

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

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| FACILITY: Michigan Foam Products, LLC | | SRN / ID: P1507 |
| LOCATION: 1425 Burlingame Ave SW, WYOMING | | DISTRICT: Grand Rapids |
| CITY: WYOMING | | COUNTY: KENT |
| CONTACT: Jeff Meyer , President | | ACTIVITY DATE: 10/15/2024 |
| STAFF: April Lazzaro | COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance | SOURCE CLASS: Minor |
| SUBJECT: Unannounced, self-initiated inspection. | | |
| RESOLVED COMPLAINTS: | | |

Air Quality Division (AQD) staff, April Lazzaro and Alicia Kusaka arrived at the Michigan Foam Products, LLC facility located at 1425 Burlingame Avenue, SW, Wyoming, MI at approximately 11:30 AM to conduct an unannounced inspection. The purpose of the inspection was to determine the operational status of this new location. Upon arrival, AQD noted that there was a large addition that had been built onto an existing building and that a variety of mechanical contractors were on site. The AQD observed that there were also contractors outside grading and prepping land surrounding the existing building. Bags of raw materials could be seen through open bay doors in the new facility. No odors or visible emissions were observed.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

Michigan Foam is an expanded polystyrene (EPS) bead manufacturing process. Earlier in 2024, the facility indicated that they planned to move operations to a new facility during the last quarter of the year. When the AQD had not received an application by September 17, 2024, the company was contacted asking for an update on the move. At that time, the AQD learned that they had scheduled the move for the end of October or first of November 2024, however they had not yet prepared an application for a Permit to Install for the new location.

COMPLIANCE EVALUATION

Upon arrival to the facility, the AQD called Michigan Foam President, Jeff Meyer, and left a message indicating that we were at the new site to conduct an inspection. The office for the new facility is currently located in the northwest corner of the addition, with the door adjacent to the loading docks. We entered there and met with office staff, who contacted Jeff Meyer to let him know we were there for an inspection. Jeff Meyer came right over to meet us to provide a tour during the inspection and information regarding the new facility.

During the inspection, we observed that the cutting operations have been installed. This consists of 3 down cutters, 1 slicer, 1 auto wire sheeter and 2 CNC routing units. These wire cutting operations are currently processing EPS manufactured at the Chicago Drive facility before being shipped to the customer.

We observed the area where the boiler, two expanders and one mold will be installed. This equipment will be installed into the space where the existing building is, and the floors are currently being piped and plumed for the unit's drainage systems.

The new pre-expander is already on-site; however it has not been assembled or installed at this time. The bead ageing bags will be housed on the south side of the facility.

Currently, the outdoor space is in the process of being prepped for concrete that will hold the regenerative thermal oxidizer that they plan to move here from the Chicago Drive facility.

The facility tour concluded in space that is currently being renovated for office and engineering staff. At that time, I informed Mr. Meyer that the activities taking place in this new building are likely considered commencing construction, as the foundation work for pepping for the mold and expanders is considered permanent in nature. I also noted that a Violation Notice may be issued for commencing construction prior to obtaining a Permit to Install, and that I would call him if that determination were made. Following a review of information, it was determined that the work conducted at the site is considered commencing construction. A Violation Notice will be issued.

Additionally, since all equipment being installed is assessed under one project, and the wire cutting is already installed that would also be considered commencing construction on the new facility.

SUMMARY

It has been determined that Michigan Foam Products, LLC, located at 1425 Burlingame Avenue SW, Wyoming, MI is in violation of Rule 201 for having commenced construction without a Permit to Install at the time of the inspection.

NAME April Lazzaro

DATE 11/4/2024

SUPERVISOR HH