

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

C158244528

FACILITY: Alpena General Hospital		SRN / ID: C1582
LOCATION: 1501 West Chisholm Street, ALPENA		DISTRICT: Gaylord
CITY: ALPENA		COUNTY: ALPENA
CONTACT:		ACTIVITY DATE: 05/23/2018
STAFF: Bill Rogers	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Inspect ETO Sterilizer, PI 677-93		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On May 23, 2018, I inspected the Alpena General Hospital ethylene oxide sterilizer. This is covered by PI 677-93. This is a scheduled minor source inspection. It was unannounced. Mr. Dennis Kindt showed me the sterilizer.

The sterilizer is still in place. I looked at the back side of it. The front, operating side is in a room where instruments are prepared for surgery; I did not go in there as I would need to suit up in disposable clean room garments to do so. I did stand near the doorway and speak with the medical technicians inside. They informed me the sterilizer has not operated in a long time, "at least a year or two." Management is considering removing it, mainly to clear up space needed for other equipment.

Special Condition 16 requires that there should be no visible emissions. The sterilizer was not operating, so I was not able to confirm this. However, visible emissions of an ETO sterilizer are extremely unlikely in any case.

Special Condition 19 prohibits operating the sterilizer unless the abatement system is installed and operating properly. There is a device labeled "ETO Abater" attached to the sterilizer. The duct running to this appeared to be in good condition.

Special Condition 20 prohibits discharging ETO to a wastewater system. The sterilizer did not appear to have any water pipes going to or from it, so it is unlikely there are any water pipes discharging to a wastewater system.

The exhaust stack appears to meet permit requirements. I think it is 8 inches diameter; the permit requires less than 12 inches so that is acceptable. The stack is painted yellow to warn workers to stay away. It exhausts from the roof in an area with other air exhausts, but according to Mr. Kindt, no intakes.

NAME William J Rogers DATE 5/31/18 SUPERVISOR SN