

Kent Co.
General
File

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

U41230716269783

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| FACILITY: West Michigan Pallet Management | | SRN / ID: U412307162 |
| LOCATION: 534 Gordon Industrial Court SW | | DISTRICT: Grand Rapids |
| CITY: Byron Center | | COUNTY: KENT |
| CONTACT: John DeWitt, Owner | | ACTIVITY DATE: 11/07/2023 |
| STAFF: April Lazzaro | COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance | SOURCE CLASS: |
| SUBJECT: Unannounced inspection in response to a complaint. | | |
| RESOLVED COMPLAINTS: C-24-00192 | | |

Air Quality Division staff April Lazzaro and Dillon King arrived at the facility at approximately 10:00 AM to conduct an inspection in response to a complaint forwarded from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for pollution that can/comes into the air and surrounding water ways as there is a smell every once while, while they are near this facility.

Upon arrival in the area, no odors were noted from the facility and no visible emissions were observed. There was a hint of wood smoke in the air, although the origins were unknown. We met with Mitch Kimber, who stated that he would call his partner John DeWitt to let him know we were there, as he was off site. Mitch returned and stated he would be here within 30 minutes. I informed Mitch that we did not want to wait for his arrival to start the inspection, and he again left to call John. He did not return for 20 minutes, at which time I called him on his phone to state we did not want to wait to begin the inspection. Mitch then came back to the conference room to escort us on the inspection. Approximately 10 minutes later we were joined by John DeWitt.

FACILITY INFORMATION AND COMPLIANCE EVALUATION

The facility does several things related to recycling activities. Pallets are received and either broken down and repaired and rebuilt, or fixed where needed. The repair process occurs on one of four repair lines which is a designated area for making repairs. There was some wood sanding occurring, with most wood dust being captured by a cyclone and fabric filter unit and vented internally. There was also a larger belt sander that was also internally vented. These activities are exempt pursuant to Rule 285(2)(l)(vi)(B). The facility does no drying of wood to make pallets, it is merely build and repair work. Employees were sweeping up wood dust waste during the inspection as the pallet sanding is not well controlled.

The facility also takes in Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Empty steel drums, which are then shipped to a local drum refurbishing company. No work to clean, paint or refurbish these drums is conducted on-site.

The facility also takes in industrial bulk containers (IBC) that can't be reused and removes the tote out of the metal cage. The plastic tote is pulled out and sent off to a refurbisher when applicable. The metal cages are broken down for recycling. These activities do not have an emission of a regulated air contaminant.

The complaint was not substantiated at the time of the inspection and is considered resolved at this time. It is noted that we discussed whether or not the company held a storm water discharge permit, since they have a lot of exposed materials on the property adjacent to a storm drain. We were told they do not have a storm water discharge permit. This facility was referred to the Water Resources Division.

I noted that the wooded area behind the building had been cleared and was being graded by a bobcat with a bucket. There were large berms built up at the southern edge of the property, which appears adjacent to a creek. No silt fencing was observed. This was referred to the Water Resources Division. Mitch told us that the space would have gravel added for truck parking, while John told us that they were planning to expand the facility footprint.

It is noted that Mitch had mentioned early on that the semi-truck wash just to the north of them has a very foul odor which is smelled when a wash is occurring. As the four of us walked back to the parking lot located on the north end of the building, we saw a semi-truck exiting the wash and smelled a strong foul odor, that I would characterize as a sour solid waste odor. It has the potential to be considered a nuisance if a complaint were received in the future due to the strength of the odor and the sour characteristic.

SUMMARY

The complaint is considered resolved at this time, and the company appeared to be in compliance.

NAME April Lazzaro

DATE 11/08/2023

SUPERVISOR 