

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

P030253001

FACILITY: ARGONICS INC		SRN / ID: P0302
LOCATION: 520 NINTH STREET, GWINN		DISTRICT: Upper Peninsula
CITY: GWINN		COUNTY: MARQUETTE
CONTACT: Allen Beauchamp , Safety & Procedure Coordinator		ACTIVITY DATE: 01/30/2020
STAFF: Joe Scanlan	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Unannounced inspection to determine compliance with Rule 201 permit exemption.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

FACILITY: Argonics Engineered Polyurethane (Argonics)

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE: Allen Beauchamp, Safety & Procedure Coordinator

LOCATION: Argonics is located in the community of Sawyer (former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base), south-central Marquette County, in a commercial/industrial district adjacent to the K.I. Sawyer International Airport terminal. There are no residences within a half mile of the facility.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION: Argonics Engineered Polyurethane is a manufacturer of castable polyurethane elastomers for the bulk material handling industry. The company moved its operations in 2009, from its location on Wright Street in Marquette to its current location in Sawyer. The plant operates a 10 hour shift, Monday through Friday, 6AM to 4:30PM.

INSPECTION: After signing in at the front desk, I met with Process Engineer/Maintenance Technical Supervisor Greg Goodman to conduct the unannounced inspection. After donning safety glasses and a high-visibility safety vest we proceeded into the production area.

Argonics currently does not have any air use permits as all of the equipment/processes at the facility meet Rule 201 exemptions. The main part of the business is producing flat stock and cast polyurethane products using a thermosetting casting process. For the thermosetting process the resins are a solid at ambient temperature and must be heated to 150 degrees Fahrenheit to bring them to a liquid state. A small (1.6 million BTU/hr) natural gas-fired boiler is used for this purpose. In addition, three other natural gas-fired heaters (800,000 BTU/hr) are used to heat the molds for the process. These heaters and the boiler are exempt from permitting by Rule 282(b)(i). The plastic molding process is exempt by Rule 286(d and e).

The company also has a spray booth, which is used to spray an adhesive onto metal (aluminum or steel) parts that will allow a stronger bond between the cast polyurethane and metal parts. The spray booth meets the Rule 287(c) exemption from needing a permit. The booth is a downdraft type and the filters are replaced on a monthly basis. There is a manometer on each side of the spraybooth, and the operator observes these each day to help determine when the filters need to be replaced. Usage of the spray booth has decreased considerably. Due to advances in product design, the assembly process now utilizes mechanical insertion of the cast polyurethane into their metal counterparts, as opposed to using the adhesive. The company tracks their coating usage, which is below the exemption requirement:

Adhesive & Solvent Usage in Gallons

	2016	2017	2018	2019	Average annual use
Chemlok Adhesive 213	145	175	120	195	158.75
Chemlok Solvent 248	110	105	100	155	117.5

maintained and operated in a satisfactory manner.

Monitoring

SC 1.5 Requires a device to monitor and record the temperatures in the secondary combustion chamber (afterburner). The incinerator has a continuous temperature chart recorder installed and operating correctly.

Recordkeeping/Reporting/Notification

SC 1.6 Requires records to be kept in an acceptable format. Records are being kept in an acceptable format.

SC 1.7 Requires daily records of description and weight of waste combusted in EU-Crematory and be kept on file for 5 years. The facility only combusts human remains and does not weigh the remains prior to combustion, however the records of daily combustion are available and accurate.

SC 1.8 Requires records be kept for the combustion temperature of the afterburner and on file for 5 years. Records are kept in an acceptable manner as wheel charts recording dates and combustion temperatures and were provided for the previous two years upon request.

Stack/Vent Restrictions

SC 1.9 Requires a maximum stack diameter of 33.5" and a minimum height above ground level of 19'. Staff was unable to verify this condition, however it does appear to meet these requirements.

SUMMARY

The facility is in compliance with PTI# 149-04 and I did not observe any violations of Michigan Air Pollution Control Rules.

NAME Joseph Scanlan DATE 4/23/20 SUPERVISOR ESJ