

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

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| FACILITY: Grand Traverse Fruit LLC | | SRN / ID: N7902 |
| LOCATION: 8055 ANGELL RD, WILLIAMSBURG | | DISTRICT: Cadillac |
| CITY: WILLIAMSBURG | | COUNTY: GRAND TRAVERSE |
| CONTACT: Brandon Hubbell , Managing Member | | ACTIVITY DATE: 11/12/2014 |
| STAFF: Kurt Childs | COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance | SOURCE CLASS: MINOR |
| SUBJECT: PTI 338-07 compliance inspection. | | |
| RESOLVED COMPLAINTS: | | |

I placed this facility on the scheduled inspection list due to the large number of complaints we have received this year. The facility now called Grand Traverse Fruit LLC (GTF) was previously Cherry Blossom LLC and Williamsburg Receiving. PTI 338-07 was issued to Cherry Blossom LLC. It does not appear that a notification of a change in ownership or operational control has been submitted to AQD.

Process operations at GTF are now limited compared to operations under previous ownership. Currently the plant only brines, pits, packages and ships cherries. The plant processes cherries imported from other states and those that are locally harvested during the season. Cherries are brined in outdoor pits then stored in totes. Enough cherries are stockpiled during the season to allow processing throughout the winter. The plant generally operates four 10 hour days per week.

Prior to entering the plant I conducted a limited odor survey downwind of the facility. The temperature was 32 degrees F with light snow falling and 10mph winds from the west. No odors were detected off-site. I met with Mr. Brandon Hubbell, Managing Member, who showed me the facility. At the time of the inspection cherries were being processed and packed into totes and plastic drums. Inside the plant there were some mild odors typically associated with the cherry processing brine.

No process water is generated during processing, the cherries are delivered in totes containing brine and are returned to the same brine for shipping. Wastewater is generated from clean-up of the processing area when equipment and plant floors are rinsed. The water goes into floor drains and travels to the hydro-sieve vaults in the wastewater building. Processing consists of loading cherries into equipment that sorts, conveys, sizes and removes pits from the cherries. This is all accomplished on one production line that included 3 pitting machines at the time of the inspection though Mr. Hubbell stated that up to six are normally used.

PTI 338-07 covers odor control equipment at the wastewater tank and building, it requires a operation and maintenance plan (O&M plan) which was previously submitted by Cherry Blossom LLC. The permit requires that the permittee shall operate the odor control equipment in accordance with the plan which specifies that the equipment be operated 24 hours per day seven days per week. The O&M plan requires two separate odor control systems; a scrubber for the wastewater tank vent and a carbon adsorber for odors inside the wastewater building from the storage of refuse receptacles. At the time of the inspection we reviewed both areas of the building where wastewater is, or could be stored including the open hydro-sieve vaults which did contain wastewater. At that time odors inside the plant were mild to non-existent.

At the time of the inspection the wastewater tank was not being used according to Mr. Hubbell. Wastewater discharged to the hydro-sieve vault is pumped directly into tank trucks for disposal. Mr. Hubbell showed me where the transfer pump that would move wastewater from the vault to the tank had been removed. He said he did not think water had been placed into the wastewater tank in one or two years. The tank vent scrubber was not operating, but Mr. Hubbell stated he was not familiar with the operation of the scrubber but believed it operated on a timer as it does occasionally run.

The carbon adsorber system appears to have been removed. According to the O&M plan it was located in the hydro-sieve area of the building. There was no equipment in this location and it looked like there was piping that had been disconnected from some equipment. Mr. Hubbell stated that he recalled there was some equipment that was filled with woodchips in that area.

Previously a Violation Notice was sent to Grand Traverse Fruit for failing to operate the odor control equipment as a result of complaint inspection I conducted on June 25, 2014. At that time the scrubber was not being operated, the carbon adsorber was not reviewed.

Mr. Hubbell showed me the reverse osmosis system which I had seen during the complaint inspection. Mr. Hubbell stated they hope to install it within the next 2 months, this would replace the current wastewater handling process. We discussed the need for the permitted odor control equipment and how to revise the permit. I informed Mr. Hubbell that options would include;

- Operating as currently permitted, which requires continual operation of the control equipment (including the carbon adsorber).
- Review and revise the PTI and/or O & M plan to meet the current operating scenario (they may want to maintain the ability to use the wastewater tank for emergencies). This would likely entail removing the carbon adsorber and operating the scrubber only when the wastewater was being transferred and stored in the tank.
- Remove or physically separate the equipment and void the permit.

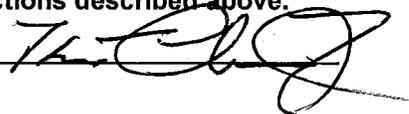
Mr. Hubbell stated that he would have their consultant Lakeshore Environmental evaluate the current permit requirements and current plant operations to determine how to proceed. I informed him permit changes would be handled by the AQD Permits Unit but Grand Traverse Fruit or their consultant could contact me with any questions. Changes to the O & M plan only could be reviewed and approved by the District Supervisor.

The odor control equipment was originally installed to control odors from wastewater generated during Maraschino cherry processing and from the storage of refuse receptacles in the wastewater building. GTF does not operate these types of process. At the time of the inspection no waste was being stored and the only wastewater generated is from cleaning activities (Maraschino cherries are no longer produced). However, the PTI requirements passed to GTF with ownership of the facility. It appears the permit should be revised to suit the current plant operations.

Based on my site visits (2) and odor surveys(8) in response to complaints during the past year it does not appear the current wastewater storage operations are a source of nuisance odors. The permit could potentially be revised but the removal and continued failure to operate the odor control equip as specified in the O & M plan is a violation of PTI 338-07 which requires that the odor control equipment be operated in accordance with the plan.

A Violation Notice will be prepared citing the permit violation and recommending GTF implement one of the actions described above.

NAME



DATE

11-20-14

SUPERVISOR

