

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Complaint Investigation

N514571844

FACILITY: INDUSTRIAL METAL COATINGS INC		SRN / ID: N5145
LOCATION: 6070 18 MILE RD, STERLING HTS		DISTRICT: Warren
CITY: STERLING HTS		COUNTY: MACOMB
CONTACT: Philip A. Oliver , President		ACTIVITY DATE: 05/09/2024
STAFF: Robert Joseph	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT:		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS: C-24-01041		

On May 9, 2024, I, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy-Air Quality Division (EGLE-AQD) staff employee Robert Joseph, conducted a complaint investigation of the surrounding area of Industrial Metal Coating (SRN: N5145), also referred to as "the facility or IMC" located at 6070 18 Mile Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48314. The purpose of the investigation was to verify the existence of nuisance odors that were allegedly originating from the facility after the AQD received an odor complaint via email just after 8:30 a.m. on May 1, 2024. The facility is currently bound by the conditions of its Permit to Install (PTI) 25-16B and Consent Judgment 2021-95-CE.

See attached odor survey form. Weather conditions via the weather app for this area at the time of the investigation were as follows:

Sky Conditions: Cloudy-Drizzle

Temperature: 61 F

Wind speed: 9 - 14 mph (including wind gusts)

Wind direction: ENE

Complaint Investigation

I arrived on-site in the area surrounding the facility at approximately 3:30 p.m. and began the investigation downwind of the facility (approximately ¼ mile south of the 18 Mile Road and Mound Round intersection) along the west shoulder of southbound Mound Round near Elmridge Drive on foot. I immediately detected a mild moldy semi-sweet chemical-like odor with an intensity level 3 (distinct and definite objectionable odor) lasting approximately 10-20 seconds every two to three minutes during a 15 minute period. The odors were recognized as odors that were previously detected originating from the facility's e-coat curing oven. I was located southwest of the facility and downwind as the duration of the odor was most prevalent during wind gusts.

I proceeded to move directly south of the facility on Elmridge Drive (east of Mound Round) and no odors were detected as I was nearly upwind of the facility. I continued the investigation along northbound Mound Round south of 18 Mile Road for a 15 minute time period starting at a 3:50 p.m. Visible emissions were observed emanating from the northern stack and the west-center stack and the odors ranged from level 3 to level 4 (a distinct and definite objectionable odor to odor strong enough to cause a person to attempt to avoid it completely). The odor lingered in this area and was most prevalent during wind gusts. I proceeded to move back towards Elmridge Drive and south of the facility near a vegetated area. Emissions remained visible from the stacks but no odors were present here given my upwind position of the facility. I proceeded to move back along northbound Mound Round south of 18 Mile Road for a 15 minute time period until 4:25 p.m. as I began to experience a headache due to the odors. Visible emissions were observed emanating from the stack and the odor levels ranged between level 3 and 4 periodically.

I then proceeded to move towards the southeast quadrant of 18 Mile Road and Mound Round near the Mobil Gas Station and nearly upwind of the facility. The odor intensity remained at a level 1 (just barely detectable). I then proceeded to move in an easterly direction on 18 Mile Road and was upwind of the facility at 4:30 p.m and did not detect any odors (0 - non-detect). I observed the facility's west door open and the north bay doors closed.

On-site visit

I entered the facility's main entrance and met with facility's receptionist, Grace. I identified myself and stated the purpose of my visit. I inquired if either Mr. Oliver, owner, or Lena, facility manager, were available to meet. At approximately 4:35 p.m., Lena arrived at the main entrance, and I informed her that the AQD received an odor complaint last week and that I was visiting IMC to inform the facility that the odors detected off-site were recognized as the odors that were previously verified to be originating from the facility's e-coat curing oven. I then requested that she escort me to the e-coat curing oven. I asked her if the oven was operating today, and she stated, yes. I verified that the off-site odors detected (mild moldy semi-sweet chemical-like odor) were the same odors originating near the e-coat curing oven as I stood near it. I informed Lena of this. I exited the facility just after 4:45 p.m.

Conclusion

Based on the complaint investigation conducted, it is in my expert opinion that the nuisance odors detected off-site were indeed originating from Industrial Metal Coating - likely from the e-coat curing oven. The odors were of sufficient intensity (3 to 4) during the 60 minute investigation occurring at a reasonable frequency with sufficient duration to constitute a State of Michigan Rule 901, nuisance odor violation, affecting the surrounding community and causing unreasonable interference with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property. Industrial Metal Coating will be issued a violation notice which will require the facility to submit to EGLE a report identifying its corrective action to resolve the violation, and any evidence gathered by IMC in the conduct of its investigation supporting its findings.

NAME Robert Joseph

DATE 05-13-24

SUPERVISOR Joyce