

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
AIR QUALITY DIVISION  
ACTIVITY REPORT: Self Initiated Inspection**

B426033900

FACILITY: L'ANSE WARDEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC		SRN / ID: B4260
LOCATION: 157 S MAIN STREET, LANSE		DISTRICT: Upper Peninsula
CITY: LANSE		COUNTY: BARAGA
CONTACT: Chris Anderson , Operations Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 03/21/2016
STAFF: Ed Lancaster	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MAJOR
SUBJECT: I received an e-mail with photos from the Ketola's, on Sunday at approximately 9:00 PM, showing that one of the bottom incline conveyor tarps at LWEC had torn loose, prompting my decision to inspect the facility the next morning.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

I arrived at the Flower Shop and met Mr. Steve Ketola. Mr. Ketola was not sure of the exact day or time when the LWEC tarp broke loose. He said he was not impacted by any dust from the event.

Mr. Ketola had questions and concerns on why the DEQ can not make LWEC switch to firing with natural gas only until the permanent enclosures are built and the run-off of contaminants into the river and bay from the LWEC property and fuel yard. I told Mr. Ketola that the AQD did not have the authority to make the company burn only natural gas, unless the other fuels were shown to be imminently dangerous to life or property. In addition, I suggested he call the Water Resources Division to lodge his complaints/concerns with the run-off issues.

I left the Ketola's to observe and take photos of the partially enclosed incline from atop the berm between the Ketola's and LWEC. Atop the berm I noted LWEC workers on the incline conveyor ramp and in a man-lift working on replacing the tarp and other unidentified activities. After taking several photos (see below) I drove over to the plant and met with John Polkky, Al Clishe and later Chris Anderson.

I explained to the gentleman the purpose of my visit (the failed/torn tarp) and listened to their concerns about the complainants and their Facebook page about the plant. I asked when the tarp was discovered and was informed it was discovered on the previous day, but Mr. Anderson did not know at what time it occurred. Mr. Polkky added the wind was light and out of the north on Sunday, so the dust should not have impacted any neighbors. I offered that Mr. Ketola did say he was not impacted by the dust from the failed tarp. I then asked how often the dust is swept out of the tarps, Mr. Anderson stated it is done on a daily basis, Monday through Friday, by their maintenance crew, he added the crew does not work the weekends, therefore the tarps are not cleaned.

The clean-up of the dust was occurring the morning of my inspection. I asked Mr. Anderson if he is keeping records of the daily cleaning of the tarps and yard. He replied he was not, I suggested he should. I also suggested it should be someone from the plant calling me when there has been an upset, and not someone from the community contacting me first.

Mr. Anderson and I then walked out to the incline conveyor, where I observed the pile of fugitive dust, less than half a cubic yard (see photos). The tarp had been replaced, and Mr. Anderson reported his crew was installing an additional brush on the return of the incline conveyor to help in removing the dust. We observed two workers shoveling the dust into a front-end loader. Mr. Anderson said the material would be placed in the ash building and hauled to the landfill. We then walked over to the ash building and I photographed the fall-out material that was recently added to the ash (see photos).

