

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

N118243659

FACILITY: Thomson Plastics, Inc.		SRN / ID: N1182
LOCATION: 3970 PARSONS RD, HOWELL		DISTRICT: Lansing
CITY: HOWELL		COUNTY: LIVINGSTON
CONTACT: Todd Rasmussen , Operations Manager/Owner		ACTIVITY DATE: 03/20/2018
STAFF: Kelly Richart	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Unannounced scheduled inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

March 14, 2018 Drive-ByPrevious Inspection:

6/7/2012: Brad Myott performed an unannounced scheduled inspection to determine compliance of Pinckney Molded Plastics with Permit No. 653-85. There were no cars in the parking lot and no sign of activity at the facility. A sign in the lot indicated the property was for lease. He sent a note to Sue Thelen requesting to void permit 653-85 as it appeared the facility was closed.
Permit No. 653-85 was voided on 6/20/2012.

Field Notes:

Dan McGeen and I visited this location for an unannounced scheduled inspection at Pinckney Molded Plastics. We arrived on 3/14/18 at 10:35am. It was 25 °F and cloudy with slight winds coming from the southwest (5-10mph). There were no visible emissions or detectable odors outside of the facility. Pinckney Molded Plastics is no longer at this location. Thomson Plastics, Inc. has replaced Pinckney Molded Plastics and appeared to be up and running as there were many cars in the parking lot. Thompson Plastics, Inc. (TPI) has a website that notes their Howell, Michigan location opened in January 2014.

Company: (from website)

TPI's manufacturing plant in Howell, MI opened January 2014. The 50,000 sq. ft (expandable to 150,000 sq. ft) opened with 7 presses ranging from 400 tons to 800 tons and has grown to 12 presses with tonnage ranging from 66 to 1760. This facility also has silos and a rail spur to manage large usage materials.

March 20, 2018 InspectionContacts:

Company website: www.thomsonplastics.com/locations
Todd Rasmussen, Operations Manager
Troy Kibbey, Plant Engineer, TKibbey@ThomsonPlastics.com

Exemptions:

Rule 286(2)(b): plastic injection molding
Rule 281 (2)(h): cold cleaners (parts washer) with surface area less than 10 square feet

Arrival:

Time: 11:17am

Conditions: Sunny, 36 °F, winds moderate from the NE (10-15mph). No visible emissions or odors were detected outside of the facility. Dan McGeen detected a faint plastic odor.

Inspection:

On March 20, 2018, Dan McGeen assisted me on a scheduled unannounced inspection to Thomson Plastics, Inc. (TPI). We were greeted by Troy Kibbey and Todd Rasmussen. I explained that the AQD had not inspected Thomson Plastics since it opened in 2014 and asked to see the equipment and tour the facility. Troy Kibbey accompanied us throughout the tour, as they did not specifically have an environmental contact for the company.

The main production of Thomson Plastics, Inc. is automotive parts produced by injection molding. Troy estimated they have up to 15 presses used to produce the automotive parts (for Ford, GM, etc.). For example, we saw one press making plastic speakers for a Dodge truck. They are planning on leasing the building across the street soon to store their finished product and ship material from that location as well. All of their equipment was either taken from their other plants located throughout the U.S. or newly purchased- none of the equipment is left behind from Pinckney Molded Plastics. Each press is owned by one of their customers, so they lease out the equipment to whichever company requires that specific product. For this reason, any maintenance needed is either done through a local service or by the customer themselves.

The injection molding process starts by added plastic pellets and the appropriate color dye into the press where it is melted and molded into the appropriate shape. No other additives go into the system. There was not a strong odor in the plant, only a slight plastic smell. Troy stated they do not have odor issues unless one of the presses does

not cycle correctly, which is rare. The injection molding process is exempt through Rule 286(2)(b).

There is a chilled water tower used to cool the presses. The water cycles through the facility, and each press is controlled at a different temperature. There are two medium exhaust fans, and three large exhaust fans to help ventilate the facility.

There were no boilers or generators in the facility. Troy said they are not required to have a generator since they are a Tier II company, and they have not needed one thus far. There was one parts washer in the facility, a Safety-Keen Model 16 Solvent Pars Washer. This parts washer drains any waste into an enclosed drum below the washer, so no evaporation occurs. The parts washer is exempt through Rule 281(2)(h) since it has a surface area of less than 10 square feet.

After the tour, Dan and I sat down with Troy to give him the exemption handbook and explain the main exemption covering Thomson Plastics- exemption 286(2)(b) for plastic injection.

Summary:

After the inspection of Thomson Plastics Inc., there were no violations noted. The facility appeared to be in compliance with AQD rules.

Departure:

Time: 12:02pm

Conditions: Sunny, 45 °F, winds still moderate from NE (10-15mph). No visible emissions or odors detectable during our departure.

NAME Kelley Rindorf

DATE 4/5/18

SUPERVISOR 