

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
AIR QUALITY DIVISION  
ACTIVITY REPORT: On-site Inspection

B182756381

FACILITY: EMPIRE IRON MINING PARTNERSHIP		SRN / ID: B1827
LOCATION: EMPIRE MINE RD, ISHPEMING		DISTRICT: Marquette
CITY: ISHPEMING		COUNTY: MARQUETTE
CONTACT: BRENT A KETZENBERGER, ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER		ACTIVITY DATE: 12/17/2020
STAFF: Sydney Hewson	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MAJOR
SUBJECT: Onsite inspection to verify compliance with MI-ROP-B1827-2015 and all other applicable state and federal air quality regulations		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On December 17, 2020 I (Sydney Hewson) performed an onsite inspection of the Tilden Mine Tailing Basin. While onsite I met with Thomas OBrien, he was able to confirm that Empire Mine is still closed and plans to remain closed. Production at the Facility ceased on August 3, 2016 and was indefinitely idled after the last stockpile of finished pellets were shipped. While there are currently no plans in place to begin production in the near future, the facility is being preserved in a care and maintenance mode to preserve its ability to restart when market conditions and pellet pricing support access of remaining ore reserves. The Facility is a low grade, open-pit iron ore mine with various material handling, crushing, milling, concentrating, pellet manufacturing, cooling, and handling equipment controlled by wet scrubbers and baghouse dust collectors. The Facility only mines and processes magnetite, a naturally occurring mineral that contains iron ore. The Facility operated three grate-kiln indurating furnaces (Empire II, III, and IV) controlled by dry electrostatic precipitators. Empire II was built in 1966, Empire III in 1975, and Empire IV in 1980. The Facility also has 5 boilers ranging up to 30 million British Thermal Unit per hour each, fired by natural gas with the option to burn fuel oil, or used oil fuel in emergency situations.

At the time of my inspection it appeared Empire Mine was in compliance with MI-ROP-B1827-2015 and all other applicable state and federal air quality regulations.

NAME Sydney Hewson      DATE 12/18/20      SUPERVISOR EJL