

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

P131172595

FACILITY: GREAT LAKES CRUSHING		SRN / ID: P1311
LOCATION: 9369 E BLANCHARD ROAD, SHEPHERD		DISTRICT: Bay City
CITY: SHEPHERD		COUNTY: ISABELLA
CONTACT: Gene Hilliard , Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 04/03/2024
STAFF: Benjamin Witkopp	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On April 3, 2024 Ben Witkopp of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy - Air Quality Division (AQD) stopped at Great Lakes Crushing located at 9369 E. Blanchard Road in Sheperd Michigan. Gene Hilliard is the Manager of the operation.

No one was present / available at the time. A quick drive around the entire facility revealed there was not any crushing equipment on site. No relocations were provided so the whereabouts were pursued. It should be noted that Gene is a trucker by trade so communication capability and response can typically be sporadic at best.

An email was sent on April 12 inquiring about the location of the crusher. On April 12, Gene stated the unit was in a welding shop for repairs. Since the need for repairs indicated it had been used, staff pointed out the permit requirements of having ID's on the equipment, relocation notices, and visible emissions testing. The lack of emissions reports was also pointed out.

Subsequently Gene provided a copy of a relocation notice he said he hand delivered to the Lansing District. Additional email copies were provided which indicated he did attempt to initiate some sort of permitting action. Staff spent much effort with the permit unit in Lansing to find out what happened as a permit issuance could not be confirmed. Since Gene initiated the contact with Lansing, staff suspected he sought a site specific permit for some location and realized he had a general permit in possession. Eventually Cindy Smith, AQD Permit Unit Supervisor, shed light on the situation. There was indeed information relayed back and forth but the fact remained the information Gene provided initially was not sufficient to obtain a site specific permit and it looked like a request for a general permit, which, as previously stated, he already had. When Gene did not respond within a meaningful time frame, likely due to being on the road, the permit unit ceased the effort.

With this information in hand, staff contacted Gene and walked him through the process to get a site specific permit granted for a site in Traverse City for which he had previously been issued such a permit. It should be noted that two attempts were made to get insight from AQD staff in the Cadillac District but calls were not returned.

Staff then worked with Gene and his support staff to submit the required emissions report. The report did have an incorrect throughput amount for diesel fuel due to the company not understanding the units of measurements used within the program. After staff explained the issue with Gene, on April 30, 2024 staff made the corresponding changes to the submittal on behalf of the company. The ability to complete the emissions report indicated throughput records were being kept.

Gene said the company is considering selling the equipment and getting out of the crushing business. He stated he would let staff know. He realized they still had to conduct the visible emissions testing. He said the equipment has had ID's placed on them. He said they still wanted to conduct some small crushing jobs, one of which was the Traverse City site.

Not having heard from Gene, staff sent an email on June 13, 2024 asking if they had decided to sell, if the site specific permitting process for Traverse City had been completed, and if the visible emissions testing had been scheduled.

Gene responded on June 25, 2024 by stating they had not sold the equipment and planned to fulfill their obligation to handle some small projects for some clients. He said he did receive a site specific permit for Traverse City. The visible emissions testing was scheduled to be conducted on July 31, 2024.

On June 27, 2024, AQD staff received a test plan for the visible emissions testing from Network Environmental. On Friday, July 12, 2024 staff contacted Gene to confirm the testing was still on the docket. Gene said it would be conducted at a site in the general Grand Rapids area to lessen travel time for Network, which is based there. Staff shared that information with Network and copied Gene so everyone was on the same page.

#### SUMMARY

The facility had a rough start historically speaking but that is not unexpected being newly into the business. With some sheperding effort by staff, the company has made strides in understanding and fulfilling its requirements. Though the visible emissions testing has not been completed, but is anticipated to be conducted, the source is considered to be in compliance pending the results.

NAME

B. Smith

DATE 7-16-24

SUPERVISOR

Gene Smith