following emission level reductions for the identified units in subparagraphs (a) through (j). Al-Corn's Control Technology Plan, which has been approved by Plaintiffs, is Attachment 1 to this Consent Decree:

(a) Feed Dryers: 95 percent reduction of VOC or emissions no higher than 10 parts per million ("PPM") of VOC, 90 percent reduction of CO emissions or emissions no higher than 100 PPM CO, and reduction of PM and PM<sub>10</sub> based on operation of pollution control technology specified in the approved Control Technology Plan and as established after initial performance testing pursuant to Paragraph 24 of this Consent Decree. A NO<sub>x</sub> emission factor shall be established after initial performance testing required pursuant to Paragraph 23 of this Consent Decree. The emission factor will be used to determine compliance with Paragraph 15(g). The following units are subject to these limits: EU 013, EU 037

(b) Fermentation Units: 95 percent reduction of VOC or if the inlet is less than 200 PPM of VOC, then 20 PPM or lower of VOC. The following units are subject to this limit: EU 009-EU 012, EU 038-EU 039, EU 045, EU 052

(c) Gas Boilers: Installation of low NO<sub>x</sub> burner on EU 017. A NO<sub>x</sub> emission factor shall be established after initial performance testing required pursuant to Paragraph 23 of this Consent Decree. The emission factor will be used to determine compliance with Paragraph 15(g). The following unit is subject to these limits: EU 017

(d) Cooling Cyclones: 95 percent reduction of VOC or emissions no higher than 10 PPM of VOC. The following unit is subject to this limit: EU 018

(e) Fugitive Dust Control PM: A program shall be developed for minimization of fugitive dust emissions from facility operations. The following area is subject to this program: FS 002

(f) Ethanol Loadout:  
Truck loadout: Design an enclosure for total capture of VOC and operate a closed loop system vented to the feed dryer control equipment for destruction of the captured VOC.  
Railcar loadout: All railcars shall be dedicated as ethanol only.  
The following unit is subject to this limit: FS 001

(g) Additional Requirements for NO<sub>x</sub> Emission Units:  
Establish a Group NO<sub>x</sub> limit based on 0.04 lbs of NO<sub>x</sub> per unit, per MMBtu at capacity. An adjustment for propane usage may be made for a designated period of time based on a limit of 0.08 lbs of NO<sub>x</sub> per MMBtu. Emission factors for each unit in this group shall be established during the initial performance test required in Paragraph 23 of this Consent Decree and will be used to calculate compliance with the Group NO<sub>x</sub> limit, based

on actual fuel usage for all emission units in this group. The fuel used by this group as a whole shall not allow NOx emissions in excess of 41.7 TPY. The following units are subject to this limit: EU 013, EU 017, EU 037, EU 042

(h) Fugitive VOC: Implement and comply with the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subpart VV. The following unit is subject to these requirements: FS 004

(i) Additional Requirements for Hazardous Air Pollutants ("HAPs"): Beginning no later than 180 days following the start-up of the last piece of control equipment required in the approved Control Technology Plan, Al-Corn shall continually operate its facility so as not to exceed source-wide allowable emissions of 9.0 TPY for any single HAP or 24.0 TPY for all HAPs based on a 12-month rolling sum, rolled monthly, and recorded monthly. For the first eleven months, beginning no later than 180 days following start-up of the last piece of control equipment required in the approved Control Technology Plan, compliance with the 12-month rolling sum will be demonstrated based on the schedule to meet applicable emission caps as set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan. If, based on emissions testing as set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan, additional control measures are required to meet the 9.0 or 24.0 TPY emission caps, such control measures shall be implemented and included in the operating permit application required under Paragraph 17.

(j) New Source Performance Standards (NSPS): Identify and implement applicable NSPS requirements codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 60. The following NSPS apply: NSPS subpart Dc (Small Industrial Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units less than 29 MW (100 million BTu/hour)); NSPS subpart Kb (Volatile Organic Liquid Storage Vessels); and NSPS subpart VV (Synthetic Organic Chemicals Manufacturing Industry Leak Detection, Monitoring and Repair Requirements):

16. Al-Corn shall implement the approved Control Technology Plan in accordance with the schedule set forth in that plan. Al-Corn's approved Control Technology Plan is incorporated by reference herein and made directly enforceable by Plaintiffs under this Consent Decree.

B. Permitting And Modification

17. Source-wide Permit: By no later than 180 days following the start-up of the last piece of control equipment required in the approved Control Technology Plan, Al-Corn shall apply for a modification to its federally-enforceable operating permit(s) to incorporate the 95 TPY source-wide allowable emission caps as described in Paragraph 9.

18. Future Modifications: Except as provided in Paragraph 12, for the effective period of the Consent Decree, Al-Corn shall obtain a federally-enforceable permit prior to beginning construction or operation of any future modification that will result in a significant net emission increase as defined by 40 C.F.R. Part 52, but will not exceed the 95 TPY allowable emission caps. The modifications required in Part V Section A (“Installation of Controls and Applicable Emission Limits”) and the approved Control Technology Plan of this Consent Decree and any modification that qualifies under Minnesota Rule 7007.1250 and 7007.1450 subp. 2 are excluded from the requirements of this Paragraph. This permit shall incorporate the 95 TPY allowable emission caps or a schedule to meet the 95 TPY allowable emission caps and emission limits, monitoring and recordkeeping requirements as set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan and this Consent Decree, including the requirements establishing the emission level reductions within the Control Technology Plan.

19. In determining whether a future modification will result in a significant net emissions increase, Al-Corn cannot take credit for any emission reductions resulting from the implementation of the approved Control Technology Plan for netting purposes as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 52.21(b)(3). In addition, the emission reductions of PM, PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and CO required under this Consent Decree and the applicable NSPS may not be used for any emissions

offset, banking, selling or trading program. VOC emissions reductions up to 98 percent of the uncontrolled feed dryer emissions may not be used for any emissions offset, banking, selling or trading program.

20. Except as provided for in Paragraph 12, Al-Corn shall obtain a PSD permit prior to beginning construction of any future modifications during the effective period of the Consent Decree that will cause any increase in its limited potential emissions of any pollutant regulated under the Act above the 95 TPY source-wide caps, or prior to relaxation of a federally-enforceable permit limit pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 52.21(r)(4).

C. Emission Limits

21. Unit Emission Limit for VOC, CO, NO<sub>x</sub>: Beginning no later than 180 days following the start-up of each piece of control equipment required in its approved Control Technology Plan. Al-Corn shall continually operate each unit in accordance with the operating parameters set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan.

22. VOC Limit for Cooling Cyclone:

(a) By no later than 90 days following the initial performance test of the cooling cyclone as required in Paragraphs 15(d) and 28, Al-Corn shall submit a written evaluation of the technical feasibility and cost effectiveness of additional VOC control equipment for the cooling cyclone and the technical feasibility and cost effectiveness of either directly or indirectly routing the cooling cyclone emissions to feed dryer control equipment.

(1) If the evaluation demonstrates that additional controls or routing the emissions to the feed dryer control equipment are technically feasible and cost effective, a schedule to install the controls and interim VOC emission limit(s) to apply until controls are

installed must be included in the evaluation.

(2) If Al-Corn concludes that additional controls are not technically feasible and cost effective, Al-Corn shall propose a VOC emission limit(s) based on the data collected from initial performance testing and other available pertinent information.

(b) Al-Corn shall immediately comply with the proposed VOC emission limit(s) or interim VOC emission limit(s).

(c) MPCA will use the data collected, the control equipment evaluation and other available pertinent information to establish a VOC emission limit(s) for the cooling cyclone and, if necessary, the required emissions control or to support a determination that additional controls are not technically feasible or cost-effective. MPCA shall provide written notice to Al-Corn of the established limit, or the additional required controls, and MPCA's notice shall be incorporated into and enforceable under this Consent Decree.

(1) If the limit established by the MPCA is more stringent than the limit proposed by Al-Corn, Al-Corn shall have 30 days from the date of the written notice to comply with the established limit(s).

