

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

N241873751

FACILITY: Empire Molded Plastics		SRN / ID: N2418
LOCATION: 1246 E Empire Ave, BENTON HARBOR		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: BENTON HARBOR		COUNTY: BERRIEN
CONTACT: Mary Quinn ,		ACTIVITY DATE: 09/12/2024
STAFF: Chance Collins	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Scheduled Inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On September 12, 2024, AQD staff traveled to Berrien County to perform an inspection of Empire Molded Plastics (SRN: N2418). The inspection was to determine the facility's compliance with applicable state and federal air pollution control regulations. The facility was once operated under Permit to Install No. 1122-89 for four plastic injection molding machines, which was voided in 2000.

AQD staff arrived on site at 9:50 a.m. to sunny conditions with a temperature of 76°F with an E wind of 7 mph. There were no noticeable odors upon arrival. AQD staff met with Mary Quinn (Office Manager), who walked staff around the facility and answered all questions.

Empire Molded Plastics was bought by Colonial Engineers out of Portage around 2004. The facility is known as Colonial Business but are still doing business as Empire Molded Plastics. The facility currently employs 11 full time employees 1 shift a day Monday-Friday. The facility only does plastic injection molding and have 15 machines. The facility manufactures a wide variety of things such as handles for appliances, fishing lures, parts for the automotive industry, and more. The facility does not do any finishing work to the products such as painting. The facility molds the products and then ships them out.

During the inspection, staff noted that the facility currently has 15 plastic injection mold machines, but only a few were in use, four of the machines were currently inoperable. The machines are set up for certain jobs that are consistent, so they do not interfere with running other jobs concurrently. All scrap material is collected and reused. Only one mold release agent is used, which is manufactured by Stoner and roughly 12 cans are used every three months. Approximately ½ of the building is used for warehousing/shipping, and the other half contained the injection mold machines. The facility does not currently have a cold cleaner. The facility appears to be in compliance with permit exemption 336.1286(b).

NAME

DATE 9/12/2024SUPERVISOR Monica Brothers