

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

P060058965

<b>FACILITY:</b> SYTSEMA CREMATION SERVICES		<b>SRN / ID:</b> P0600
<b>LOCATION:</b> 773 E APPLE AVENUE, MUSKEGON		<b>DISTRICT:</b> Grand Rapids
<b>CITY:</b> MUSKEGON		<b>COUNTY:</b> MUSKEGON
<b>CONTACT:</b> Todd Sytsema , Manager		<b>ACTIVITY DATE:</b> 07/01/2021
<b>STAFF:</b> Scott Evans	<b>COMPLIANCE STATUS:</b> Compliance	<b>SOURCE CLASS:</b> MINOR
<b>SUBJECT:</b> On-Site air quality compliance inspection.		
<b>RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:</b>		

### Introduction

On Thursday, July 1, 2021, State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Air Quality Division (AQD) staff member Scott Evans (SE) conducted an air quality inspection of the Sytsema Cremation Services facility located at 773 E Apple Ave. in Muskegon, Michigan to assess compliance with air quality regulations. This inspection was an un-announced, on-site inspection.

This facility is a crematory used for human remains. It has a single cremation unit that is permitted by Permit to Install (PTI) No. 53-15. The facility was first permitted in 2015 and was first inspected after installation of all equipment had been completed. This is the first compliance inspection since the opening of the facility.

Upon arrival at the facility, SE observed no odors or visible emissions around the facility perimeter. When entering the facility, SE was greeted by Manager Todd Sytsema. After a brief discussion on the purpose of the visit, a walking inspection of the facility was conducted. During this inspection, all permitted equipment was observed as well as viewing the exhaust stack from the ground outside as well as from a continuous camera feed affixed to the facility roof. During the inspection, records were requested and reviewed, though no records were retained by the AQD out of respect for the privacy of the families of the deceased individuals described in the records

### PTI No. 53-15

This permit was approved in 2015. It includes one emission unit: EU\_CREMATORY1. This unit is a cremation unit with a 0.95 MMBtu/hr primary burner and a 1.2 MMBtu/hr secondary burner. It operates on natural gas and has a maximum charge weight of 1200 lbs.

This emission unit is subject to the following material limits:

- Only human remains may be burned in the unit.
- Operation shall not exceed 1200 lbs. per charge.
- Only natural gas may be used to fuel the unit.

Discussions during the inspection confirmed compliance with the above requirements. Where applicable, records also verified compliance. This is discussed in more detail further below.

The emission unit is subject to the following process restrictions:

- The unit shall not combust waste unless the secondary chamber is at or above 1600°F and can maintain that temperature.

- The unit shall only operate if all necessary emission control components are installed and operating properly.

During the inspection it could be observed that a continuous temperature monitor was installed and operational to ensure secondary chamber temperatures. At the time the unit was in use and holding a consistent temperature of 1700°F in the secondary burner. This unit is equipped with an automated system that will alert on-site staff as well as remote monitors if the temperature of the secondary chamber does not remain constant for the duration of the burn. Additionally, records that confirm compliance with temperature requirements were reviewed for approximately the past year of operation. Records dating further back were accessible if needed. Visual inspection confirmed that necessary emission control was installed and operational. Included with the permit is Appendix A, which is a list of recommended procedures for the facility staff to follow regarding maintenance and operation of the cremation unit. Discussions during the inspection confirmed that all expectations are being met in a satisfactory manner for operation of the unit.

The emission unit is subject to these design parameters:

- The unit shall only operate if a temperature monitor is installed and operational.
- A scale must be present to confirm charge weight.

As discussed above, the unit was equipped with a continuous temperature monitor. An operational scale was located on site.

The emission unit is subject to the following recordkeeping requirements:

- Records for each month shall be complete by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the following month.
- Temperatures of primary and secondary chambers shall be monitored and recorded continuously.
- Daily records of burn duration, charge weight, and charge description shall be kept for each charge.
- Quarterly records of times when only pathological wastes are burned shall be maintained. (This is for compliance with 40 CFR Part 60 Subpart Ec.)
- Temperature records of the secondary burn chamber shall be maintained.
- Records of all maintenance activity shall be maintained.

During the walking inspection, records were reviewed on site. It was also discussed that copies of all burn records are maintained offsite by the cremation unit manufacturer and can be accessed at any time upon request. Copies were not retained by the AQD in order to respect the families of the deceased described in the records. During the review, it was confirmed that all required information had been recorded as required by the permit and that the facility can provide the records promptly upon request.

The facility has one stack on site that is required to be 18 inches in diameter and 28 feet above ground level. The stack was not measured during the inspection, but visual inspection appeared to confirm that the stack met required dimensions.

## Conclusion

Upon the conclusion of the inspection, the facility appeared to be in compliance with PTI No. 53-15 and all other applicable air quality regulations.

NAME Scott Evans

DATE 7/20/2021

SUPERVISOR MM