

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
AIR QUALITY DIVISION  
ACTIVITY REPORT: Complaint Investigation**

B236337393

FACILITY: HOWARD FINISHING LLC		SRN / ID: B2363
LOCATION: 32565 Dequindre, MADISON HTS		DISTRICT: Southeast Michigan
CITY: MADISON HTS		COUNTY: OAKLAND
CONTACT: Jeff Mertz, Director of New Business Development		ACTIVITY DATE: 10/04/2016
STAFF: Tyler Salamasick	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MAJOR
SUBJECT: Odor investigation.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS: C-16-02389		

### Background

Howard Finishing SRN: B2363 is a surface treating facility located at 32565 Dequindre Rd, Madison Heights, MI 48071. The area around the manufacturing facility was inspected on Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 by Tyler Salamasick of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division. The intent of the inspection was to investigate complaint C-16-02389. The complaint refers to strong metallic/rust/acidic odors allegedly generated by Howard Finishing, observed on the afternoon of September 17<sup>th</sup> at 32565 Dequindre, Madison Heights, Mi. The site contact for Howard Finishing is the Director of New Business, Jeff Mertz cellphone: (248) 416-4177.

### Inspection

Site arrival was at 8:25am Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The weather conditions were 56F and foggy with 2-4 mph winds from the northeast. Using flags I was able to visually confirm the wind direction. Howard Finishing is located in a primarily industrial area with the complainants business approximately 490ft south of the facility. I drove around the complainant's location as follows:

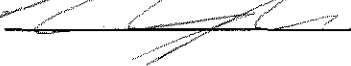
Observation	Location- Madison Heights	Time
Level 2 gasoline and onion ~10 second burst	Dequindre and 13 mile	8:25am
Level 2 wood, vinegar, spice observed for approximately 2 min	14 mile to 32600 Industrial Drive	8:30am
Faint cardboard odor	32600 Industrial Drive	8:36am
Level 2 vehicle exhaust/ No odors*	14 mile and Dequindre	8:43am
Intermittent tar/asphalt seal coat ***Area of the parking lot appeared to be recently resurface/sealed	32801 Dequindre *complainant location	9:05am
No odors* indicates that normal ambient odors are detect and not industrial odors.		

I did not observe any distinguishable industrial odors during my investigation. During my previous inspection of Howard Finishing, Jeff Mertz Director of New Business indicated that he would ask employees if they had observed any odors related to acidic/rust/metallic odors. On 10/10/2016 Jeff forwarded the AQD two photos one of his employees took. The employee indicated that the photos were taken from Howard Finishing's property. He stated that Diamabrush 32470 Industrial Dr, Madison Heights, MI 48071 (SRN N6434) emitted what appeared to be either smoke or water vapor for approximately 3 minutes once every few weeks. When this occurred and the weather conditions were right, he observed a very strong odor which he describes as smelling like a hot electric motor. He also stated that the odor could linger for a long period of time, and it made it difficult for him to breathe. The employee's statements appear to be consistent with the observations of the complainant.

### Conclusion

The source of the odor has not been determined. Photos and further information suggests that

Diamabrush SRN N6434 may be the source of the odors. Diamabrush should be inspected to determine if they have a process that is generating the odors.

NAME 

DATE 11/9/16

SUPERVISOR 

Photo not taken by AOD staff, Image appears to be diamond brush - according to sources.



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