

PROPOSED PROJECT SUMMARY

FRITZ PRODUCTS, INC. – RIVER ROUGE, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Air Quality Division (AQD), is asking for comments from the public on a proposed Permit to Install (PTI) for Fritz Products, Inc. (Fritz). The AQD will accept comments on the proposed PTI until the close of the comment period on March 3, 2025. We will review all comments before we make a final decision on the proposal.

WHAT DOES FRITZ CURRENTLY DO?

Fritz operates an existing secondary aluminum melting facility at 255 Marion Avenue in River Rouge. The facility began operation in 1987 and produces recycled aluminum for other companies.

WHAT IS FRITZ PROPOSING TO DO?

Fritz is proposing to install an aluminum sweat furnace controlled by a regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO). A sweat furnace is used to recover aluminum from mixed metal scrap. This is done by heating the scrap in the sweat furnace to a temperature high enough to melt the aluminum but low enough so the other metals do not melt. The aluminum exits the furnace and is captured into cooled molds or collecting pots. The aluminum is isolated so it can be further processed. The other metals are recycled or sold.

The furnace was previously permitted to operate at 411 South Fort Street in Detroit approximately 1.5 miles away.

WHAT IS A PTI AND WHY IS ONE NEEDED?

A PTI, commonly known as an air use permit, is required for projects that involve installing, constructing, reconstructing, relocating, or modifying most processes or process equipment that emit, or may emit, air contaminants, such as the sweat furnace Fritz is proposing to install.

The AQD has reviewed the application and written proposed permit conditions to make sure the project

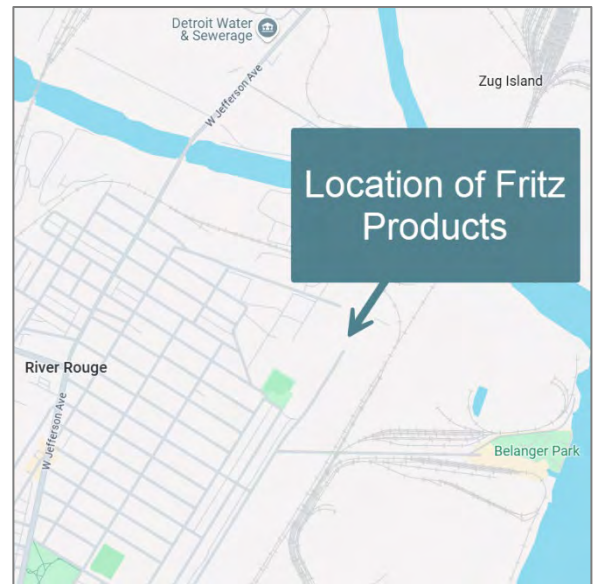


Figure 1: Proposed location of Fritz Products

complies with all applicable air rules and regulations.

WHY IS FRITZ GOING OUT TO PUBLIC COMMENT?

There has been historical public interest in Fritz. The AQD has determined that the public should have the opportunity to comment on the proposed permit conditions.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT AIR QUALITY IN THE AREA?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has developed health-protective standards for specific air pollutants. These standards are called the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

There are NAAQS for [some pollutants](#), including sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀), particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}), ozone and lead.

Poor air quality from high levels of pollution can cause health problems. The NAAQS are developed from research studies and set at levels to protect public health. This includes health protection for sensitive groups, like those with heart and lung problems.

The facility is located in the portion of Wayne County, Michigan which is meeting all of the NAAQS except for SO₂. The AQD operates 11 [air monitoring station\(s\)](#) in Wayne County, 7 of which are in the City of Detroit and within approximately 6 miles of Fritz. The closest monitoring station is the River Rouge station located 0.65 miles southwest of Fritz. The River Rouge station measures metals and carbonyls (such as formaldehyde). The purpose of the air monitoring stations is to assess the regional or area-wide air quality and is not used to determine if a specific source is in compliance with their air permit.

WHAT DO I REALLY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROPOSED PERMIT?

The proposed permit has specific requirements Fritz would have to follow if the permit is approved. Key areas you may be interested in, or that you may want more details on, include:

- **Emission limits** – The amount of specific air pollutants allowed to be released.
- **Material limits** - The maximum amount of “charge” (or aluminum-containing scrap) allowed to be processed in the sweat furnace on a daily basis.
- **Process restrictions** – Fritz must develop and implement both a Malfunction Abatement Plan (MAP) and an Operations, Monitoring, and Maintenance Plan (OMMP) to ensure proper

operation of the sweat furnace and associated RTO.

