

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

P052266402

<b>FACILITY:</b> Wirtz Manufacturing Company - Howard Street		<b>SRN / ID:</b> P0522
<b>LOCATION:</b> 2935 Howard Street, PORT HURON		<b>DISTRICT:</b> Warren
<b>CITY:</b> PORT HURON		<b>COUNTY:</b> SAINT CLAIR
<b>CONTACT:</b>		<b>ACTIVITY DATE:</b> 01/20/2023
<b>STAFF:</b> Iranna Konanahalli	<b>COMPLIANCE STATUS:</b> Compliance	<b>SOURCE CLASS:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b> FY 2023 scheduled inspection of Wirtz Manufacturing Company, Inc. ("Wirtz"). PTI No. 41-14A lead casting, etc. equip. NOT installed yet.		
<b>RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:</b>		

**Wirtz Manufacturing Company, Inc. (P0522)**  
**2935 Howard Street**  
**Port Huron, Michigan 48061-5006**

**Contacts:**

1. Patterson Dour (Phone: 810.987.7600; Cell: 810-300-1356; E-mail: dPatterson@WirtzUSA.com), Operations Manager
2. John Wirtz (Phone: 810.987.7600; Cell: 810-650-3695; E-mail: jWirtz@WirtzUSA.com), President

**Active permit:** Permit-to-Install (PTI) No. **41-14A** (APP-2021-0286, OSTASZEWSKI) dated May 2, 2022, for lead casting, lead acid battery testing and manufacturing equipment. The permitted equipment has **NOT** been installed yet. I advised Wirtz and Patterson that the permit (PTI No. 41-14A) expires within 18 months if the construction has not commenced within 18 months from May 2, 2022.

**PTI void:** AQD voided **PTI No. 41-14** dated May 29, 2014, for LEAD CASTING MACHINES as the equivalent was never installed.

On **January 20, 2023**, I conducted a level 2 **FY 2023 scheduled inspection** of Wirtz Manufacturing Company, Inc. ("Wirtz"), located at 2935 Howard Street, Port Huron, Michigan 48061-5006. The inspection was conducted to determine compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act; Article II, Part 55, Air Pollution Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451; Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy, Air Quality Division (EGLE-AQD) administrative rules; and the permit.

During the FY 2023 inspection, Patterson Dour, Operations Manager, and John Wirtz, President, assisted me.

Founded in 1932 by John Wirtz, Wirtz Manufacturing is a global leader in equipment design and technology for the lead acid battery market. Wirtz has been able to develop some of the

key technologies known and used today, which include gravity casting, continuous cast grid making systems, continuous punching positive grid making system, high speed precision pasting lines, as well as the precision tooling used in each of these technologies. By acquiring Oxmaster, Leko, Conbro and Battery Recycling Systems, Wirtz has been able to expand its portfolio of technology. Manufacturing operations are in the United States, China, and India.

The machines to be assembled consist of gravity casters, continuous casters, and strip casters depending on the customer's orders. After assembly, the new equipment is tested by melting lead metal and making lead grids to demonstrate that the equipment functions properly. The grids are melted in lead pots to about 750-850° F and pumped to water cooled molds. No lead (Pb) emissions. The lead grids made are recycled and/or sent to the purchaser of the machine as part of the certification process. No actual batteries are made, and no lead paste is utilized at this site.

The purpose of permitted process is to verify the machines are functional before shipment to ensure that while the models will be consistent, the actual, physical machines will be different. The different kinds of casters include grid casting, continuous casting, and strip casting.

Lead (Pb) metal will be handled but no grinding, drilling, sanding, etc. will occur. No lead (Pb) emissions.

The following machines are present on site as of today (January 20, 2023):

1. Laser Machine (TrumpF)
2. Press Break (TreeBond 3170)
3. Plastic Router (Multi CAM) with three bags (5 feet Height & 2 inches Diameter) for particulate control discharging exhaust air to in-plant environment.
4. Lathe (OM)

None of the above machines discharge exhaust to outside ambient environment. The machines are exempt from Rule 336.1201 (Permit-to-Install) pursuant to Rule 336.1285(2) (l).

#### **I also found on site:**

1. OXMaster Machine assembled and to be installed at the customer's site.
2. Flash-dry ovens (heated chain conveyor) assembled and to be installed at the customer's site.
3. Punch Press (Wirtz Integrated)

These machines / equipment have no emissions.

Repeat inspection is necessary if and when the permitted equipment is installed.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Wirtz is deemed to be in compliance with its permit and Clean Air Act, currently (FY23), as the permitted equipment is not installed yet. No lead (Pb) emissions.

NAME J. S. Marshall

DATE February 22, 2023

SUPERVISOR Joyce