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

N179065949

FACILITY: Williamston Products, Inc. (South)		SRN / ID: N1790
LOCATION: 1560 NOBLE RD, WILLIAMSTON		DISTRICT: Lansing
CITY: WILLIAMSTON		COUNTY: INGHAM
CONTACT: Tom Bolton , Manufacturing Engineer		ACTIVITY DATE: 01/05/2023
STAFF: Michelle Luplow	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Onsite inspection to determine compliance with PTI 168-19. Facility was found to be closed.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Purpose

Conduct an unannounced, onsite inspection to determine Williamston Products' compliance with PTI 168-19 for a spray booth.

Facility Background/Regulatory Overview

This facility was last inspected by the AQD in January 2015.

PTI 168-19 was issued in November 2019 for adhesive coating lines associated with Tesla production. An inspection had been attempted in January 2020, however at that time I learned that Williamston Products had not yet installed the equipment permitted under PTI 168-19, which negated the need for an inspection.

This facility had 6 active permits, according to permit cards: 829-87, 828-87, 827-87, 826-87, 825-87, and 824-87. Compliance with these permits was not checked during the 2008 or 2015 inspections. These PTI's were voided in October 2019, as it was learned these processes were no longer present at the facility.

Inspection

This was an unannounced, onsite compliance inspection. David Rauch and I arrived at 1560 Noble Road, Williamston at approximately 9:00 a.m. on January 5, 2023.

Prior to the inspection date, I attempted to reach out to Tom Bolton, Williamston Products Engineer, and Daniel Schmelter, Plant Manager, to confirm someone would be onsite for the inspection; however, I have received no calls back after leaving voicemails.

Upon arriving at the site, D. Rauch and I observed that the entrance to Williamston Products had been blocked off by soil mounds and a "STOP" sign (see attached photo). The facility had its outdoor lights on, but no vehicles were present in the parking lot.

We stopped by the neighboring industry who shares the entrance road off of Noble Road with Williamston Products, RN Fink Manufacturing, and spoke with the owner about Williamston Products' operating status. He said that Williamston Products at this location has been out of business since 2021. We thanked him for his time and left RN Fink at that time.

I searched the Secretary of State records, County records, etc, and could not find information regarding Williamston Products operating status. Further internet searches revealed via Maynard's (https://maynards.com/williamston-products-complete-plant-closure/), an auction company, that the other Williamston Products location (N2496), located at 845 Progress Court, Williamston, was out of business and that the equipment housed at this location is being auctioned off. I reached out to Maynard's about the status of these two facilities and they put me in contact with Mike Gluhanich,

Managing Director at Huron Consulting Group (mgluhanich@hcg.com). M. Gluhanich said that Huron Consulting Group served as financial advisors to Williamston Products during its wind-down and liquidation. He stated, "I can confirm that the company is no longer operating; there are no employees and both locations (845 Progress Court and 1560 Noble Road) are vacated. He provided me with contact information for Williamston Products' outside counsel, Charles Bullock, at Stevenson & Bullock PLC (cbullock@sbplclaw.com).

I reached out to Charles Bullock via email, who forwarded my email to Elliot Crowder, also of Stevenson & Bullock, PLC (ecrowder@sbplclaw.com). E. Crowder confirmed that Williamston Products (N1790) located at 1560 Noble Road had liquidated all of its assets, similar to the liquidation of Williamston Products (N2496) assets located at 845 Progress Ct. He stated that both locations went out of business in the Fall of 2021.

Because both facilities, N1790 and N2496, have liquidated their assets and are no longer in business, permits for both these facilities will be voided and the voided permits will be sent to E. Crowder at Stevenson & Bullock, P.L.C., 26100 American Drive, Suite 50, Southfield, MI 48034.

A follow-up report has been written for the N2496 Williamston Products facility as well.



Image 1(Road Closed): Photo taken 1/5/23 by D. Rauch. Road to Williamston Products is blocked off.

NAME Michelle Luplow DATE 3/2/23 SUPERVISOR RB