

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Scheduled Inspection

A672743116

FACILITY: MICHIGAN LADDER CO		SRN / ID: A6727
LOCATION: 12 E FOREST AVE, YPSILANTI		DISTRICT: Jackson
CITY: YPSILANTI		COUNTY: WASHTENAW
CONTACT:		ACTIVITY DATE: 01/16/2018
STAFF: Zachary Durham	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Inspection that resulted from receipt of an odor complaint.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS: C-18-00617		

Contact

Tom Harrison
734-482-5946
THarrison@michiganladder.com

Purpose

This scheduled inspection was the result of an odor complaint received on the morning of January 16, 2018. The facility operates a wood burning stove in the winter months to provide building heat, which is charged with scrap wood generated onsite.

Summary

The complaint was called in at about 10:15am from the brewery adjacent to Michigan Ladder on the NE corner. The complainant was directly downwind when the complaint was received and during the inspection (see attached weather screenshot). I arrived in the area of the facility at 1:55pm on 1/16/18 and observed a white smoke plume rising from the facility (see attached photos). After exiting the vehicle, I noticed the plastic burning type odor as described earlier that morning. After a brief walk around the area, I approached Michigan Ladder and entered the facility. I asked to meet with Tom Harrison, whom was unavailable at the time. I was shown to the stove area after presenting my credentials and the Right to Entry document. The stove was shut at the time of the inspection and no noticeable odors consistent with those previously observed were present within the building. Wood scrap bins were arranged alongside the stove, in which I observed mostly wood scraps and some plastic banding material mixed in. Some broken down cardboard boxes were in the area too, though not mixed in the wood scrap bins like the plastic banding. The plastic was removed from the bin and discarded. I then left the facility.

I sent a follow up email to Tom Harrison describing my observations from the visit the following day, 1/17/18. Tom responded on 1/19/18 with an explanation that plastic has never been burned in the stove and that the cardboard is recycled (see attached emails).

Compliance Evaluation

The stove at the facility meets the criteria in Permit to Install (PTI) exemption 282(2)(b)(iii) as providing building heat by burning untreated wood waste in a furnace rated at not more than 6 million btu/hr. The stove on the site is rated at 800,000 btu/hr heat input capacity. The presence of the odor suggests that the stove may have been charged with material other than untreated wood, and presence of a plastic material in the wood waste bins within the facility suggests this may have occurred.

No further odor complaints have been received since the incident, and Tom Harrison has given his assurance that no plastic is being burned.

Compliance Determination

At this time, it appears that the facility is maintaining requirements of the PTI exemption Rule 282(2)(b)(iii), and thus in compliance.

Recommendations

Future site inspections should observe for plastic burning odor during stove operation and also of the wood scrap bins to verify the waste materials are not mixed with plastic. Verification of either may result in additional AQD actions.



Image 1(weather 1/16/18) : Screenshot of weather app while onsite.



Image 2(smoke 1) : Standing on sidewalk near complainant address NE of Michigan Ladder.



Image 3(smoke 2) : Zoomed in photo of smoke stack. Also taken nearby complainant location; NE of Michigan Ladder.

NAME Jack Durban

DATE 1/25/18

SUPERVISOR [Signature]