

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

N829358312

FACILITY: SMITH CONCRETE PRODUCTS		SRN / ID: N8293
LOCATION: 3282 S CRAPO RD, NORTH STAR		DISTRICT: Lansing
CITY: NORTH STAR		COUNTY: GRATIOT
CONTACT: Bill Smith , Operator		ACTIVITY DATE: 05/18/2021
STAFF: Samantha Davis	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Announced, scheduled inspection for compliance with PTI 150-09.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Bill Smith, 989-875-4687

This was an announced scheduled inspection for the purpose of this inspection was to determine compliance with Permit to Install (PTI) No. 150-09. Inspection was announced due to recent guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Smith Concrete Products produces concrete vaults and also have an incinerator for human cremation. They are located in a rural area in Gratiot county with no nearby residents or businesses.

Inspection:

I arrived on site at approximately 1:30pm. Bill took me into the facility and showed me the incinerator, which was not running at the time. The incinerator is a Mathews Power Pak II that runs off natural gas and has a max charge weight of 750 lbs. Typically, they run 20-30 charges per month. Bill indicated to me that they had the capability to do about 4 charges per day but usually only do about 2 charges per day.

There is no laser engraving device on site. There is a grinder on site to grind up any remains that do not get finished in the incinerator, and this is also where any metal is sorted and separated out. There was a pacemaker in the scrap material container. I inquired how often pacemakers are not removed prior to cremation. Bill informed me that it is the funeral homes responsibility to remove any pacemakers and that it happens rarely, maybe 1-2 per month. Fortunately, a pace maker exploding in the unit has never caused any damage to the unit. When one is found he usually send the remains back to the funeral home with a sticker notifying the funeral home that a pacemaker was found so that the funeral home can be more cautious in the future.

They have never burned anything other than human remains and has never been asked to burn any pharmaceuticals for local authorities or hospitals. Even though the unit has a maximum weight capacity of 750 lbs, he doesn't like to do charges that are much more than 350 lbs due to charge efficiency.

Bill cleans the UV sensors and checks the air setting monthly. They have someone from Universal Cremation System come out to do a yearly inspection of the unit including thermocouple calibration. The upper and lower chamber of the unit was rebuilt last April. There have been 320 charges since the last rebuild.

I took a look at the circular chart recorder, which appeared to be working properly, and records of charges. Initially, I was not seeing the weight of the charges being recorded but I found when I

looked back at past records weights of charges were being recorded on the disk recorder charts. I told Bill that according to the permit he should be keeping weight records of every charge, and he informed me that he will be more consistent with this in the future. The PTI requires a minimum temperature of 1450 degree F. According to the circular chart records a minimum temperature of 1500 degrees F was being retained, but according to the digital thermocouple the temperature is set to 1600. Bill indicated that he's had the person from Universal Cremation Services try to calibrate this more than once but can't seem to get it to line up. However, since the lowest temperature being recorded is 1500 degrees F they are still in compliance with the minimum temperature requirement in the permit.

Leaving the site I observed the stack which met the required height of the permit, which is 23.33' above ground level. It appears that Smith Concrete is in compliance with their PTI No. 150-09.

NAME *Samantha Davis*

DATE 6/4/2021

SUPERVISOR *B.M.*