(2) If MPCA determines that controls are required in addition to, or different from, those proposed by Al-Corn, Al-Corn shall have 30 days from the date of the written notice to provide MPCA with a schedule to install the controls. The MPCA shall allow Al-Corn a reasonable time to install the required controls. If Al-Corn contests the MPCA's proposed limit or MPCA's proposed controls, Al-Corn shall have 60 days to invoke the Dispute Resolution process pursuant to Part X ("Dispute Resolution") and obtain a stay from the Court. Until a limit is established under the Dispute Resolution process herein, Al-Corn shall comply

with the emission limit(s) it proposed under Paragraph 22(a)(2).

23. NO<sub>x</sub> Emission Factors: Following the initial performance test as required in Paragraphs 15 (a), (c), and (g) and 28, Al-Corn shall establish unit specific NO<sub>x</sub> emission factors that it will use to calculate actual NO<sub>x</sub> emissions to demonstrate compliance with Paragraph 15(g). The method to determine compliance with the limit in Paragraph 15(g) is specified in the approved Control Technology Plan.

(a) By no later than 90 days following the initial performance test of the feed dryer, thermal oxidizer, and boilers as required in Paragraphs 15(a) and (c) and 28, if Al-Corn determines that it cannot meet the Group NO<sub>x</sub> limit in Paragraph 15(g), Al-Corn shall submit a written evaluation of the technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness of additional NO<sub>x</sub> control equipment or low NO<sub>x</sub> burner replacement for the feed dryer, thermal oxidizer, and boiler to meet the Group NO<sub>x</sub> limit required in Paragraph 15(g).

(1) If the evaluation demonstrates that additional controls to meet the Group NO<sub>x</sub> limit are technically feasible and cost-effective, a schedule to install the controls and an interim NO<sub>x</sub> emission limit(s) to apply until controls are installed must be included in the evaluation.

(2) If Al-Corn concludes that additional controls are not technically feasible and cost-effective, Al-Corn shall propose an adjusted Group NO<sub>x</sub> limit to replace the limit initially required in Paragraph 15(g) based on the data collected from initial performance testing and other available pertinent information.

(b) Al-Corn shall immediately comply with the proposed adjusted Group NO<sub>x</sub> limit or interim NO<sub>x</sub> limit(s).

(c) MPCA will use the data collected, the control equipment evaluation and other available pertinent information to establish an adjusted Group NOx limit, and if necessary, the required emissions control or to support a determination that additional controls are not technically feasible and cost-effective. MPCA shall provide written notice to Al-Corn of the established limit, or the additional required controls, and MPCA's notice shall be incorporated into and enforceable under this Consent Decree.

(1) If the limit established by the MPCA is more stringent than the limit proposed by Al-Corn, Al-Corn shall have 30 days from the date of the written notice to comply with the established limit.

(2) If MPCA determines that controls are required in addition to, or different from, those proposed by Al-Corn, Al-Corn shall have 30 days from the date of the written notice to provide MPCA with a schedule to install the controls. The MPCA shall allow Al-Corn a reasonable time to install the required controls. If Al-Corn contests the MPCA's proposed limit or MPCA's proposed controls, Al-Corn shall have 60 days to invoke the Dispute Resolution process pursuant to Part X ("Dispute Resolution") and obtain a stay from the Court. Until a limit is established under the Dispute Resolution process herein, Al-Corn shall comply with the adjusted Group NOx limit it proposed under Paragraph 23(a)(2).

24. Unit Emission Limit for PM and PM<sub>10</sub>: By no later than 45 days following the initial performance test of the control equipment for the feed dryer as required in Paragraphs 15(a) and 28, Al-Corn shall propose PM and PM<sub>10</sub> emission limits based on the data collected from initial performance testing and other available pertinent information. Al-Corn shall immediately comply with the proposed emission limit. MPCA will use the data collected and

other available pertinent information to establish limits for PM and PM<sub>10</sub>. MPCA shall provide written notice to Al-Corn of the established limit and the established limit shall be incorporated into and enforceable under this Consent Decree. If Al-Corn contests the MPCA's proposed limit, Al-Corn shall have 60 days to invoke the Dispute Resolution process pursuant to Part X ("Dispute Resolution") and obtain a stay from the Court. Until a limit is established under the Dispute Resolution process herein, Al-Corn shall comply with the emission limit(s) it proposed under this Paragraph.

25. Unit Operating Permits: By no later than 180 days following start-up of the last piece of control equipment required in its approved Control Technology Plan, Al-Corn shall apply for modification to its federally-enforceable operating permit to incorporate the emission limits, monitoring parameters, and recordkeeping set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan and this Consent Decree.

26. Source-wide Caps:

(a) Beginning no later than 180 days following start-up of the last piece of control equipment required in its approved Control Technology Plan, Al-Corn shall continually operate its facility so as not to exceed the source-wide allowable emission caps of 95 TPY for each pollutant for VOCs, PM, PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO based on a 12-month rolling sum, rolled monthly, and recorded monthly. For the first eleven months, beginning no later than 180 days following start-up of the last piece of control equipment required in the approved Control Technology Plan, compliance with the 12-month rolling sum will be demonstrated based on a schedule to meet applicable emission caps as set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan. This provision shall survive termination of this Consent Decree until the 95 TPY emission caps

are amended by or incorporated into a federally-enforceable permit for the facility.

(b) Beginning no later than 180 days following start-up of the last piece of control equipment required in its approved Control Technology Plan, Al-Corn shall continually operate its facility so as not to exceed the source-wide allowable emission caps of 9.0 TPY for any single hazardous air pollutant or 24.0 TPY for all hazardous air pollutants based on a 12-month rolling sum, rolled monthly, and recorded monthly. For the first eleven months, beginning no later than 180 days following start-up of the last piece of control equipment required in the approved Control Technology Plan, compliance with the 12-month rolling sum will be demonstrated based on a schedule to meet applicable emission caps as set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan. This provision shall survive termination of this Consent Decree until the 9.0 TPY and 24.0 TPY emission caps are amended by or incorporated into a federally-enforceable permit for the facility.

D. Demonstration Of Compliance

27. Al-Corn shall demonstrate continuous compliance with the emission limits established under this Consent Decree by the use of parametric monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting, as set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan.

28. By no later than 120 days following the start-up of the last piece of control equipment required in the approved Control Technology Plan, Al-Corn shall demonstrate through emissions testing of each emissions unit as specified in the approved Control Technology Plan, conducted in accordance with a MPCA and U.S. EPA approved test protocol, that it has met the required destruction efficiency and/or emission limit. Al-Corn shall follow all testing requirements in Minnesota Rule 7017. Al-Corn shall retest the dryer for VOCs, CO, PM,

and PM<sub>10</sub> no less than annually for the effective period of the Consent Decree. Al-Corn shall retest all other units in accordance with MPCA's policy regarding performance testing frequency.

29. Al-Corn shall maintain control technology performance criteria monitoring data and records as set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan, and shall make them available to the Plaintiffs upon demand as soon as practicable.

E. Recordkeeping And Reporting Requirements

30. Beginning with the first full calendar quarter following lodging of this Consent Decree, Al-Corn shall submit written reports within 30 days following each calendar quarter to MPCA and U.S. EPA that itemize Consent Decree requirements and the approved Control Technology Plan requirements, the applicable deadlines, the dates the tasks were completed, unit emissions data and data to support Al-Corn's compliance status with the terms of this Consent Decree. Reports shall be sent to the addresses identified in Paragraph 64 ("Notice"). Emissions data may be submitted in electronic format.

31. Al-Corn shall preserve and retain all records and documents now in its possession or control, or which come into its possession or control, that support the reporting and compliance requirements under this Part for a period of three years following the termination of this Consent Decree, unless other regulations require the records to be maintained longer.

32. All notices, reports or any other submissions from Al-Corn shall contain the following certification and may be signed by an owner or operator of the company responsible for environmental management and compliance:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined the information submitted herein and that I have made a diligent

inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information submitted herewith is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.”

