

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

N036949774

FACILITY: NEAR'S INC		SRN / ID: N0369
LOCATION: 425 N BULLOCK, WHITTEMORE		DISTRICT: Saginaw Bay
CITY: WHITTEMORE		COUNTY: IOSCO
CONTACT: Joe Stone , Employee		ACTIVITY DATE: 08/05/2019
STAFF: Meg Sheehan	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Scheduled site inspection for FY19		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On August 5, 2019, a scheduled site inspection was conducted by AQD district staff at Near's Inc. in Whittemore, Iosco County. Mr. Joe Stone, Employee of Near's Inc., was onsite to answer questions and provide a tour of the facility. Site inspection activities were conducted with the intent of confirming compliance with Permit to Install (PTI) No. 192-81. The facility was open, but the permitted activities were not in operation at the time of the inspection.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

Near's Inc. is an existing minor source for particulate matter. Operations are presently limited to production and sales of concrete septic tanks. The facility is located on the north end of Whittemore in a mixed-use area. Properties located immediately to the north, east, and west are predominantly agricultural in use. Property to the immediate south consists of residential areas. The facility is one large building, housing the office and production space. On the west end of the building is a partially enclosed structure in which the concrete trucks are loaded. Also located in the immediate vicinity of the truck load-out area is the cement storage silo and baghouse.

FACILITY HISTORY

No complaints or violation notices are of record for the facility. Being a minor source, Near's Inc. is not required to report to MAERS.

PROCESS DESCRIPTION

PTI No. 192-81 was issued on July 15, 1981 for the installation of a dust collector on concrete casting equipment. The concrete is mixed onsite in the mixer truck, with sand/gravel, water, and dry cement powder being added in the partially enclosed building. The sand and gravel stockpiles are kept to a controlled size and in partially enclosed storage areas to minimize fugitive dust. Before the concrete is poured into a mold, a very thin layer of mold release agent is applied. The mold release is reported to be oily in nature, and no residue to the concrete or the inside of the mold exists after the tank forms are un-molded. The concrete is then poured into septic tank molds where it can cure and harden.

COMPLIANCE EVALUATION

Due to the age of the permit, only a limited number of special conditions exist for this facility. It should be noted that this facility may now be able to operate under the Rule 289 exemption for concrete plants, should Near's Inc. want to void their PTI.

SC 14 limits particulate emissions from the silo loading and septic tank precasting operations to 0.10 pounds per 1,000 pounds of exhaust gases. Compliance with this condition could not be determined because a stack test would be required.

SC 15 limits visible emissions from the silo loading and septic tank precasting operations to 20% opacity. Because the facility was not operating, compliance with this condition could not be verified. The cement silo is equipped with a baghouse which is used when the silo is being loaded. Dust from the baghouse is collected from an access door and added back into the cement silo for use. Mr. Stone reported that the baghouse is cleaned in between loads, approximately once/month, and that visible emissions from this process have not been an issue. Bags are changed as needed, with spares being kept onsite.

It should be noted that the drive around the facility is gravel and has the potential to be a source of fugitive emissions, however none were observed during the inspection. As previously stated, no complaints have been received either. Mr. Stone was informed of potential issues the fugitive emissions could cause with neighbors and ways to reduce fugitive dust, such as applications of water or calcium chloride.

COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

At this time, Near's Inc. appears to be in general compliance with all applicable rules and regulations.

NAME Meg Sheehan

DATE 8/8/19

SUPERVISOR C. Hare