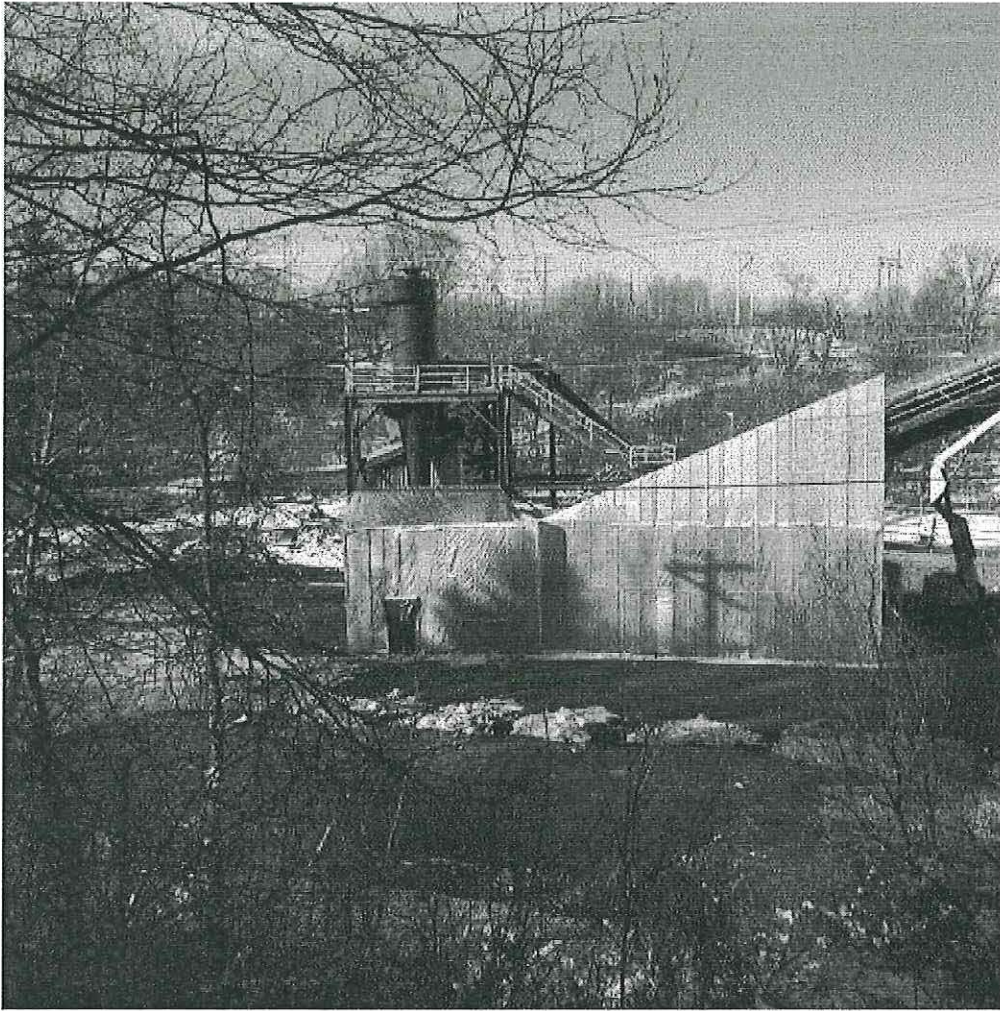
I then thanked Mr. Anderson for his time and departed the facility.



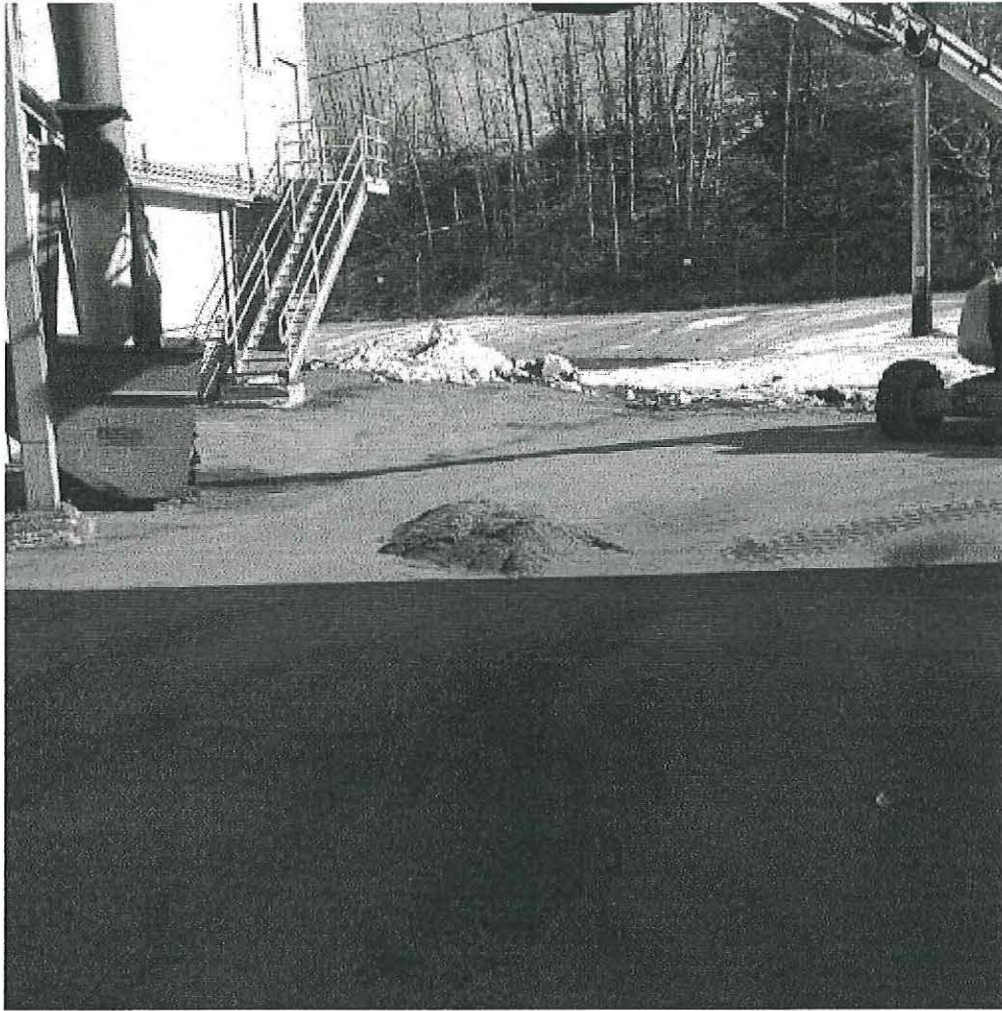
**Image 1(Photo 1)** : LWEC incline conveyor. Photo taken on March 21, 2016.



