

**From:** John Hughes <john.hughes@erametgroup.com>  
**To:** "Christina Wieg" <Christina.Wieg@epa.state.oh.us>  
**CC:** Jeff McKinney <jeff.mckinney@erametgroup.com>  
**Date:** 6/6/2008 10:21 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Furnace #18 issue?

Christina,

The photos you sent me were presented to all plant supervisors and department managers at the monthly safety meeting by Frank Bjorklund (CEO) along with a message of concern about this issue. Apparently, no one witnessed this event. If the pictures were taken during the period of 6:15 p.m. and 6:20 p.m., they were not taken during a tapping event. The tapping time is recorded when the taphole is opened. The recorded tap times for Furnace #18 on May 12 during the possible time frame of the photos were 4:49 p.m. and 6:49 p.m. Two possible situations may have occurred. The furnace could have experienced a blow that would have caused a sudden short term release from the furnace building, or the taphole could have required lancing to open. The oxygen lancing of the furnace can take anywhere from several minutes to over one half hour to open the taphole. The method used to open the taphole on May 12 is unknown since this information is not recorded.

I will be in Safety Training all next week and will not be back in the office until Tuesday, June 17. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me (740) 374-1366 or by e-mail.

Sincerely,

John Hughes  
 Environmental Engineer  
 Eramet Marietta Inc.

"Christina Wieg"  
 <Christina.Wieg@epa.state.oh.us>  
 06/04/2008 08:20 AM  
 To  
 <john.hughes@erametgroup.com>  
 cc  
 Subject  
 Re: Response to Furnace #18 issue?

John,

I have been in training yesterday and today. I believe the photos were

taken between 6:15 p.m. and 6:20 p.m. I believe from the documents provided this was not during the tapping/casting time (I think it was right before). Can you please check into this issue and get back to me on the facility's findings as soon as possible?

Sincerely,

>>> John Hughes <john.hughes@erametgroup.com> 06/04/08 7:18 AM >>>

6/4/08

Ms. Christina Wieg  
OEPA-SEDO  
2195 Front Street  
Logan, OH 43138

Christina,

I provided the pictures you sent in your e-mail to Eramet Marietta Inc. on 5/28/08 to plant personnel for comments. After reviewing operation logs for May 12, the shift notes indicate the furnace was down from midnight to 3:57 a.m. to repair water leaks on a pressure ring and a twenty inch slip on c phase. The furnace then began recovery. The furnace went down again at 2:26 p.m. and was brought back on line at 2:59 p.m. to begin recovery. No further operational problems were noted. An informal survey of Eramet employees revealed no unusual visible emissions observed on May 12.

Obviously, the pictures are not representative of normal emissions from the building housing Furnace #18. Without knowing the times of the photos, it is impossible to determine if they were taken during a tapping or casting cycle. Accordingly, Eramet believes these pictures may represent an unusual occurrence of visible emissions that fall under the allowances granted under OAC 3745-17-07(11)(c) and 40 CFR Part 63, Subpart XXX §63.1653. Nevertheless, these pictures provide a negative image of Eramet and every effort will focus on preventing this type of event from occurring.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (740) 374-1366.

Sincerely,  
John Hughes

Environmental Engineer  
Eramet Marietta Inc  
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