## VI. CIVIL PENALTY

33. Within thirty (30) calendar days of entry of this Consent Decree, the Defendant shall pay to the Plaintiffs a civil penalty pursuant to Section 113 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413 and Minn. Stat. § 115.071, in the amount of \$36,800 (Thirty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars). Pursuant to the Act, the following factors were considered in determining a civil penalty, in addition to other factors as justice may require, the size of the business, the economic impact of the penalty on the business, the violator's full compliance history and good faith efforts to comply, the duration of the violation, payment by the violator of penalties previously assessed for the same violation, the economic benefit of noncompliance, and the seriousness of the violation.

34. Of the total penalty, \$18,400, shall be paid to the United States by Electronic Funds Transfer ("EFT") to the United States Department of Justice, in accordance with current EFT procedures, referencing the USAO File Number and DOJ Case Number 90-5-2-1-07784, and the civil action case name and case number of the District of Minnesota. The costs of such EFT shall be Al-Corn's responsibility. Payment shall be made in accordance with instructions provided to Al-Corn by the Financial Litigation Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Minnesota. Any funds received after 11:00 a.m. (EST) shall be credited on the next business day. Al-Corn shall provide notice of payment, referencing the USAO File Number and DOJ Case Number 90-5-2-1-07784, and the civil action case name and case number, to the

Department of Justice and to EPA, as provided in Paragraph 64 ("Notice"). The total remaining amount, \$18,400 in civil penalties, shall be paid to the Plaintiff-Intervenor the State of Minnesota, made in the form of a certified check payable to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and delivered to:

Enforcement Penalty Coordinator  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194

35. The Defendant shall pay statutory interest on any over due civil penalty or stipulated penalty amount at the rate specified in 31 U.S.C. § 3717. Upon entry of this Consent Decree, this Consent Decree shall constitute an enforceable judgment for purposes of post-judgment collection in accordance with Rule 69 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Federal Debt Collection Procedure Act, 28 U.S.C. § 3001-3308, Minnesota Statute Chapter 16D and other applicable federal and state Authority. The Plaintiffs shall be deemed a judgment creditor for purposes of collection of any unpaid amounts of the civil and stipulated penalties and interest.

36. No amount of the \$36,800 civil penalty to be paid by Al-Corn shall be used to reduce its federal or state tax obligations.

#### **VII. STIPULATED PENALTIES**

37. The Defendant shall pay stipulated penalties in the amounts set forth below to the Plaintiffs, to be paid 50 percent to the United States and 50 percent to the Plaintiff-Intervenor, for the following:

(a) for each day of failure to propose PM, PM<sub>10</sub>, and VOC emissions limits under Paragraphs 22 and 24:

|                                      |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1st through 30th day after deadline  | \$ 250 |
| 31st through 60th day after deadline | \$ 500 |
| Beyond the 60 <sup>th</sup> day      | \$1000 |

(b) for each day of failure to meet the deadlines for installation of control technology systems set forth in the Control Technology Plan and applying for, or obtaining, permits under Paragraphs 17, 18, 20, and 25:

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 1st through 30th day after deadline  | \$ 800  |
| 31st through 60th day after deadline | \$1,200 |
| Beyond 60th day                      | \$2,000 |

(c) for failure to conduct a compliance test as required by Paragraph 28. per day per unit:

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 1st through 30th day after deadline  | \$ 250  |
| 31st through 60th day after deadline | \$ 500  |
| Beyond 60th day                      | \$1,000 |

(d) for failure to demonstrate compliance with emission limits set forth in the approved Control Technology Plan or emission limits set pursuant to Part V Section C ("Emission Limits"): \$5000 per emissions test for each pollutant

(e) for each failure to submit reports or studies as required by Part V Section E ("Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements") of this Consent Decree. per day per report or notice:

|                                      |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1st through 30th day after deadline  | \$ 250 |
| 31st through 60th day after deadline | \$ 500 |

Beyond 60th day

\$1,000

(f) for failure to pay or escrow stipulated penalties, as specified in Paragraphs 38 and 39 of this section, \$500 per day per penalty demand.

(g) for failure to notify the Plaintiffs pursuant to Paragraph 2 of Al-Corn's sale or transfer of the facility, \$250 per day.

38. Al-Corn shall pay stipulated penalties upon written demand by the Plaintiffs no later than thirty (30) days after Defendant receives such demand. Stipulated penalties shall be paid to the Plaintiffs in the manner set forth in Part VI ("Civil Penalty") of this Consent Decree.

39. Should Al-Corn dispute its obligation to pay part or all of a stipulated penalty, it may avoid the imposition of the stipulated penalty for failure to pay a penalty due to the Plaintiffs by placing the disputed amount demanded by the Plaintiffs, not to exceed \$20,000 for any given event or related series of events at any one plant, in a commercial escrow account pending resolution of the matter and by invoking the Dispute Resolution provisions of Part X within the time provided in Paragraph 38 for payment of stipulated penalties. If the dispute is thereafter resolved in Defendant's favor, the escrowed amount plus accrued interest shall be returned to the Defendant. Otherwise the Plaintiffs shall be entitled to the escrowed amount that was determined to be due by the Court plus the interest that has accrued on such amount, with the balance, if any, returned to the Defendant.

40. The Plaintiffs reserve the right to pursue any other remedies for violations of this Consent Decree to which they are entitled. The Plaintiffs will not seek stipulated penalties and civil or administrative penalties for the same violation of the Consent Decree.

## **VIII. RIGHT OF ENTRY**

41. Any authorized representative of the EPA or MPCA, or an appropriate federal or state agency, including independent contractors, upon presentation of proper credentials and in compliance with the facility's safety requirements, shall have a right of entry upon the premises of Al-Corn's plant identified herein at Paragraph 3(b) at any reasonable time for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the provisions of this Consent Decree, including inspecting plant equipment, and inspecting and copying all records maintained by Defendant required by this Consent Decree. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall limit the authority of EPA and MPCA to conduct tests and inspections under Section 114 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7414, and Minnesota Statute §§ 116.07, subd. 9 and 116.091 or any other applicable law.

## **IX. FORCE MAJEURE**

42. If any event occurs which causes or may cause a delay or impediment to performance in complying with any provision of this Consent Decree, Defendant shall notify the Plaintiffs in writing as soon as practicable, but in any event within twenty (20) business days of when Defendant first knew of the event or should have known of the event by the exercise of due diligence. In this notice Defendant shall specifically reference this Paragraph of this Consent Decree and describe the anticipated length of time the delay may persist, the cause or causes of the delay, and the measures taken or to be taken by Defendant to prevent or minimize the delay and the schedule by which those measures will be implemented. Defendant shall adopt all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize such delays.

43. Failure by Defendant to provide notice to Plaintiffs of an event which causes or may cause a delay or impediment to performance shall render this Part IX voidable by the

Plaintiffs as to the specific event for which the Defendant has failed to comply with such notice requirement, and, if voided, is of no effect as to the particular event involved.

44. The United States or MPCA shall notify the Defendant in writing regarding the Defendant's claim of a delay or impediment to performance as soon as practicable, but in any event within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Force Majeure notice provided under Paragraph 42. If the Plaintiffs agree that the delay or impediment to performance has been or will be caused by circumstances beyond the control of the Defendant, including any entity controlled by the Defendant, and that the Defendant could not have prevented the delay by the exercise of due diligence, the parties shall stipulate to an extension of the required deadline(s) for all requirement(s) affected by the delay by a period equivalent to the delay actually caused by such circumstances. The Defendant shall not be liable for stipulated penalties for the period of any such delay.

45. If the Plaintiffs do not accept the Defendant's claim that a delay or impediment to performance is caused by a force majeure event, to avoid payment of stipulated penalties, the Defendant must submit the matter to this Court for resolution within twenty (20) business days after receiving notice of the Plaintiffs' position, by filing a petition for determination with this Court. Once the Defendant has submitted this matter to this Court, the Plaintiffs shall have twenty (20) business days to file its response to said petition. If the Defendant submits the matter to this Court for resolution and the Court determines that the delay or impediment to performance has been or will be caused by circumstances beyond the control of the Defendant, including any entity controlled by the Defendant, and that the Defendant could not have prevented the delay by the exercise of due diligence, the Defendant shall be excused as to that

event(s) and delay (including stipulated penalties), for a period of time equivalent to the delay caused by such circumstances.

