

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

N808167369

FACILITY: ReConserve of Michigan, Inc.		SRN / ID: N8081
LOCATION: 170 ANGELL STREET, BATTLE CREEK		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: BATTLE CREEK		COUNTY: CALHOUN
CONTACT: Kevin Kowalchuk , Transportation Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 05/09/2023
STAFF: Amanda Cross	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: SM OPT OUT
SUBJECT:		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On May 9, 2023 Amanda Cross, AQD staff, received a complaint from Matt Ticknor stating that there was dust covering cars parked in their parking lot, likely generated from ReConserve of Michigan plant, located to the east of the Sheriff Goslin Roofing Company. The complaint was accompanied by photos of some of the cars parked in the lot.

Previous complaints were received on 11/12/21, 2/24/22, 3/16/22, 4/12/22, 5/4/22, 6/24/22 by AQD staff. At that time, it was believed that the dust originated from a short stack associated with a cyclone in the finished feed storage area. Since these complaints, the stack of the cyclone has been routed back into the plant. No dust was observed on the roof around the reconfigured stack, as had been noted in previous reports.

The weather conditions on May 10, 2023 were dry and warm for much of the day. The wind was out of the East from 9am to 12 pm with speeds about 5-7 mph. From 12pm to 3pm, the wind was swirling with gusts up to 17 mph. There were rain showers on both May 8 and 9, which would have washed off any cars parked outside during that time.

Staff arrived at Sheriff Goslin about 3:00 pm. As I turned into the parking lot, a strong smell of baking goods was noted, indicating the wind was in the correct direction to facilitate possible dust issues. This smell continued intermittently throughout my time walking around outside.

Mr. Ticknor accompanied staff outside to document the dust accumulated on the cars. The cars parked outside appeared to have a coating of dust on them. Since the dust was not wet, it could be removed with a finger however it's been previously noted that the dust gets very sticky if left on the vehicles and it becomes difficult to remove. AQD staff took photos of the dust on two vehicles parked outside the facility. The owner of one of the vehicles said it had been washed that morning. He also said that he washes his vehicle a few times a week to combat ongoing dust accumulation while it's parked on site.

Staff then drove around ReConserve and observed the finishing stack, which appeared clear. I went inside the facility and spoke to Mr. Kevin Kowalchuk, Transportation Manager. Mr. Scott Allread, who was the plant manager, has since left the company and they haven't filled the position. We looked at the cameras located in the loadout area. In this building, the final product is loaded into trucks using gravity. The final feed is dropped from the ceiling into the roll top trucks. On the cameras, it was clear the doors to the loading bay weren't closed as a truck was being loaded. If these doors are left open during loading, a gust of wind can blow through, and deposit fine dust particles onto neighboring buildings and cars, especially if the wind is out of the East.

We discussed speaking to the drivers and manager of that area about making sure the doors are closed during loading. I also informed him that a violation notice will be written for the violation of Rule 901 since the complaint was verified on site and this has been a recurring issue. The stack associated with the cyclone does not appear to be the origin of the dust for this complaint. Photos of the truck with dust are included with the report.



Image 1(Dust on Vehicle Hood) : Dust on Vehicle Hood



Image 2(Dust on Finger) : Dust accumulation on finger to demonstrate quantity of dust present.

NAME Annelle Cross

DATE 5/10/23

SUPERVISOR R/L 5/12/23