



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

December 16, 2021

Gerald F. Smith, Jr.
Chairman, President
Valley Proteins, Inc.
P.O. Box 3588
Winchester, VA 22604-2586

Michael A. Smith
Chairman, Vice President
Valley Proteins, Inc.
P.O. Box 3588
Winchester, VA 22604-2586

Dear Mr. Gerald Smith and Mr. Michael Smith:

Over the last week MDE responded to the Valley Proteins Plant in Linkwood, Maryland after a report of a significant pollution event. The staff of ShoreRivers provided MDE with drone footage of a white colored discharge at the plant's effluent pipe. Subsequently, MDE compliance staff discovered an illegal discharge to a holding pond. Plant operators failed to notify MDE as required by the permit.

MDE also has found in recent inspections that the state of operations at the facility is unacceptable. The facility's recent compliance record indicates a pattern of improper operations and poor decision-making regarding water pollution and air emissions issues leaving the Department no option but to proceed to the filing of a civil complaint.

The Department is committed to protecting and restoring the environment and has the responsibility and authority to ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations. A primary goal of the Department is to attain and maintain a high rate of compliance by providing clear expectations and by ensuring that environmental responsibilities are enforced within the regulated community consistently. When significant violations are observed the Department has an obligation to take equitable and timely enforcement action, reasonably necessary, to deter future violations from occurring.

We request that you take immediate actions to address the violations described in the various inspection reports that have been provided.

Sincerely,

Ben Grumbles
Secretary

cc: Robert Vogler (Director of Environmental Affairs, Valley Proteins, Inc.)
Resident Agent: CSC - Lawyers Incorporating Service Company
Lee Currey, Director, Water and Science Administration, MDE