



September 15, 2008

Fax #: 281-880-4243
Mr. Scott Chenoweth
Texas Welders Supply Company Inc
5515 W Richey Road
Houston, TX 77066

Dear Mr. Chenoweth:

Re: Contingency Event

Please be advised that Praxair's Deer Park and LaPorte, Texas plants ("BAPOC Plant") from which we supply oxygen and nitrogen (collectively "Product") to you have experienced an inability to obtain power and have sustained damage to essential equipment due to hurricane Ike. Therefore, pursuant to the contingency article of the Product Supply Agreement with your company, we have no choice but to declare the existence of a contingency event. Praxair has developed a plan to maintain the supply of Product to you during this contingency event. This plan includes (1) running the BAPOC Plant to the extent possible; (2) importing product from more distant sources; (3) purchasing product from alternative competitive sources; and (4) mobilizing additional trucks and drivers as needed.

Accordingly, commencing as of September 15, 2008 at 12:00 Noon CDT, Praxair will at the present time be able to supply Product to you in quantities up to 50% of your average monthly usage based on your last 90 days. See table below for the last 90 days average monthly consumption of Product and the allocation volume.

The price for any quantity of Product delivered to your facilities during this contingency ("Contingency Priced Product") will be \$0.30/CCF for nitrogen and \$0.27/CCF for oxygen more than the price for Product currently delivered to your facilities. Please notify us if you wish to receive Contingency Priced Product. We are advising you of this contingency to enable you to decide (1) whether you want Praxair to continue to supply Product during this contingency event at the increased cost set forth above, or (2) whether you will be making alternate arrangements to obtain from another supplier your requirements for Product during this contingency event.

Obviously, this contingency presents difficult circumstances for your company and ours. In order to properly plan deliveries of Contingency Priced Product, it is imperative that you return this letter via fax to (203) 837-2532 with the CUSTOMER INFORMATION section below fully completed and signed by an authorized representative of your company by 5:00 PM CDT on Thursday September 18, 2008.

In the event that you do not return this letter executed by 5:00 PM CDT on September 18, 2008, we will assume your company does not wish to be supplied with Contingency Priced Product during this contingency and will be making other arrangements for your Product needs. Should you choose not to receive Contingency Priced Product this letter will constitute (i) a release for your company to purchase Product from another source during this contingency and (ii) permission for your company to use Praxair's supply system to receive such Product in exchange for your Company's indemnifying and holding Praxair harmless from claims arising from your receipt of such Product from such alternative source. This letter is not a release from your contractual obligations to purchase Product from Praxair following the end of this contingency event.

We regret having to take this action and will provide updates if the situation changes. Should you have any questions, please call your Praxair Account Manager, Greg Baehr at 713-398-1481.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Garcia".

Margaret Garcia
Area Director
Praxair, Inc.