

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

N514565419

FACILITY: INDUSTRIAL METAL COATINGS INC		SRN / ID: N5145
LOCATION: 6070 18 MILE RD, STERLING HTS		DISTRICT: Warren
CITY: STERLING HTS		COUNTY: MACOMB
CONTACT: Phillip A. Oliver , President		ACTIVITY DATE: 10/25/2022
STAFF: Kaitlyn Leffert	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Investigation into complaints received on 10/25 of odor alleged to be originating from IMC		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS: C-23-00195		

On October 25, 2022, I, Kaitlyn Leffert, conducted an investigation into odor complaints alleged against Industrial Metal Coatings (IMC), located at 6070 18 Mile Road, Sterling Heights, MI. The investigation was in response to a complaint received on October 25th around 11:00 am. The complainant alleged that a nuisance odor was detected downwind of IMC.

The odor intensity scale, as mentioned in this report, is:

- 0 – No detectable odor
- 1 – Just barely detectable
- 2 – Distinct and definite odor
- 3 – Distinct and definite objectionable odor
- 4 – Odor strong enough to cause a person to attempt to avoid it completely
- 5 – Odor so strong as to be overpowering and intolerable for any length of time

At the time of my investigation, the weather was partly cloudy with a temperature of 70°F and winds from the south-southeast of 10 mph. I arrived in the area at 1:39 pm and first stopped on Elmridge Drive, which is south of the facility, and at the time of my investigation was upwind of IMC. I remained at this location for five minutes and did not detect any odors.

I then moved to a location that was northwest, or downwind of the facility. I remained at this location for ten minutes. While there, I detected odors at an intensity of 2. The odors appeared to be a mixture of a multiple smells, including diesel, burnt metal, and e-coat-like odors. The odors were intermittent and detectable for 10-60 seconds at a time.

I moved south of that location, to a spot that was west-northwest of the facility. I remained at this location for ten minutes. I detected a faint diesel odor for approximately one minute at an intensity of 1, but otherwise no other odors were detected while at this location. I stopped at an area northeast of the facility and remained there for five minutes. No-odor was detected while at this location.

I then returned to the downwind location where the mixture of odors had previously been detected. Upon arrival, I detected a burnt metal odor at an intensity of 1, which was present for approximately 1 minute. Shortly after, I again detected a similar mixture of odors, including burnt metal, e-coat, and diesel, which was present intermittently at an intensity ranging from 1 to 2. I noted that nearby construction activities appeared to be the likely cause of the diesel odors in the area. I continued to intermittently detect the mixture of odors and then departed the area at 2:30 pm.

Conclusion

During my investigation, I detected a variety of odors, including odors that were characteristic of the e-coat process, as well as diesel and burnt metal odors. It is my determination that the odors detected were not at a sufficient intensity to constitute a Rule 901 violation. In addition, the mixture of odors present made it difficult to determine the exact cause of the odors detected. Therefore, a violation notice will not be issued. Additional investigations will be conducted if complaints continue.

NAME *Kaitly Leffert*DATE 11/23/2022SUPERVISOR *K. Kelly*