

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

B162959553

FACILITY: HORNER FLOORING CO INC		SRN / ID: B1629
LOCATION: AVE H, DOLLAR BAY		DISTRICT: Marquette
CITY: DOLLAR BAY		COUNTY: HOUGHTON
CONTACT: MARK YOUNG , VICE PRESIDENT		ACTIVITY DATE: 04/16/2021
STAFF: Joe Scanlan	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Announced inspection to determine compliance with PTI# 1445-91 and PTI# 218-81		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Under the Authority of Section 5526 of Part 55 of NREPA, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy may upon the presentation of their card, and stating the authority and purpose of the investigation, enter and inspect any property at reasonable times for the purpose of investigating either an actual or suspected source of air pollution or ascertaining compliance or noncompliance with NREPA, Rules promulgated thereunder, and the federal Clean Air Act.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

Horner Sport Flooring is located on the north shore of Dollar Bay, a small inlet from Portage Lake, in the community of Dollar Bay in Houghton County. It is adjacent to residential neighborhoods of the Dollar Bay community to the northwest. Horner has been in business since 1891 and produces high-quality maple hardwood basketball floors. Horner floors are used in NCAA, NBA, Pan-American Games, Olympics Games as well as schools, YMCAs and athletic centers worldwide. The company operates 5 days a week from 7-3:30 PM and staffs 34 employees in the mill and 5 in the office. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic mill operation has been sporadic.

The facility has two PTIs for a wood preservative dip tank and a baghouse. The facility also operates 2 boilers fueled by wood waste and 5 kilns for drying wood. A third boiler is on site but has been out of service since the late 1980's. The company uses the kilns for drying their own wood products and is also contracted to dry wood for Northern Hardwoods located in Atlantic Mine, Houghton County.

PROCESS DESCRIPTION

PTI# 1445-91

This PTI is for a 3600 gallon wood preservative dip tank operation. The treating process is an on-demand type service and is not frequently used. The dip tank is stocked with Woodlife preservative; the facility has been using this brand product since the permit was issued in 1991. Prior to shipping wood products are submerged in a liquid solution for a time frame of 2-3 minutes then elevated over the liquid and allowed to drain back into the tank. The product is then ready for shipment. Most of the preservative is absorbed into the wood and takes about 5-6 days to evaporate. Most of the VOC emissions occur after the treated lumber leaves the facility.

SC 15 The VOC emission rates from the wood preservative dip tank shall not exceed 3.2 tons per month nor 15.6 tons per year. These limits are based on maximum usage rates of 1000 gallons per month and 5000 gallons per year.

The company last purchased 500 gallons of Woodlife in October of 2009. They have not used or sold any flooring as "treated" in probably 7 or 8 years. Marketing of the wood preservative treatment was discontinued around 2010.

SC 16 Applicant shall keep the dip tank cover closed whenever the dip tank is not in use.

The dip tank has a lid to seal it and was covered at the time of inspection.

SC 17 Applicant shall not substitute any wood preservatives for those described in this permit application which would alter the quality and nature, or increase the quantity, of the emission of an air contaminant beyond the level which has been described in the application and allowed by this permit, without proper notification to and approval by the Air Quality Division.

The applicant has not changed the brand of wood preservative and uses fewer gallons per month/year than is permitted.

SC 18 Records of the monthly usage rate of wood preservative, and date on its VOC content, shall be kept on file for a period of at least two years and made available to the Air Quality Division upon request.

The facility has satisfactory record keeping of Woodlife wood preservative usage.

PTI# 218-81

This PTI is for a Jet Air Dust Collection system/baghouse.

SC 14 Visible emissions from the hardwood flooring plant shall not exceed 20% opacity except as specified in Rule 301(1)(a) &(b).

The baghouse was not in operation at the time of inspection.

SC 15 Rule 331 – The particulate emission from the hardwood flooring plant shall not exceed 0.10 pounds per 1,000 pounds of exhaust gasses, calculated on a dry gas basis.

Permit evaluation completed at the time of permitting show PM emissions are well below the permitted limit.

SC 16 Requires particulate emission testing at the request of the Air Quality Division.

No testing has been requested by AQD or completed by the facility.

SC 17 Applicant shall not install the bag filter collector until final plans and specifications have been submitted to and approved by the Air Quality Division.

Final plans and specs were submitted with the permit application.

COMPLIANCE HISTORY

The company is in good standing and has no outstanding violations and no complaints have been received regarding operation of the facility. The company was last cited for a violation in 1991 for not having a permit for their wood preservative dip tank.

INSPECTION

Due to Covid-19 concerns I contacted the facility to inquire about their visitor protocol and to let them know I would like to conduct an inspection of their permitted equipment. I arrived at the site on 4/16/2021 and met with Horner Vice President Mr. Mark Young outside the facility. We proceeded to tour the grounds and observe the boiler and baghouse operations. The mill and kilns were not operating at the time of my inspection; however Boiler #1 was on for building heat. There was no opacity observed from the stack. The boilers are 1931 Bros Horizontal Return Tube (HRT) boilers. The grounds outside the plant were well kept.

SUMMARY

The facility is in compliance with PTI# 1445-91 and PTI# 218-81. I did not observe any concerns or violations of applicable Michigan Air Pollution Control Rules.

NAME J. [Signature]

DATE 9/27/21

SUPERVISOR [Signature]