

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Self Initiated Inspection

N214049066

FACILITY: Mason Excavating, Inc.		SRN / ID: N2140
LOCATION: East Dixon Lake Road, GAYLORD		DISTRICT: Gaylord
CITY: GAYLORD		COUNTY: OTSEGO
CONTACT: Phil Mason		ACTIVITY DATE: 06/06/2019
STAFF: Sharon LeBlanc	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: unannounced site inspection of Dixon lake Rd Pit, formerly operated by Mason Excavating. Phil Mason, son of former owner/permittee operating out of pit. sgl		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

INTRODUCTION

June 6, 2019, AQD District Staff conducted a self-initiated site inspection of the Mason Excavating Inc. Pit, located at E. Dixon Lake Road, Gaylord, Bagley Township, Otsego County, Michigan. The sand and gravel pit is presently being operated by Phil Mason, son of the previous owners.

Permit to Install (PTI) 412-89 was issued to a portable gravel crushing plant (N2140) at the referenced pit. The purpose of the inspection was to determine the status of the permitted equipment.

Weather conditions at the time of the inspection included sunny skies and temperatures in the mid 70's.

FACILITY

To travel to the pit, visitors would travel east approximately 2.5 miles on Johnson Road from it's intersection with N Old 27. At the intersection with E. Dixon Road, make a right and travel south approximately 500 ft, the pit entrance is located on the left-hand side of the road and is the second drive. No sign or gate is present. The entrance is unmarked (no sign) with the pit located approximately 0.25-mile off the road.

Adjacent properties consist of undeveloped property immediately to the north, south and east of the site. A limited number of residential properties are located to the W-NW of the site. Historical aerials suggest that some oil and gas activity had occurred in the other parts of the section, and adjacent sections. Aerials for the site are readily available from 1993 to 2016.

The permit was issued to Mason Excavating, Inc. - Henry M. Mason and Martha Mason, president and vice president, respectively. Mason Excavating, Inc. previously operated as Hugh H. Mason and Sons (1946) and Mason Gravel Col (1960). The Otsego County property appraiser's office identifies the pit as owned by the Mason Self Truusted Living Trust. Mr. Phil Mason indicated that he acts on behalf of the trust.

At the time of the site inspection, a gravel crushing/washing plant was in operation. Mr. Mason indicated that the majority of the equipment had been purchased in the early 2000's. The pit is unmanned when not in operation.

PERMITTING

As previously indicated, the E. Dixon Lake Road Pit, was identified as a location for a portable gravel crushing plant permitted under Air Use Permit 412-89. The referenced permit was approved on June 30, 1989. No modifications are of record for the referenced permit.

A scanned copy of the permit has been provided to Mr. Mason to review and confirm that all of the equipment permitted is no longer onsite. The "Highway Plant" that is believed to have been associated with permit no. 412-89, was reported to have been sold for scrap. At the time of report preparation, a response from Mr. Mason regarding equipment status has not been received.

Mr. Mason was also provided with links to AQD General Permits for Non-Metallic Mineral Crushers.

COMPLIANCE

No complaints, violation notices or consent orders are associated with the referenced facility. Based on general discussions regarding the age of the onsite equipment, and scrapping of the Highway Plant, it appears that the Pit contains equipment that requires permitting under Rule 201. Mr. Phil Mason has indicated that he will review information regarding the General Permit and complete an application for the present plant onsite.

SUMMARY

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NAME Sharon L. Blane

DATE 6/11/2019 SUPERVISOR SM