

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

B662028889

FACILITY: COLDWATER VENEER		SRN / ID: B6620
LOCATION: 548 RACE ST, COLDWATER		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: COLDWATER		COUNTY: BRANCH
CONTACT: Brad Hickok, HR Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 03/17/2015
STAFF: Dale Turton	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT:		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

An unannounced inspection was conducted at Coldwater Veneer, Inc. to determine compliance with Air Pollution Control (APC) Rules and their permits. Staff met with Brad Hickok, Human Relations Manager and the David Smith, Plant Maintenance Manager. Staff explained the purpose of the inspection and requested a tour of the facility to observe process equipment.

According to Brad, the facility operates, either at full or partial production, 7 days per week. The plant produces wood veneer to customer specification. Some common species of wood used are maple, oak, walnut and pine. The basic process is as follows: The green logs are stockpiled outside, and sprayed to keep wet during hot weather. The logs are then cut to length to remove unsuitable ends. The logs are brought into the plant and debarked. The debarked logs are kept whole or split in half, then soaked in hot water for a varying period of days. The logs are then smoothed and sliced into veneer strips. The strips go through a short drying cycle, are inspected and stacked, then shipped. The veneer is shipped out without any added adhesives or stains applied to the product.

#### Debarking

Logs are loaded onto a conveyor and rolled into the debarking machine to remove the bark. The bark falls down to a conveyor and is dropped into a three sided enclosure located outside the back of the plant. There is very little dust generated from this process due to the moisture content of the bark. The bark is mixed with wood from the overflow system and sold to a landscaping company.

#### Wood Waste Boiler (Permit #991-78)

The boiler provides steam to heat the hot water tanks, and for the four veneer dryers. The boiler is operated up to 120 psi. It is covered under PTI No. 991-78. Ground up wood waste is screw conveyed from the bottom of the silo to a blower that pushes into a cyclone on top of the boiler. The material drops into the boiler and the conveyance air is routed back to the inlet of the blower. The ash from the boiler exhaust is collected by the Breslove separator. Special Condition 11 limits visible emissions to 20% opacity. Staff did not observe any visible emissions from the boiler stack during the inspection. They don't have a definite accounting for the tonnage of wood waste that is burned since there isn't any equipment in place to measure it. The input is variable depending on the boiler demand. The demand is based on the amount of heat needed in the veneer dryers and the hot water soak tanks. For MAERS purposes, they took the maximum potential and reduced it to an estimate based on an estimate of actual use. The wood waste silo has three cyclones located on top of it that receive wood from three separate area of the plant. These three areas are the main blower for the chipper and sawmill, the Filch planer, and the quarter saw & groover area. Special Condition 11 limits visible emissions to 20% opacity. Staff did not observe visible emission coming from any of the cyclone exhaust points.

#### Overflow System (Permit #367-82)

When the storage silo is full they can divert the overflow to an outside enclosure. There is a collection cyclone that drops the material into the 3 sided enclosure. Dust is not expected to be a problem since the wood has a high content of moisture. This was not observed in operation since they were not in overflow mode.

#### Gas Boiler

An 8.4 million BTU/hr boiler uses natural gas only. Since this is rated less than 50 million btu per hour, it is exempted from permitting pursuant to APC Rule 282(b).

Log Prep and Slicing

After debarking, the logs are soaked in a hot water bath for a couple of days to a week. The logs then go through a planer to smooth out the surface. They then use saws to quarter the logs if need be, and place a groove down the length to secure it to the slicer. There are three wall slicers and one rotary slicer to slice away layers to produce the veneer. The layers of veneer are conveyed into the dryers for a short cycle to remove moisture. When the veneer layers exit the dryers they are stacked and taken to the cutting table. The veneer scraps are conveyed to an underground grinder/blower system that carries the wood material to the storage silo.

Hydronic Wood Boiler

The ends of the logs that are trimmed off are burned in an outdoor hydronic wood boiler. This is used to help heat the warehouse building during cold weather. This is permit exempt due to Rule 282(b)(iii) since it is rated at less than 6 million BTU/hr. This has been observed by other staff while emitting dark smoke. The company is advised to let the wood cure prior to burning it in this unit to prevent opacity violations.

NAME Alec TimonDATE 3/23/2015SUPERVISOR MD 3/23/2015