

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

U32220447064452

FACILITY: Aquila Farms		SRN / ID: U322204470
LOCATION: 3201 West Soper Road, Bad Axe		DISTRICT: Bay City
CITY: Bad Axe		COUNTY: HURON
CONTACT: Johannes Verhaar , Owner		ACTIVITY DATE: 07/28/2022
STAFF: Adam Shaffer	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT: On-site inspection.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

An onsite inspection and records review was conducted by Air Quality Division (AQD) staff Adam Shaffer (AS) of the Aquila Farms (Aquila) site. The site inspection was completed on July 28, 2022, and applicable records were later requested.

### **Facility Description**

Aquila is a family run dairy farm located in Bad Axe, Michigan. The site is an area source for all criteria pollutants and does not currently operate with an air quality permit to install.

### **Compliance Evaluation**

An onsite inspection was completed on July 28, 2022. Applicable records were later requested regarding the emergency generators observed onsite. AQD staff AS arrived in the area at 10:07am. Weather conditions at the time were cloudy skies with light rain, temperatures in the high 60's degrees Fahrenheit, and winds to the northeast at 5-10mph. Upon arriving onsite, AQD staff AS met with Mr. Johannes Martinus Verhaar, Owner, who provided a partial tour of the site and answered site specific questions. Mr. Nick Verhaar, representative of Aquila, provided a tour of the remaining portions of the site reviewed and answered site specific questions.

As mentioned above, Aquila is a dairy farm. The majority of the site was not reviewed due to site operations mainly falling under the Water Resources Division (WRD) of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

### **Additional Observations**

During the inspection, one incineration unit used to incinerate deceased cows was observed. Speaking with company staff it appears that in a given month approximately eight cows are incinerated. Ms. Audrey Schwing, with the WRD had informed Aquila staff in a letter dated September 29, 2021, that the incinerator may require a permit and to contact the AQD Division in the Bay City District Office. Aquila staff had not contacted AQD staff and were operating the incinerator without a permit to install or applicable exemption. This is a Rule 201 violation. Below are two images of the observed incinerator.

**Conclusion**

Based on the facility walkthrough, and observations made, Aquila appears to not be in compliance with NSPS Subpart IIII, and applicable air quality rules. A violation notice (VN) will be issued for the following violations:

The company has installed and is in operation with an incineration unit that is used to incinerate deceased cows. The company operates the incineration unit without an applicable exemption or a permit to install. This is a Rule 201 violation.

Emergency Generators #1 & 2 are potentially subject to the NSPS Subpart IIII regulations. Information was requested for the Emergency Generators #1 & 2, however, was not provided. Since a compliance determination could not be made, this is a violation of NSPS Subpart IIII.

NAME adam J. Huff

DATE 09/26/22 SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_