

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Odor Evaluation

N514562179

FACILITY: INDUSTRIAL METAL COATINGS INC		SRN / ID: N5145
LOCATION: 6070 18 MILE RD, STERLING HTS		DISTRICT: Warren
CITY: STERLING HTS		COUNTY: MACOMB
CONTACT:		ACTIVITY DATE: 03/03/2022
STAFF: Kaitlyn Leffert	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Investigation into alleged foul odors originating from Industrial Metal Coatings		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS: C-22-00528		

On March 3, 2022, I, Kaitlyn Leffert, conducted an investigation into foul odors alleged to be originating from Industrial Metal Coatings (SRN: N5145), located at 6070 Eighteen Mile Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. The investigation was in response to a complaint, which alleged that a plastic oil-like odor was originating from Industrial Metal Coatings (IMC) on the afternoon of February 28, 2022. At the time of the complaints, winds were 10 mph originating from the SSE.

I arrived in the vicinity of the facility around 11:30 am on March 3, 2022. At the time of my investigation, the temperature was 27°F, with 9 mph winds originating from the NNW. I first drove by the facility and noted that based on the visible water vapor emissions and activity at the site, the facility appeared to be open and operating. I first stopped at a location northeast of the facility and did not detect any odors while there.

I then moved to a parking area due north of the facility. There, I did detect a faint diesel-like odor. The odor was intermittent and would last for approximately 30-60 seconds at a time. At this location, I was near the intersection of 18 Mile Road and Mound Road, which both had a steady stream of traffic. There was also construction on Mound Road. In addition, I was adjacent to a strip mall with a couple of auto body shops.

Next, I went to the parking area of Progressive Insurance, which is located directly south of IMC. I arrived at this location at approximately 11:50 am. At the first spot I parked, I was located due south of the facility. I did not detect any odors at this location. I then walked down Elmridge Drive to a spot that was more directly southeast of the facility. As I was walking, I detected a distinct and definite odor that had characteristics of a burnt plastic, wax-like smell. Based on the current wind direction and observation of flags in the area, I appeared to be directly downwind of IMC at the time that odors were detected. I remained at this location for ten minutes, during which the odor was detectable for nine out of the ten minutes that I was there. There was one minute where the odor was not detectable, which appeared to correspond with a decrease in wind speed based on observations of flags in the area. I walked back to the area where I had parked and noted that the odor faded as I left the area directly downwind of the facility.

Next, I moved to a spot that was northwest of the facility, which was upwind of IMC at that time. I remained at this location for approximately ten minutes and did not detect any odors. I then drove through industrial complex that is located southwest of the facility. I stopped at a spot off of Mound Road, directly southwest of the facility. I did not detect any odors.

Finally, I returned to the Progressive parking lot. Again, I did not detect odors while at the lot, but odors were detectable again once I walked down Elmridge Road towards the area more directly

downwind of the facility at the time. I again noted a distinct odor, which was at a similar intensity to what I had observed previously. The odor was consistent, strong, and what I would consider to be objectionable. I noted that the wind direction had not changed, and this spot remained to be directly downwind of IMC. I departed the area around 1:00 pm.

Conclusion

Odors were detected at a duration and intensity that would constitute a violation of Rule 901. The odors were only detected while directly downwind of the facility and were consistent with previous e-coat odors observed in the vicinity of IMC. A violation notice will be issued.

NAME *Kaitly Leffert*DATE 03/24/2022SUPERVISOR *K. Kelly*