

*Cody -  
manilla*

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
AIR QUALITY DIVISION  
ACTIVITY REPORT: Scheduled Inspection

B615142546

FACILITY: Imerys Perlite USA, Inc.		SRN / ID: B6151
LOCATION: 1950 E WAVE, VICKSBURG		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: VICKSBURG		COUNTY: KALAMAZOO
CONTACT: Rich Rocho, Maintenance Supervisor		ACTIVITY DATE: 11/21/2017
STAFF: Monica Brothers	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Unannounced scheduled inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Staff (Monica Brothers and Cody Yazzie) arrived on-site at about 12:10pm. This facility makes expanded perlite for use as filter media. The last inspection was conducted in 2008, and they were in compliance at that time. They currently operate under PTI #707-83, which limits them to 20% opacity. I did not observe opacity from the stack upon arrival. We met with Mike Crouch, who has worked at the facility since 1987. He told me that they do not have any boilers or emergency generators on-site. However, they do have one cold cleaner, and I let him know that I would like to take a look at that during the facility tour.

He then showed us around to where the perlite was being expanded. The perlite is expanded using heat from a natural gas-fired furnace. It is rated at 10,000,000 BTU/hr and was installed in 1972. After the perlite is expanded, it goes through a series of cyclones, which collects the product and separates out the non-expandable portion of the raw material from the final product. What does not get collected in the cyclones goes to the baghouse, which uses cartridge filters to capture the finest materials. They use this to recover additional product. We climbed up a couple of ladders to get closer to the baghouse, and Mike showed us where the two magnehelic gauges were for both the hot and cold side of the baghouse. We then went inside to see the display for the magnehelics. The hot side was reading about 2.3 inches, and the cold side was reading about 2.4 inches. The hot side had a temperature of 277°F during the inspection.

Mike then introduced us to Troy Torres, who had more information about their Preventative Maintenance Plan and Fugitive Dust Plan, which are required by their permit. Troy showed me some of their maintenance-checks documents, which included checks for the baghouse, valves, and conveyors, and checking the ducts for holes. Some of these things are recorded on paper, but the majority of the maintenance is logged into a computer system. This system keeps track of the maintenance schedule for each piece of equipment and lets Troy know when something needs to be checked, cleaned, or replaced. Troy said that they inspect and clean the baghouse filters about every 3-4 months. They also have daily inspection plans in this system, and can log any issues they find and how it was fixed. They also have a cleaning plan for general housekeeping activities. This system functions as both their fugitive dust plan and preventative maintenance plan.

They have one cold cleaner at the facility. It is a Chemsearch unit. The lid was closed during the inspection but there were no instructions posted. I gave Troy a DEQ instructions sticker to attach to the outside of the unit. An SDS of the solvent was obtained and is attached to this report. We thanked Mike and Troy for their time and left the facility at about 1:00pm. The facility seemed to be in compliance at the time of inspection.

NAME *Monica Brothers*

DATE *12/14/17*

SUPERVISOR *MB 12/14/2017*