- **Operational restrictions** – Fritz may not operate the sweat furnace unless the associated RTO is also installed and operating properly.
- **Monitoring and Recordkeeping** – Must maintain appropriate records to show compliance with their permit.

WILL AIR QUALITY STANDARDS BE MET?

A computer model was used to determine the expected impacts of the emissions from the proposed project on the air quality in the area surrounding Fritz. This type of computer model is called an air dispersion model and considers many factors, such as amount and type of emissions, wind directions, weather conditions, local geography, and other factors.

The model showed that the expected impacts of the emissions, plus the existing monitored levels, are less than the applicable NAAQS and PSD increments for PM_{2.5}.

Michigan has developed health-based screening levels for additional pollutants referred to as toxic air containments (TAC) under its Air Toxics rules. The proposed TAC emissions from the project would also comply with the AQD’s health-based screening levels.

WAS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONSIDERED FOR THIS PROJECT?

Part of opening a proposed permit for public comment involves evaluating the community around the proposed project, including environmental justice, translation, and other community-specific concerns. Full details of how we consider this in permitting can be found in “[Including Environmental Justice: Air Permitting in Michigan](#)”.

The language evaluation looks at the number of people who speak English “less than very well”

within a 1-mile radius of the proposed project’s location. This is required by EGLE’s [Limited English Proficiency Plan](#) using an environmental justice screening tool like USEPA’s [EJSCREEN](#). The evaluation found that translation into Spanish may be helpful.

WHAT ABOUT NOISE, TRAFFIC, AND ZONING?

The AQD evaluates the potential air emissions from the proposed facility to determine if they comply with the air quality rules and regulations. The AQD does not have authority to regulate noise or traffic outside the facility and does not have authority to evaluate compliance with local zoning requirements.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Other information, like the [Technical Fact Sheet](#) and the [proposed permit conditions](#) can be found at Michigan.gov/EGLEAirPublicNotice, choose “Applications Open for Comment.” In addition, Fritz’s application and important correspondence with the AQD can be found under PTI application No. APP-2024-0195 on the [Other Applications of Interest](#) page.

The Technical Fact Sheet has additional details about the project and how it will meet the rules and regulations, such as:

- A summary of the reviews completed by AQD staff.
- How the project will affect air quality and public health.
- A summary of what the proposed permit would require Fritz to do.
- A summary of the allowed emissions included in the proposed permit.
- The rules and regulations that apply to the proposed project.
- Example emission calculations.

AQD staff can provide additional information upon request.

SUMMARY:

The AQD has reviewed the PTI application submitted by Fritz and prepared a proposed permit. If the proposed permit is approved, it will ensure the facility meets the applicable air quality requirements. Therefore, we recommend approving the proposed permit.

However, before the AQD acts on the PTI application, we are requesting comments from the public. The AQD will review all comments received during the public comment period and public hearing, if held, and then decide whether to approve, approve with modifications, or deny the proposed PTI application. If approved, the AQD may add or change permit conditions based on the comments received.

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

For more information about the proposed permit, please contact Ambrosia Brown, AQD, at: BrownA39@Michigan.gov or 517-730-1158.

WHAT PUBLIC COMMENTS CAN EGLE CONSIDER?

All comments from the public are important. But it is also important to know the law is clear about what we can and cannot consider when we make our decision. Some examples are below.

| What we can consider | What we can’t consider |
|--|--|
| ✓ Technical mistakes in the review | • Air, land, or water issues not part of the project |
| ✓ Grammar and spelling mistakes | • Indoor air pollution |
| ✓ Other rules the action should consider and why | • Traffic |
| ✓ Why the action will not follow the rules | • Noise and lights |
| | • Zoning issues |
| | • Anything unrelated to the project |

HOW CAN I COMMENT?

The AQD welcomes comments from the public during the comment period. Before commenting, it is a good idea to “[View an Example](#)” of how to do it. You may also want to read the “[Public Hearings - What you should know](#)” card.

Documents pertaining to Fritz can be found at: Michigan.gov/EGLEAirPublicNotice

Comments must be received by **March 3, 2025**.



Via email

EGLE-AQD-PTIPublicComments@Michigan.gov



Via US mail

Permit Section Manager, EGLE, AQD
P.O. Box 30260
Lansing, MI 48909-7760



Via voicemail

by calling 517-284-0900



At the Virtual Public Hearing, if requested in writing by February 13, 2025, to the address above, it will be held on **February 20, 2025**, starting at 6:00 p.m.

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