46. The Defendant shall bear the burden of proving that any delay of any requirement(s) of this Consent Decree was caused by or will be caused by circumstances beyond its control, including any entity controlled by it, and that the Defendant could not have prevented the delay by the exercise of due diligence. The Defendant shall also bear the burden of proving the duration and extent of any delay(s) attributable to such circumstances. An extension of one compliance date based on a particular event may, but does not necessarily, result in an extension of a subsequent compliance date or dates.

47. Unanticipated or increased costs or expenses associated with the performance of the Defendant's obligations under this Consent Decree shall not constitute circumstances beyond the control of the Defendant, or serve as a basis for an extension of time under this Part. However, failure of a permitting authority to issue a necessary permit in a timely fashion is an event of Force Majeure where the Defendant has taken all steps available to it to obtain the necessary permit including but not limited to:

- (a) submitting a timely and complete permit application;
- (b) responding to requests for additional information by the permitting authority in a timely fashion; and
- (c) prosecuting appeals of any disputed terms and conditions imposed by the permitting authority in an expeditious fashion.

48. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Consent Decree, this Court shall not draw any inferences nor establish any presumptions adverse to either party as a result of

Defendant delivering a notice of Force Majeure or the parties' inability to reach agreement.

49. As part of the resolution of any matter submitted to this Court under this Part IX, the parties by agreement, or this Court, by order, may in appropriate circumstances extend or modify the schedule for completion of work under this Consent Decree to account for the delay in the work that occurred as a result of any delay or impediment to performance agreed to by the Plaintiffs or approved by this Court. Defendant shall be liable for stipulated penalties for its failure thereafter to complete the work in accordance with the extended or modified schedule.

## **X. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

50. The dispute resolution procedure provided by this Part X shall be available to resolve all disputes arising under this Consent Decree, including but not limited to emission limits established by the MPCA in Part V Section C ("Emission Limits"), except as otherwise provided in Part IX regarding Force Majeure.

51. The dispute resolution procedure required herein shall be invoked upon the giving of written notice by one of the parties to this Consent Decree to another advising of a dispute pursuant to this Part X. The notice shall describe the nature of the dispute, and shall state the noticing party's position with regard to such dispute. The party receiving such a notice shall acknowledge receipt of the notice and the parties shall expeditiously schedule a meeting to discuss the dispute informally not later than fourteen (14) days from the receipt of such notice.

52. Disputes submitted to dispute resolution shall, in the first instance, be the subject of informal negotiations between the parties. Such period of informal negotiations shall not extend beyond thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the first meeting between representatives of the Plaintiffs and the Defendant, unless the parties' representatives agree to

shorten or extend this period.

53. In the event that the parties are unable to reach agreement during such informal negotiation period, the Plaintiffs shall provide the Defendant with a written summary of their position regarding the dispute. The position advanced by the Plaintiffs shall be considered binding unless, within forty-five (45) calendar days of the Defendant's receipt of the written summary of the Plaintiffs position, the Defendant files with this Court a petition which describes the nature of the dispute, and includes a statement of the Defendant's position and any supporting data, analysis, and/or documentation relied on by the Defendant. The Plaintiffs shall respond to the petition within forty-five (45) calendar days of filing.

54. Where the nature of the dispute is such that a more timely resolution of the issue is required, the time periods set out in this Part X may be shortened upon motion of one of the parties to the dispute.

55. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Consent Decree, in dispute resolution, this Court shall not draw any inferences nor establish any presumptions adverse to either party as a result of invocation of this Part X or the parties' inability to reach agreement. The final position of the Plaintiffs shall be upheld by the Court if supported by substantial evidence in the record as identified and agreed to by all the Parties.

56. As part of the resolution of any dispute submitted to dispute resolution, the parties, by agreement, or this Court, by order, may, in appropriate circumstances, extend or modify the schedule for completion of work under this Consent Decree to account for the delay in the work that occurred as a result of dispute resolution. Defendant shall be liable for stipulated penalties for its failure thereafter to complete the work in accordance with the

extended or modified schedule.

## XI. GENERAL PROVISIONS

57. Effect of Settlement. This Consent Decree is not a permit: compliance with its terms does not guarantee compliance with any applicable federal, state or local laws or regulations. To the extent that the terms of this Consent Decree conflict with the terms of any air quality permit, the terms of this Consent Decree shall control during the effective period of the Consent Decree.

58. Resolution of Claims. Satisfaction of all of the requirements of this Consent Decree constitutes full settlement of and shall resolve all past civil and administrative liability of the Defendant to the Plaintiffs for the violations alleged in the United States' and Plaintiff-Intervenor's Complaints and all civil and administrative liability of the Defendant for any violations at its facility based on facts and events that occurred during the relevant time period under the following statutory and regulatory provisions: (a) NSPS, 40 C.F.R. Part 60, including subparts Dc, Kb, and VV; (b) National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, 40 C.F.R. Part 63, pursuant to Sections 112(d) and 112(g) of the Act; (c) PSD requirements at Part C of the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder at 40 C.F.R. § 52.21, and the Minnesota regulations which incorporate and/or implement the above-listed federal regulations in items (a) through (c); (d) all air permit requirements under Minn. R. 7007.0050-7007.1850; (e) air emissions fee requirements under Minn. R. 7002.0025-7002.0095; (f) performance standards for stationary sources under Minn. R. 7011.0010-7011.9990, performance tests under Minn. R. 7017.2001-7017.2060; (g) notification, recordkeeping and reporting requirements under Minn. R. 7019.0100-7019.2000; and (h) emission inventory requirements under Minn. R. 7019.3000-

7019.3100. For purposes of this Consent Decree, the "relevant time period" shall mean the period beginning when the United States' claims and/or Plaintiff-Intervenor's claims under the above statutes and regulations accrued through the date of entry of this Consent Decree. During the effective period of the Consent Decree, certain emission units shall be on a compliance schedule and any modification to these units, as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 52.21, which is not required by this Consent Decree is beyond the scope of this resolution of claims. This provision shall survive the termination of the Consent Decree.

59. Other Laws. Except as specifically provided by this Consent Decree, nothing in this Consent Decree shall relieve Defendant of its obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Subject to Paragraphs 40 and 58, nothing contained in this Consent Decree shall be construed to prevent or limit the United States' or MPCA's rights to obtain penalties or injunctive relief under the Act or other federal, state or local statutes or regulations, including but not limited to, Section 303 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7603.

60. Third Parties. Except as otherwise provided by law, this Consent Decree does not limit, enlarge or affect the rights of any party to this Consent Decree as against any third parties. Nothing in this Consent Decree should be construed to create any rights, or grant any cause of action, to any person not a party to this Consent Decree.

61. Costs. Each party to this Consent Decree shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees through the date of entry of this Consent Decree.

62. Public Documents. All information and documents submitted by the Defendant to the Plaintiffs pursuant to this Consent Decree shall be subject to public inspection, unless subject to legal privileges or protection or identified and supported as business confidential by the

Defendant in accordance with 40 C.F.R. Part 2 and Minnesota Statute §§ 13.37 and 116.075.

63. Public Comments - Federal Approval. The parties agree and acknowledge that final approval by the United States and entry of this Consent Decree is subject to the requirements of 28 C.F.R. § 50.7, which provides for notice of the lodging of this Consent Decree in the Federal Register, an opportunity for public comment, and consideration of any comments. The United States reserves the right to withdraw or withhold consent if the comments regarding this Consent Decree discloses facts or considerations which indicate that this Consent Decree is inappropriate, improper or inadequate. The Defendant and the Plaintiff-Intervenor consent to the entry of this Consent Decree.

