

Highline Grain Background Information

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Facility at a Glance

- Facility is a large terminal grain elevator located within off I-90 near the Four Lakes exit
- Currently operates under NOC #1642 Revision #2. The NOC was originally issued on 10/7/14 and revised on 9/7/16 and 6/7/17
- The facility handles approximately 1.4 million tons of grain per year
- A recent SRCOA inspection and follow up visit raised concerns about the facility's ability to meet SRCOA's 20% opacity limit from the 32 bin vents when small silos are being filled





Photos of the Opacity Issue



SRCAA Opacity Regulations

- SRCAA's opacity standard is given in Regulation I, Section 6.02.
 - Visible emissions from point sources cannot exceed 20% opacity for more than 3 minutes in a 1-hour period.
 - Applies to all emission points statewide.
 - The bin vents meet the definition of a point source.
 - If a facility cannot meet opacity standard, only option currently is to apply for a variance
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What SRCAA has determined to date

- Highline Grain has submitted a variance application
 - Ecology approval is not required to grant a variance from the opacity regulations at this time. This may change based on future Ecology legal filings.
 - Highline Grain is likely unable to meet the 20% opacity limit for their 32 small concrete grain silo bin vents without additional controls.
 - Additional controls are available but are not economically feasible given several factors.
 - The opacity generated from the bin vents does not travel off property but may be visible from I-90.
 - The opacity generated is not likely to endanger public health, safety, or the environment.
 - Highline Grain meets qualifications to obtain a variance for at least one year.
 - SRCAA compiled a list of 20 properties within 500 ft of the Highline Grain facility parcel.
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