

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
AIR QUALITY DIVISION  
ACTIVITY REPORT: Site Review

U18240176674617

FACILITY: Northern Mat		SRN / ID: U182401766
LOCATION: 2495 E Rock Road, Clare		DISTRICT: Bay City
CITY: Clare		COUNTY: CLARE
CONTACT: Andy Coblentz ,		ACTIVITY DATE: 11/13/2024
STAFF: Erin Sheridan	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT:		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Air Quality Division (AQD) District Staff conducted site inspection activities at Northern Mat Sawmill. Northern Mat Sawmill is located at 2495 E Rock Road, Clare, MI. The facility specializes in the production of timber mats used for heavy equipment operations. The purpose of the inspection was to verify permanent shut down of the sawmill on site. Complaints associated with the sawmill were received by AQD District Staff on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, that stated sawdust was being blown out of the side of the building uncontrollably. Two violation notices were sent to the owner of the sawmill, Robert Yoder. The first for violating R 336.1201 (Rule 201) by operating the sawmill without a permit and not being able to meet R 336.1285 ((I)(vi.)) exemptions. The second violation was issued due to a lack of response from the owner of the sawmill to the first violation. A verbal response was documented from the owner of the property, Ben Hertzler, stating that the sawmill would be permanently shut down by July 17, 2024.

Upon arrival, AQD District Staff were met by a truck driver for the facility. He stated that the sawmill associated with the previous complaints was decommissioned and the owner no longer worked at the facility. The sawmill was onsite; it was taken apart and appeared to be no longer in operation. The driver stated that they were just waiting on the owner of the sawmill to pick it up from the property. The driver also stated that there was a new, smaller, sawmill now operating on the property. AQD District Staff met the owner of the new sawmill, Andy Coblentz, and found that this new sawmill appeared to be in violation of Rule 201 because it did not have a permit and was not meeting R 336.1285(2)(I)(vi) exemption rule. PTI exemption rule 285(2)(I)(vi) states equipment and any exhaust system or collector serving the equipment used for sawing wood is exempt from needing a PTI if any of the following are met, the equipment used on a nonproduction basis, the equipment has emissions that are released only into the general in-plant environment, or equipment that has externally vented emissions controlled by an appropriately designed and operated fabric filter collector that, for all specified operations with metal, is preceded by a mechanical precleaner. AQD District Staff discussed with the owner of the new sawmill, the exemptions that would need to be met to gain compliance and avoid future permitting or penalties. A copy of R 336.1285(2)(I)(vi) exemption rule was given to the owner of the new sawmill. The owner stated he planned to attach a blower to his sawmill and pump the sawdust into another building on site within the next 60-90 days. Photos were taken of the current operation of the new sawmill and of the decommissioned sawmill. A violation notice will be sent to the new sawmill owner for violating Rule 201.



**Image 1(Old Sawmill)** : Decommissioned, non-operating, sawmill.



**Image 2(Old Sawmill 1)** : Decommissioned, non-operating, sawmill.





**Image 3(New Sawmill)** : Operating sawmill onsite.

NAME

DATE

11/19/2024

SUPERVISOR