64. Notice. Unless otherwise provided herein, notifications to or communications with the United States, EPA, MPCA or the Defendant shall be deemed submitted on the date they are postmarked and sent either by overnight receipt mail service or by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. Except as otherwise provided herein, when written notification to or communication with the United States, EPA, MPCA or the Defendant is required by the terms of this Consent Decree, it shall be addressed as follows:

As to the United States:

Thomas L. Sansonetti  
Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental Enforcement Section  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 7611, Ben Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

As to the U.S. EPA:

Bruce Buckheit  
Director, Air Enforcement Division

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Mail Code 2242-A  
Washington, DC 20004

and the EPA Regional office for the region in which the facility is located:

Region 5:

Cynthia A. King  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
C-14J  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

Compliance Tracker  
Air Enforcement Branch, AE-17J  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

As to Al-Corn Clean Fuel Cooperative:

Al-Corn  
General Manager  
P.O. Box 6  
797 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Claremont, MN 55924

and

(Counsel for Al-Corn)

Gerald L. Seck  
Larkin, Hoffman, Daly & Lindgren, Ltd.  
1500 Wells Fargo Plaza  
7900 Xerxes Avenue South  
Bloomington, MN 55431

Peder A. Larson  
Peder Larson & Associates, PLC  
5200 Willson Road  
Suite 150

Minneapolis, MN 55424

As to Plaintiff-Intervenor the State of Minnesota, through the MPCA:

Rhonda Land  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road N  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Kathleen L. Winters  
Office of the Attorney General  
NCL Towers Suite 900  
445 Minnesota Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2127

65. Change of Notice Recipient. Any party may change either the notice recipient or the address for providing notices to it by serving all other parties with a notice setting forth such new notice recipient or address.

66. Modification. There shall be no modification of this Consent Decree without written agreement of all the parties. There shall be no material modification of this Consent Decree without the written agreement of the parties and by Order of the Court. Prior to complete termination of the requirements of this Consent Decree pursuant to Paragraph 68, the parties may, upon motion to the Court, seek to terminate provisions of this Consent Decree.

67. Continuing Jurisdiction. The Court retains jurisdiction of this case after entry of this Consent Decree to enforce compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree and to take any action necessary or appropriate for its interpretation, construction, execution, or modification. During the term of this Consent Decree, any party may apply to the Court for any relief necessary to construe or effectuate this Consent Decree.

## XII. TERMINATION

68. This Consent Decree shall be subject to termination upon motion by any party

after the Defendant satisfies all requirements of this Consent Decree and has operated the control technologies identified in the approved Control Technology Plan in compliance with emission limits, and has demonstrated for 24 months that its actual emissions of VOCs, PM, PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and CO have remained under 95 TPY. For purposes of meeting the 24-month performance requirement in this Paragraph, Defendant may demonstrate that its actual emissions remained under the 95 TPY allowable emission caps by either using the results of its initial compliance tests or evidence of operating conditions since the installation of the control equipment required in this Consent Decree and in the approved Control Technology Plan. At such time, if the Defendant believes that it is in compliance with the requirements of this Consent Decree, and has paid the civil penalty and any stipulated penalties required by this Consent Decree, then the Defendant shall so certify to the Plaintiffs, and unless the Plaintiffs object in writing with specific reasons within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the certification, the Court shall order that this Consent Decree be terminated on Defendant's motion. If the United States or MPCA objects to the Defendant's certification, then the matter shall be submitted to the Court for resolution under Part X ("Dispute Resolution") of this Consent Decree. In such case, the Defendant shall bear the burden of proving that this Consent Decree should be terminated.

So entered in accordance with the foregoing this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2002.

---

United States District Court Judge  
District of Minnesota

FOR PLAINTIFF, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Tom Sansonetti

Date 9.10.02

Thomas L. Sansonetti  
Assistant Attorney General  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
10th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530

Dianne M. Shawley

Date 8/23/02

Dianne M. Shawley  
Senior Counsel  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
1425 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005

Cynthia A. King

Date 8/23/02

Cynthia A. King  
Special Trial Attorney  
US EPA Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Street  
Chicago, IL 60604

United States Attorney  
District of Minnesota

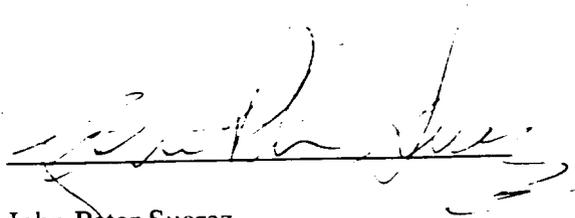


Date 10/1/02

THOMAS B. HEFFELFINGER  
United States Attorney

BY: FRIEDRICH A. P. SIEKERT  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Attorney ID No. 142013  
District of Minnesota  
U.S. Courthouse  
300 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

FOR U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:



Date 9/20/02

John Peter Suarez  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

FOR U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas V. Skinner", is written over a horizontal line.

Date 9.20.02

Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
77 West Jackson Street  
Chicago, IL 60604

FOR THE PLAINTIFF-INTERVENOR, THE STATE OF MINNESOTA POLLUTION  
CONTROL AGENCY:



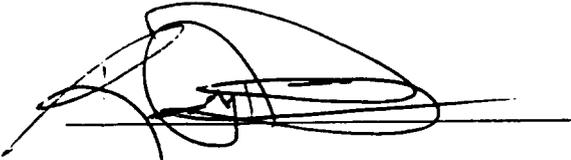
Date 1 October 2022

Commissioner Karen A. Studders  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Date \_\_\_\_\_

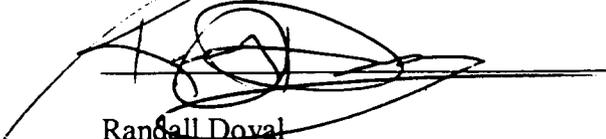
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen L. Winters  
Office of the Attorney General  
NCL Towers Suite 900  
445 Minnesota Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2127

FOR DEFENDANT, AL-CORN CLEAN FUEL COOPERATIVE AND AL-CORN CLEAN FUEL LIMITED PARTNERSHIP:



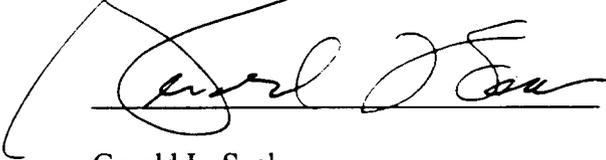
Randall Doyal  
General Manager  
Al-Corn Clean Fuel Cooperative  
P.O. Box 6  
Claremont, MN 55942

Date August 14, 2002



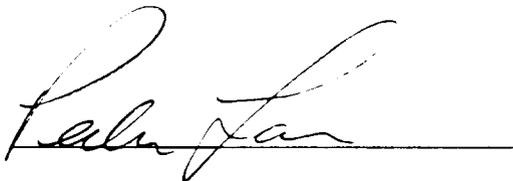
Randall Doyal  
Chief Executive Officer  
Al-Corn Clean Fuel Limited Partnership  
P.O. Box 6  
Claremont, MN 55942

Date August 14, 2002



Gerald L. Seck  
Larkin, Hoffman, Daly & Lindgren, Ltd.  
1500 Wells Fargo Plaza  
7900 Xerxes Avenue South  
Bloomington, MN 55431

Date 8-23-02



Peder A. Larson  
Peder Larson & Associates, PLC  
5200 Willson Road  
Suite 150  
Minneapolis, MN 55424

Date 8-23-02

**Al-Corn Clean Fuel**

**Claremont, Minnesota**

# **Control Technology Plan**

August 22, 2002

# CONTENTS

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>1.0 INTRODUCTION .....</b>   | <b>1-1</b> |
| <b>2.0 EMISSION UNITS REQUIRING POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT.....</b>            | <b>2-1</b> |
| <b>3.0 ENGINEERING DESIGN CRITERIA FOR POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT .....</b>    | <b>3-1</b> |
| <b>4.0 PROPOSED EMISSION LIMITS FROM POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT .....</b>      | <b>4-1</b> |
| <b>4.1 Alternative Operating Scenarios .....</b>                                | <b>4-5</b> |
| <b>5.0 POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION SCHEDULE .....</b>              | <b>5-1</b> |
| <b>6.0 PROPOSED MONITORING PARAMETERS FOR POLLUTION CONTROL DEVICES .....</b>   | <b>6-1</b> |
| <b>7.0 POLLUTION CONTROL DEVICE PERFORMANCE TEST SCHEDULE AND METHODS .....</b> | <b>7-1</b> |
| <b>8.0 FUGITIVE DUST EMISSION CONTROL PROGRAM.....</b>                          | <b>8-1</b> |

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

On August 14, 2002, Al-Corn Clean Fuel (Al-Corn) signed a consent decree that requires Al-Corn to implement a program of compliance at the corn dry mill ethanol plant it operates in Claremont, Minnesota. Al-Corn prepared and submits this Control Technology Plan (CTP) as an integral part of the consent decree. This CTP fulfills the requirement of the consent decree and has been reviewed and approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) as part of the consent decree.