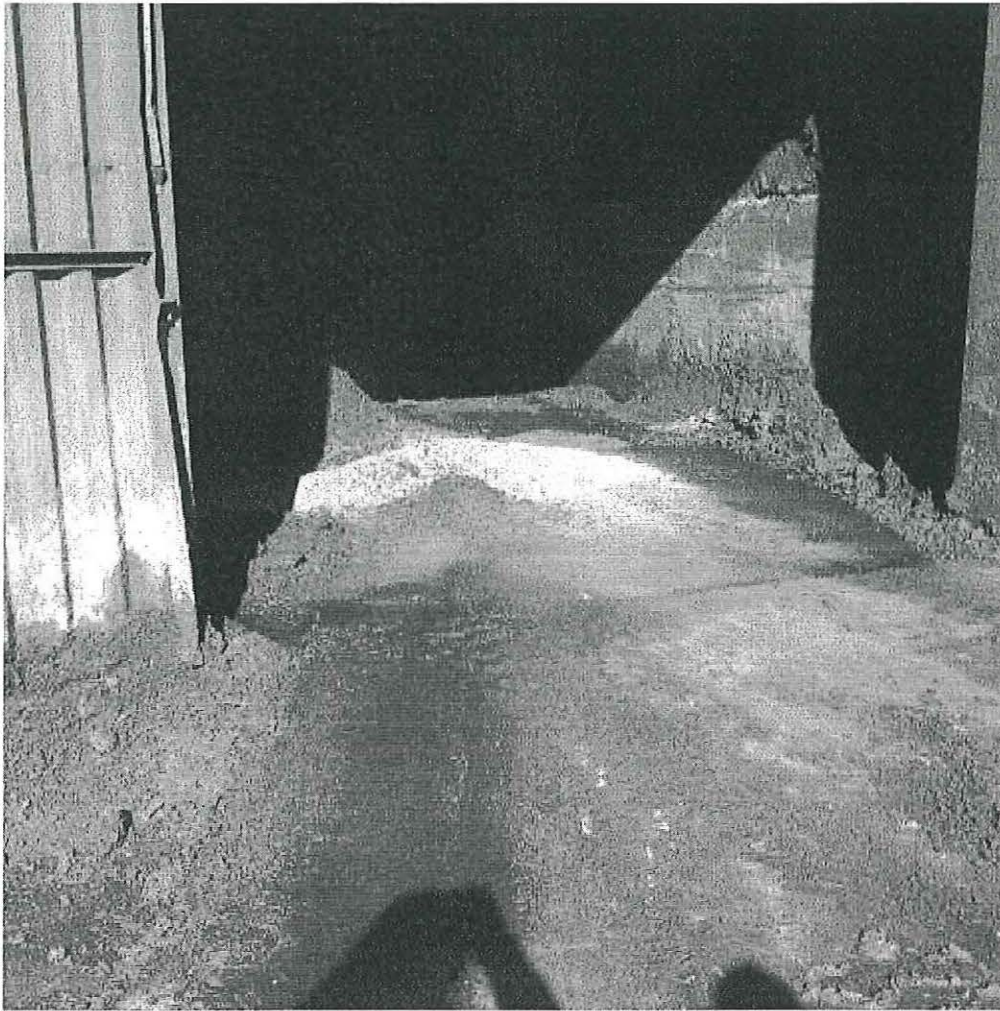
**Image 2(Photo 2)** : LWEC fuel receiving hopper. Note build-up of dust on hopper structure. Photo taken on March 21, 2016.



**Image 3(Photo 3) :** LWEC fuel receiving hopper and incline conveyor. Photo taken on March 21, 2016.



**Image 4(Photo 4)** : Dust pile from failed tarp beneath LWEC fuel incline conveyor. Photo taken on March 21, 2016.



**Image 5(Photo 5) :** Fugitive dust pile from failed tarp relocated to ash building. Photo taken March 21, 2016.

NAME Ed Lancaster

DATE 3/25/16

SUPERVISOR Dan W. Mahi