

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Complaint Investigation

B201560428

FACILITY: Metal Technologies, Inc. Three Rivers Gray Iron		SRN / ID: B2015
LOCATION: 429 Fourth Street, THREE RIVERS		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: THREE RIVERS		COUNTY: SAINT JOSEPH
CONTACT: Dan Plant , Corporate Environmental Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 09/30/2021
STAFF: Amanda Chapel	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MAJOR
SUBJECT:		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On August 26, 2021, a complaint was made to the EPA alleging that Metal Technologies was causing pitting and rust damage to cars at an apartment complex located to the south-southwest of the facility. The complaint was forwarded to EGLE on September 30, 2021.

Amanda Chapel (staff) contacted the complainant on September 30, 2021 and an on-site investigation occurred. The complainant stated that they noticed the rust and pitting on cars the day the complaint was made. They stated that it likely happened within 7 days of when the complaint was made. They had also made contact with the facility who offered to have the car detailed though the complainant was concerned that wasn't going to fix the damage. Staff went on site and verified that there was rust and pitting on a 2016 Ford Escape parked outside the complainant's address, belonging to another individual living with the complainant. The complainant also sent photos of rust and pitting on their car as well. Photos are included below.

Staff then called the facility to verify if any malfunctions or visible emissions had been noted during the week prior to the complaint. According to the facility, based on previous complaints received, the protocol to address complaints was followed. Upon receiving a complaint, the plant manager reaches out to the complainant to gather information. On-site records are reviewed to determine if the incident was caused by a facility malfunction or other possible explanation. If the facility determines they are possibly at fault, they communicate to the complainant to come to a satisfactory agreement about how to rectify the problem.

According to the facility, the week before the complaint was received, they had completed a full bag changeout on the West Duster dust collector on August 14, 2021 as a preemptive maintenance task. This full bag changeout is completed every couple years. After the cleaning and removal of bags, the bags were placed in an open top dumpster and left for removal on Monday. The wind caused the dust from bags to blow and damage cars. As a result of the complaint and investigation, the protocol has changed to allow only closed topped dumpster. The facility provided the invoice for the bag changeout and the previous two weeks records for visible emissions checks and any associated visolite investigations which were reviewed.

Records showed that no abnormal visible emissions were found during the morning or afternoon visible emissions checks during the weeks of August 9, 16, and 23rd. The facility did report one bag leak detection alarm on August 13, 2021 that could not be attributed to weather conditions. The investigation showed two broken bags, which were replaced. This necessitated the total bag changeout.

Based on historical weather data, during the time of the malfunction, the wind was out of the north-northwest. The complainant's residence is located to the west of the facility. The wind

direction during the malfunction seems to be going in the wrong direction to have caused the damage, at that time. On August 14 and 15, 2021, there were wind gusts throughout the day and evening from the east and the northeast. This would corroborate the theory that dust collector bags in an open-top dumpster were the cause of the damage.

A violation notice will be sent to the company as a result of this complaint investigation.



Image 1(Vehicle 1 Damage) : Damage to the paint on the hood of Vehicle 1



Image 2(Vehicle 2 Damage) : Damage to the paint on the passenger door of Vehicle 2

NAME *Amber Clapp*

DATE 10/12/2021

SUPERVISOR *Monica Brothers*

Acting District Supervisor for Rex Lane