Al-Corn's CTP includes the following:

- (a). Identification of all units to be controlled;
- (b). Engineering design criteria for all proposed controls capable of meeting the emission levels required by Part V of the Consent Decree;
- (c). Proposed short-term and long-term emission limits and controlled outlet concentrations for each pollutant as appropriate;
- (d). A schedule for expedited installation with specific milestones applicable on a unit-by-unit basis;
- (e). Proposed monitoring parameters for all control equipment and parameter ranges;
- (f). Identification of all units to be emission tested under Paragraph 15 of the Consent Decree and a schedule for initial tests and retest;
- (g). The test methods that will be used to demonstrate compliance with the emissions levels set forth in the Consent Decree; and
- (h). Program for minimization of fugitive dust emissions from facility operations.

## 2.0 EMISSION UNITS REQUIRING POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT

The following emission units, fugitive sources, and control equipment have been designated as affected units in the consent decree and have emission limits requiring pollution control technology.

| Unit Designation  | Unit Description                       | CE #          | CE Description            |
|-------------------|--|---------------|---------------------------|
| EU 009            | Fermenter #1                           | 003           | scrubber                  |
| EU 010            | Fermenter #2                           | 003           | scrubber                  |
| EU 011            | Fermenter #3                           | 003           | scrubber                  |
| EU 012            | Fermenter #4                           | 003           | scrubber                  |
| EU 013            | DDGS Dryer #1 (B)                      | 004, 006, 007 | Multicyclones and TO      |
| EU 017            | Boiler                                 | NA            | NA                        |
| EU 018            | Cooling Cyclone                        | NA            | Cyclone (PM)<br>TBD (VOC) |
| EU 020            | Slurry Tank                            | 005           | scrubber                  |
| EU 021 and EU 022 | Liquifaction System                    | 005           | scrubber                  |
| EU 023            | Yeast Propagation                      | 005           | scrubber                  |
| EU 024            | Side Stripper                          | 005           | scrubber                  |
| EU 028            | Molecular Sieve System                 | 005           | scrubber                  |
| EU 029            | Evaporator                             | 005           | scrubber                  |
| EU 032            | Process Water Tank                     | 003           | scrubber                  |
| EU 037            | DDGS Dryer #2 (A)                      | 004, 006, 007 | Multicyclones and TO      |
| EU 038            | Fermenter #5                           | 003           | scrubber                  |
| EU 039            | Fermenter #6                           | 003           | scrubber                  |
| EU 042            | Thermal Oxidizer /Heat Recovery Boiler | 006           | TO                        |
| EU 043            | Rectifier                              | 005           | scrubber                  |
| EU 044            | Beer Stripper                          | 005           | scrubber                  |
| EU 045            | Fermenter #7                           | 003           | scrubber                  |
| EU 052            | Beerwell                               | 003           | scrubber                  |
| FS 001            | Loading Rack                           | 006           | TO                        |
| FS 002            | Truck Traffic                          | NA            | Paved roads               |
| FS 004            | Valve, Flange, & Seal Fugitives        | NA            | LDAR                      |

### 3.0 ENGINEERING DESIGN CRITERIA FOR POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT

After identifying the affected units that require installation of air pollution control technology, Al-Corn conducted a design and engineering review of each unit to select the pollution control technology that would achieve the emission level reductions identified in the consent decree.

| Process Description  | Control Device | Control Device Description   | Operating Parameters   |
|--|----------------|--|--|
| Fermentation Scrubber  | CE 003         | Packed Bed Scrubber  | Exhaust flow rate: 4500 cfm<br>Water flow rate $\geq$ 11.7 gal/min.  |
| DDGS Dryer #1,<br>DDGS Dryer #2,<br>Ethanol Truck<br>Loadout | CE 006         | Thermal Oxidizer for VOC, CO and PM/PM <sub>10</sub> control<br><br>Thermal oxidizer has low NO <sub>x</sub> burners | Exhaust flow rate: 60,000<br>Residence time: 0.7 to 1.4 seconds<br>Combustion chamber orientation<br>Operating temperature: 1300 to 1500 °F<br>Design fuel input rate: 95 MMBtu/hr<br>NO <sub>x</sub> Emission Rate: 0.04 lb/MMBtu |
| DDGS Cooling Cyclone   | EU 018         | TBD  | Pressure drop between 2 and 8 inches of water column   |
| Boiler #1  | EU 017         | Low NO <sub>x</sub> burners  | Design fuel input rate: 60 MMBtu/hr<br>NO <sub>x</sub> Emission Rate: 0.055 lb/MMBtu   |

The attached flow diagram presents the affect units and associated control technology as determined by the results of engineering design criteria.



## 4.0 PROPOSED EMISSION LIMITS FROM POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT

Unless otherwise stated, all controlled emission limitations apply at all times except during periods when the process equipment is not operating or during previously planned startup and shutdown periods, and malfunctions as defined in 40 CFR section 63.2. These startup and shutdown periods shall not exceed the minimum amount of time necessary for these events, and during these events, AI-Corn shall minimize emissions to the greatest extent practicable. To the extent practical, startup and shutdown of control technology systems will be performed during times when process equipment is also shut down for routine maintenance.

In addition to the limits listed below, all emission sources will comply with a 12-month rolling sum source wide SO<sub>2</sub> cap of 95 TPY.

Any deviation from the requirements in 4.0 and/or 4.1 shall be reported in the quarterly reports and as required under other state and federal rules.

| Process Description   | Control Device | Control Device Description | Pollutant | Short Term Emission Rate  | Long Term Emission Rate   |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------|---|---|
| Fermentation Scrubber | CE 003         | Packed Bed Scrubber        | VOC       | 95% reduction or <20 ppm if inlet concentration is below 200 ppm; lb/hr limits to be established based on performance testing under the process outline under Paragraph 24 in the Consent Decree. | 12-month rolling sum total facility VOC emission rate equal to the 95 ton emissions cap.                    |
|                       |                |                            | HAPs      |   | 12-month rolling sum total facility emission cap of 9.0 TPY for any single HAP and 24.0 TPY for total HAPs. |

| Process Description  | Control Device                   | Control Device Description  | Pollutant       | Short Term Emission Rate   | Long Term Emission Rate   |
|--|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|--|---|
| Boiler #1  | EU 017                           | Low NO <sub>x</sub> Burners   | NO <sub>x</sub> |  | 12-month rolling sum source wide NO <sub>x</sub> cap of 95 TPY and 12-month rolling sum Dryer #1 and #2, TO, and Boiler #1 Group NO <sub>x</sub> cap of 41.7 TPY (See Attachment 2) |
| NO <sub>x</sub> Unit Group Cap                               | EU013<br>EU017<br>EU037<br>EU042 | Low NO <sub>x</sub> Equivalent  | NO <sub>x</sub> |  | 12-month rolling sum source wide NO <sub>x</sub> cap of 95 TPY and 12-month rolling sum Dryer #1 and #2, TO, and Boiler #1 Group NO <sub>x</sub> cap of 41.7 TPY (See Attachment 2) |
| Cooling Cyclone  | EU018                            | TBD   | VOC             | To be established pursuant to paragraph 22 of the Consent Decree | 12-month rolling sum source wide VOC cap of 95 TPY  |
| Truck Loadout  | CE006                            | TO  | VOC             |  | 12-month rolling sum source wide VOC cap of 95 TPY  |
| DDGS Dryer #1,<br>DDGS Dryer #2,<br>Ethanol Truck<br>Loadout | CE 004<br>CE 007<br>CE 006       | Dryer#1 and #2<br>multiclone for<br>PM/PM <sub>10</sub> control<br><br>Thermal Oxidizer<br>for VOC,<br>PM/PM <sub>10</sub> and CO<br>control<br><br>Thermal oxidizer<br>has low NO <sub>x</sub><br>burners. | CO              | 90% reduction or<br>emission no<br>higher than 100<br>ppm        | 12-month rolling<br>sum source wide<br>CO cap of 95<br>TPY.   |

