

M4798  
MANIA

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

M479828377

FACILITY: Pro V Enterprises		SRN / ID: M4798
LOCATION: 4401 WYOMING AVE, DEARBORN		DISTRICT: Detroit
CITY: DEARBORN		COUNTY: WAYNE
CONTACT: Robert Vogel, Owner		ACTIVITY DATE: 01/21/2015
STAFF: Usama Amer	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Fugitive Smoke Investigation		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On January 21, 2015, I conducted an investigation of a yellow smoke complaint, which allegedly was observed, by Mr. Gussan Abdulkarim, Complainant, on January 20, 2015. The complainant indicated that the said smoke was coming from Pro V Enterprises, which is located at 4401 Wyoming, Dearborn, Wayne County.

INVESTIGATION EVENTS

- I called the complainant to discuss the complaint with him. He confirmed the complaint, but said that he had to get back with me later on, as he was on his way to a meeting.
- I arrived at Pro V Enterprises (source) location and drove onto the north side from the east side to observe any emissions from the source. The weather was overcast and snowing. The wind was blowing to the west and northwest at an estimated speed of about 1-2 mph.
- I noted that the complainant's residence was located about 2 miles southeast of the source, and it would be impossible to see the source or any smoke from it. Therefore, I concluded that the complainant must have seen the alleged smoke as driving by the source. Furthermore, any smoke generated from the source may not be considered a nuisance to the complainant.
- No smoke or VEs were observed from the source.
- I walked into the source's office, met with Ms. Jennifer Cotton, Office Manager, and explained to her the purpose of my visit. Jennifer said that she was not aware of the yellow smoke complaint nor was she contacted about any complaint yesterday. She explained to me that the source conducts the following activities: Trucking, Warehousing of metals and scraps, Scrap Metal Recycling, Truck and Heavy Equipment Repairs, and Metal Cutting and Welding. She said that source has no burning operations of any type. She added the one of main operations was cutting large pieces of steel, 3 – 6 tons, to smaller pieces, 3000 – 4000 lbs, so that the small pieces can be fed into a melting furnace for recycling.
- The source operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 4:00 pm daily and occasional weekends. It employs 10 – 12 people.
- I asked to go into the source's warehouse and outside yard to observe the source's process equipment and operations. Jennifer accompanied me to these 2 places. Inside the warehouse, I saw the truck repair operations, metal containers repairs, bags filled with recycling metals, heavy equipment and a metal saw.
- In the yard, I observed the steel torch cutting operations:

Large pieces of steel are brought from Ak Steel, formerly known as Severstall, as they were chipped from melting pots at AK Steel, then torch cut into smaller pieces by the source and delivered back to AK Steel for re-melting. As, the torch cutting is carried out, I observed clouds of yellow smoke generated and dissipated fugitively into the atmosphere. **Thus, I was able to confirm the reported yellow smoke.**

I asked Jennifer if the source was able to do the steel torch cutting inside the warehouse, or other type of cutting steel can be done. She said that the torch cutting could not be done inside the warehouse, because the burned steel particles resulting from torch cutting would be harmful to the warehouse floors. She added that the source purchased a special steel cutting saw and tried it; however, the cutting time was very long, and it took at least 8 hours to make 1 cut.

As we returned back to the office, Mr. Robert Vogel, the source owner, was there. Jennifer introduced us, and we started discussing the complaint, the source operations and measures to control the fugitive smoke. Mr. Vogel told me that the yellow smoke is generated from burning off the ceramic contents in the steel during the torch cutting. He also confirmed the information that Jennifer explained to me regarding the inability to torch cut the steel inside the warehouse and their inability to use the special

saw, as the latter would not be profitable.

### CONCLUSION

The reported yellow smoke complaint was confirmed. This constitutes a noncompliance with the provisions of R331(3)(J). On the other hand, the source's torching equipment is exempted from the provisions of R201 pursuant to the provisions of R285(j).

The source is to be offered the opportunity to either:

- 1) File for a PTI, under R201, to obtain enforceable conditions to control the emissions generated from the steal torch cutting process; or
- 2) Install proper control equipment, to control the emissions generated from the steal torch cutting process, through a Consent Order.

NAME Sam Amer

DATE 3/2/15

SUPERVISOR JK