

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Self Initiated Inspection 

B206025266

FACILITY: ANN ARBOR WASTEWATER TREATMT PLT		SRN / ID: B2060
LOCATION: 49 SOUTH DIXBORO ROAD, ANN ARBOR		DISTRICT: Jackson
CITY: ANN ARBOR		COUNTY: WASHTENAW
CONTACT:		ACTIVITY DATE: 05/15/2014
STAFF: Glen Erickson	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT: Self-initiated inspection in direct follow-up to my inspection of the nearby St. Joseph Mercy Hospital where I observed a very intense, foul, sewage-type odor both inside the hospital complex and outside the building about 20-30 minutes ago, starting at about 10:30 am. This odor episode would appear to have originated at the sewage sludge cake truck loading at A2WWTP, based on my past inspections.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

I met with Keith Sanders, Assistant Manager, briefly to explain my inspection of St. Joe's Hospital about 30 minutes ago, this morning, and my observation of a very intense, foul, sewage odor inundating the hospital complex, both inside and outside the hospital complex.

I told him I first observed the foul, sewage-type odor while in a meeting with St. Joe staff in the engineering office conference room with Pierre Gonyon. I thought the odor smelled like the odors I have smelled before in and around the A2WWTP sludge cake truck loading bays, and I wanted to inspect the truck loading operations at this time.

Sanders indicated that he was late for another meeting with staff, but would call the Shift Foreman, Lynn Renaud to accompany me.

I told Sanders that the foul odor I observed at St. Joe's was stronger inside the building than outside. He claimed that didn't seem possible. I told him that I suspected that the building's air make-up units concentrated the odor in the building. In any case, I explained that as I was walking outside and on the roof I heard Hospital staff complaining to the facility staff about the foul odor.

(I learned later on 5-27-14 while speaking with Pierre Gonyon and Bernie Hobrecht of St. Joe facility staff about this 5-15-14 incident that the air make-up units on the Hospital towers and those on the Reichhardt Building, which like the engineering building air make-up units which are generally directed west towards the A2WWTP, both pulled in the foul odor into those buildings where staff and patients/families experienced similar impacts to that which I and St. Joe facility staff had in the engineering building).

He indicated that he was planning on meeting with a company that may supply a de-watering additive to the sludge cake at another wastewater treatment plant in the area that may help in reducing odors. He said that they haven't yet begun applying liquid sludge to agricultural lands for fertilizer due to the wet conditions in the fields.

Sanders left to attend his meeting and I went outside the offices to await Lynn Renaud to inspect the plant operations.

While walking along the south side of the Residual's Handling Building, where the south truck bay doors were closed, I observed the same foul, sewage-type odor that I had observed earlier that morning at St. Joe's Hospital. I told Reynaud that the odor smelled to me like a combination of the odor of natural gas odorant, methyl mercaptan, and that of dead fish. He said the fish odor quality may be from the dewatering polymer which has amines in it. We walked around the west side of the building to the NW corner where the door to the west truck bay was open a couple of feet, and where the foul, sewage-like odor was quite strong. He indicated that a truck delivering cement kiln dust was loading the lime silo from the west truck bay. We went inside the bay and he closed the door.

Reynaud said that he had received the phone call from St. Joe's staff shortly after 10:30 am this morning, and he had investigated and found a truck was being loaded with sludge cake at that time.

We proceeded to inspect the areas around the primary and secondary treatment tanks. The only notable odor was just above and alongside of the second to last secondary treatment pass to the E. This pass had been taken off line, and drained for maintenance purposes, with a couple of feet of wastewater left in

the bottom. They were continuing to provide aeration to the tank in hopes of keeping it from going sour. I observed a fairly strong septic odor directly adjacent to this tank, but the odor was not widespread, and I did not observe it downwind of these tanks to the E. That particular odor did not appear to be the source of the odor I observed at St. Joe's.

As we went back to the administrative offices I told Reynaud that I was confident that the odor I observed at St. Joe's was the same as that odor I observed at their sludge cake truck loading operation today. Sanders was not available when we arrived at the office. I indicated to Reynaud that I would arrange to meet with facility management to discuss my observations.

NAME GUEN ERIKSON

DATE 5-28-14

SUPERVISOR 