| Process Description | Control Device | Control Device Description | Pollutant           | Short Term Emission Rate  | Long Term Emission Rate   |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---|---|
|                     |                |                            | NO <sub>x</sub>     |   | 12-month rolling sum source wide NO <sub>x</sub> cap of 95 TPY and 12-month rolling sum Dryer #1 and #2, TO, and Boiler #1 Group NO <sub>x</sub> cap of 41.7 TPY (See Attachment 2) |
|                     |                |                            | PM/PM <sub>10</sub> | Test and set pursuant to paragraph 24 of the Consent Decree   | 12-month rolling sum total facility PM/PM <sub>10</sub> cap of 95 tpy.  |
|                     |                |                            | VOC                 | 95% reduction or 10 ppm outlet concentration; lb/hr limits to be established based on performance testing under the process outline in paragraph 24 under the Consent Decree. | 12-month rolling sum total facility VOC cap of 95 tpy.  |
|                     |                |                            | HAPs                |   | 12-month rolling sum total facility emission cap of 9.0 TPY for any single HAP and 24.0 TPY for total HAPs.   |

For all source-wide emission limits during the first 11 months of operation, the facility will maintain the following source-wide limits in Tons Per Year:

|  | Mo 1 |     |     |     | Mo 2 | Mo 3 | Mo 4 | Mo 5 | Mo 6 | Mo 7 | Mo 8 | Mo 9 | Mo 10 | Mo 11 |
|--|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
|  | Wk1  | Wk2 | Wk3 | Wk4 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |
| Source wide VOC, CO, NOx and PM/PM10     | 12   |     |     |     | 24   | 36   | 45   | 56   | 64   | 72   | 80   | 84   | 88    | 92    |
| NOx for Boiler #1, Dryers #1, #2, and TO | 2    | 3   | 4   | 5   | 10   | 15   | 20   | 25   | 30   | 34   | 36   | 38   | 40    | 41    |
| Individual HAP/                          | 1.6/ |     |     |     | 3.2/ | 4.0/ | 4.8/ | 5.6/ | 6.4/ | 7.2/ | 8.0/ | 8.2/ | 8.5/  | 8.8/  |
| Total HAPs                               | 3.0  |     |     |     | 6.0  | 9.0  | 12   | 14   | 16   | 18   | 20   | 21   | 22    | 23    |

#### Recordkeeping

Record fuel usage daily for each unit subject to the NO<sub>x</sub> group emissions cap. Calculate the NO<sub>x</sub> group emissions from the previous week and the NO<sub>x</sub> Group emissions from the previous 51 weeks (52 week rolling sum). Calculate the total 52-week rolling sum for NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from all units according to Equation 1:

$$\sum_{n=1}^n E_n = \sum_{i=1}^x \left[ NG_x \left( \frac{MMBtu}{week} \right) \cdot EF_x \left( \frac{lb}{MMBtu} \right) \cdot 0.0005 \left( \frac{ton}{lb} \right) \right] \quad \text{Eqn 1}$$

where:

$x$  = number of units;

$n$  = number of weeks of interest;

$\sum_{i=1}^n E_n$  = sum of weekly NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from unit  $x$  (tons/52 weeks);

$NG_x$  =  $i^{\text{th}}$  week natural gas usage of emission unit  $x$  (MMBtu/week); and

$EF_x$  = unit specific emission factor determined by stack testing.

#### **4.1 Alternative Operating Scenarios**

- Ethanol truck load out shall be vented to the control equipment at any time the control equipment is in operation. Ethanol truck load out shall be limited to 4 million gallons per year of uncontrolled operation.

## 5.0 POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION SCHEDULE

The control equipment specified in this CTP will be installed and operational by October 1, 2002, unless modifications to a burner or additional paving of interior plant roads are required. If additional paving is required, this will be completed by September 1, 2003. See Attachment 1 for a map showing the unpaved sections of the facility. Deviations shall be reported quarterly or more frequently if required by state and Federal rules.

## 6.0 PROPOSED MONITORING PARAMETERS FOR POLLUTION CONTROL DEVICES

The consent decree requires that monitoring parameters be established for affected pollution control devices. Al-Corn is proposing the following monitoring parameters for each of the affected pollution control devices. Any deviations of monitoring frequency and/or operating ranges shall to be reported in quarterly reports unless more frequent reporting is required by state or federal regulations.

| Control Device #  | Control Device Description                     | Parameter Monitored               | Operating Range  | Monitoring Frequency  |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| CE 003  | Fermentation Scrubber                          | Pressure Drop and Water Flow Rate | 2 to 12 inches of water column<br>At least 11.7 gallons water per minute | Continuously and recorded once Daily when operating   |
| CE 006  | Thermal Oxidizer                               | Operating temperature             | At least 1300 F combustion chamber                                       | Continuously with low temperature alarm   |
| FS 005  | Leak Detection                                 | As stated in 40 CFR Subpart VV    | As stated in 40 CFR Subpart VV   | As stated in 40 CFR Subpart VV  |
| EU066   | DDGS Dryer                                     | Syrup Feed                        | TBD  | 24-hour average   |
|   |  | Beer Feed                         | TBD  | 24-hour average   |
| NO <sub>x</sub> Group<br>EU013<br>EU017<br>EU037<br>EU042 | DDGS Dryer #1<br>Boiler<br>DDGS Dryer #2<br>TO | Fuel Usage                        |  | Weekly monitor and record fuel usage and type for each unit, calculate NO <sub>x</sub> emissions weekly based on latest stack test data |

## 7.0 POLLUTION CONTROL DEVICE PERFORMANCE TEST SCHEDULE AND METHODS

The following schedule and methods will be used to demonstrate initial compliance with the emission limits contained in Section 4.0 of this Control Technology Plan.

Al-Corn shall conduct the following performance testing pursuant to the Consent Decree schedule. The CD states that no later than 180 days following the start-up of the last piece of control equipment required in the approved Control Technology Plan, Al-Corn shall demonstrate through emissions testing of each emissions unit as specified in the approved Control Technology Plan, conducted in accordance with the MPCA and U.S. EPA approved test protocol, that it has met the required destruction efficiency and/or emission limit. Al-Corn shall follow all testing requirements in Minnesota Rule 7017.

| Process Description   | Unit/Control Device # | Unit/Control Device Description | Pollutants                                | Proposed Methods Used   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Fermentation Scrubber | CE 003 / SV003        | Packed Bed Scrubber             | VOC Inlet and Outlet, Speciated VOCs/HAPs | Method 1, 2, 3A, 4, Method 18 NCASI CI/WP-98.01 and VOC test method as approved by the parties in the Performance Test Plan Protocol. |
| Boiler                | EU 017 / SV005        |                                 | NOx                                       | Method 1, 2, 3B, 4, and 7E  |
|                       |                       |                                 | CO  | Method 10   |
| DDGS Cooling Cyclone  | EU 018 / SV008        | TBD                             | VOC Outlet, Speciated VOCs/HAPs           | Method 1, 2, 3B, 4, Method 18 NCASI CI/WP-98.01 and 25 (unless the outlet concentration is < 50 ppm, then 25A will be used)           |

| Process Description   | Unit/Control Device | Unit/Control Device Description  | Pollutants                            | Proposed Methods Used   |
|---|---------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| DDGS Dryer #1,<br>DDGS Dryer #2,<br>Thermal Oxidizer,<br>Ethanol Truck<br>Loadout | CE 004,<br>CE007    | Dryer#1 and #2<br>multiclone for<br>PM/PM <sub>10</sub> control  | CO Inlet and<br>Outlet                | Method 1, 2, 3B, 4,<br>and 10   |
|   |                     |  | NO <sub>x</sub>                       | Method 1, 2, 3B, 4,<br>and 7E   |
|   | CE 006              | Thermal Oxidizer<br>for VOC,<br>PM/PM <sub>10</sub> , and<br>CO control, and<br>confirmation of<br>the NO <sub>x</sub><br>emission factor. | PM/PM <sub>10</sub><br>Outlet         | Method 1, 2, 3B, 4, 5<br>and 202  |
|   | SV012               |  | VOC Inlet                             | Method 1, 2, 3B, 4,<br>25 (unless the outlet<br>concentration is < 50<br>ppm, then 25A will be<br>used)                                       |
|   |                     |  | VOC Outlet,<br>Speciated<br>VOCs/HAPs | Method 1, 2, 3B, 4,<br>Method 18 NCASI<br>CI/WP-98.01 and 25<br>(unless the outlet<br>concentration is < 50<br>ppm, then 25A will be<br>used) |

## 8.0 FUGITIVE DUST EMISSION CONTROL PROGRAM

The objectives of the Fugitive Control Program are to prevent and minimize the release of avoidable fugitive emissions as required by the consent decree. The Program describes the procedures AI-Corn will use to control emissions, to determine when emissions are at levels requiring corrective action, and to reduce excessive emissions to acceptable levels.

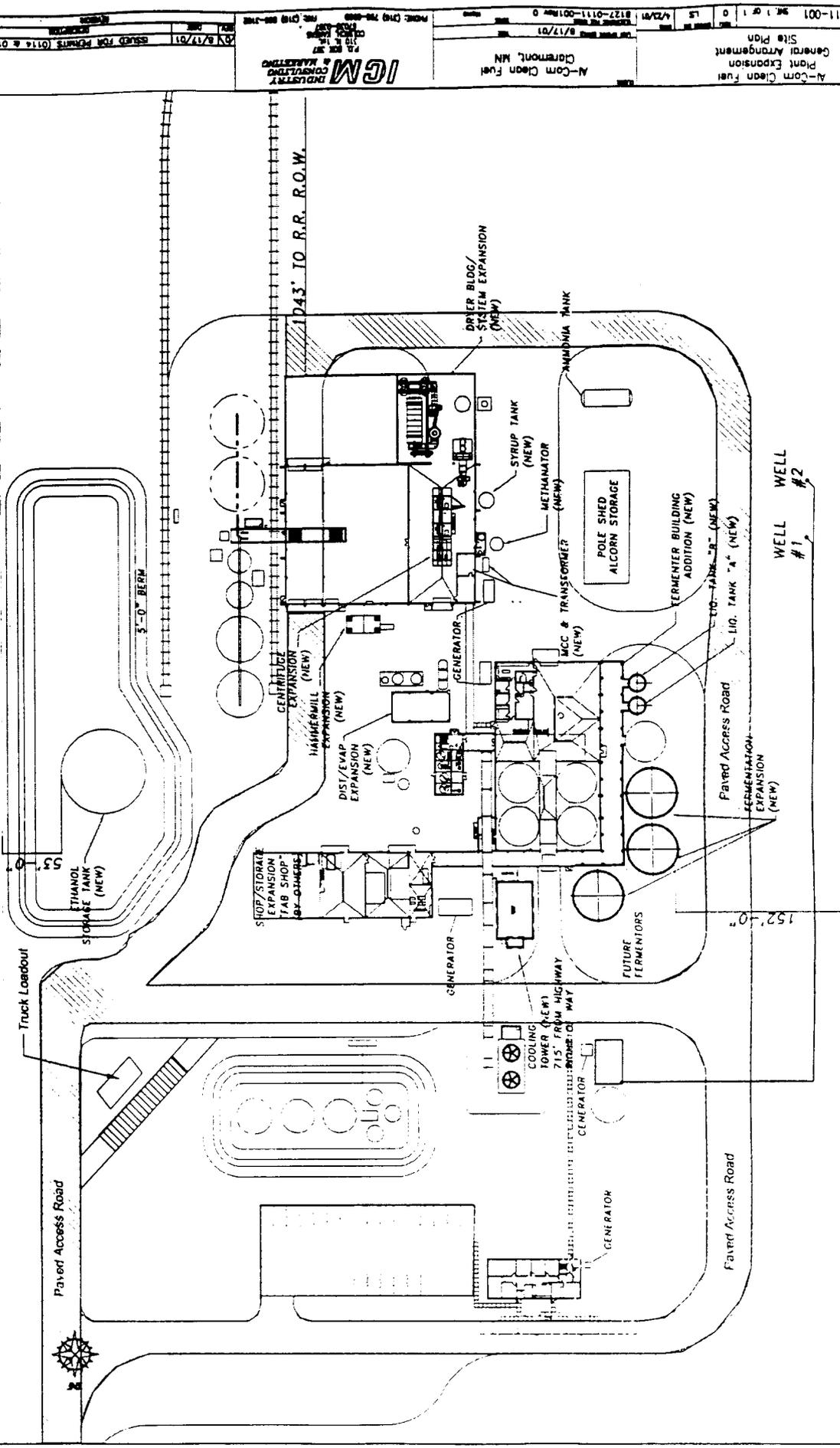
- AI-Corn has paved existing roads (all normal traffic routes) that are used for truck and car traffic (see map).

AI-Corn will implement the following actions to minimize fugitive dust emissions

- AI-Corn will perform weekly visual inspections of the roads.
- AI-Corn will document the inspection was performed and describe any corrective action taken.
- AI-Corn will use water or mechanical means of removal to minimize identified fugitive dust emissions.

Any deviations to short term or long term emission limits to be reported in quarterly reports unless more frequent reporting is required by state or federal regulations.

PROPERTY LINE



Attachment 1

PROPERTY LINE

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| A-Com Clean Fuel<br>Alcorn, MN<br>8/17/01 | IGM<br>INDUSTRIAL<br>CONSULTING<br>& MARKETING<br>210 N. 1st St.<br>St. Cloud, MN 56301<br>(763) 893-3400<br>FAX (763) 893-3400 | 8127-0111-001<br>SHEET 1 OF 1<br>4/23/01<br>8127-0111-001 Rev. 0<br>8/17/01<br>ISSUED FOR PERMITS (0114 & 0113)<br>8/17/01 |
|---|---|--|

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ATTACHMENT 2

**Al-Corn  
Emission Calculations for Dryers, Boiler and TO NOx Limit**

All units burning only pipeline quality natural gas for 344 days per year  
 Assume 0.04 lbs/MMBtu average emission factor and 8260 hours of operation per year.

Boiler and dryers burning propane for 500 hours per year, all other units burning pipeline quality natural gas  
 Assume 0.08 lbs/MMBtu for propane fired units and 0.04 lbs/MMBtu for natural gas and 500 hours of operation per year.

| Source       | Capacity (MMBtu/hr) | Source       | Capacity (MMBtu/hr) |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Dryer #1     | 30                  | Dryer #1     | 30                  |
| Dryer #2     | 45                  | Dryer #2     | 45                  |
| TO           | 95                  | TO           | 95                  |
| Boiler #1    | 60                  | Boiler #1    | 60                  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>230</b>          | <b>Total</b> | <b>230</b>          |

0.04 lbs/MMBtu X 230 MMBtu/hr =

0.04 lbs/MMBtu X 95 MMBtu/hr =

0.08 lbs/MMBtu X 135 MMBtu/hr =

| NOx | lbs/hr | TPY  |
|-----|--------|------|
|     | 9.2    | 38.0 |
|     | 14.6   | 3.7  |
|     |        | 41.7 |

Natural gas  
 Propane  
 Total