

P0574
MAWILA

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

P057430149

FACILITY: WHITMAN CENTER		SRN / ID: P0574
LOCATION: 32306 & 32235 West Chicago, LIVONIA		DISTRICT: Detroit
CITY: LIVONIA		COUNTY: WAYNE
CONTACT:		ACTIVITY DATE: 07/09/2015
STAFF: Stephen Weis	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT: Compliance inspection of the Livonia Public Schools Whitman Center. The Whitman Center facility is scheduled for inspection in FY 2015.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Location:

Whitman Center (SRN P0574)
32235 West Chicago
Livonia

Date of Activity:

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Personnel Present:

Steve Weis, DEQ-AQD Detroit Office
Jill Wozniak, Executive Assistant, Livonia Public Schools

Purpose of Activity

An inspection of the Whitman Center, located at 32235 West Chicago Street in Livonia, was initiated on Thursday, July 9, 2015. The Whitman Center was on my list of sources targeted for an inspection during FY 2015. The purpose of this inspection was to determine compliance of operations at the Whitman Center facility with applicable rules, regulations and standards as promulgated by Public Act 451 of 1994 (NREPA, Part 55 Air Pollution Control) and Federal standards.

Facility Description

The Whitman Center is no longer an active facility. The building has been demolished, and the property that the building formerly occupied is now part of Livonia's Mies Park (formerly Rosedale Park).

The Whitman Center began as a Junior High School in the Livonia Public School system. According to information found on Wikipedia under the subject "Livonia Public Schools", Whitman:

"...opened in 1956 and closed in 1978. The building was used for adult education for several years after closing. The school was razed in the 1990's and the property absorbed into the park surrounding it."

A copy of the information from Wikipedia is attached for reference.

The site of the former Whitman Junior High School/Whitman Center is now parkland. Mies Park is located south of West Chicago Street, between Delaware and Vermont Streets on the east and west sides, respectively. The Whitman Center was located in the northeast portion of the park. Grant Elementary School is located to the south of the park property. I have attached two images of satellite photos. The first, dated 1961, shows the park property with the Whitman Center in the northeast corner. The second, with an image date of 4/15/2015, shows the current configuration of the park, with Grant Elementary School at the south end and open field with scattered trees in the area where Whitman once stood.

Facility Operations

Not applicable – the Whitman Center is no longer in operation.

Inspection Narrative

I am familiar with this location, and I was familiar with Mies Park and the location of Grant Elementary School, so I knew that this facility was no longer at this site. I verified the location of the address, and checked out the location of the former Whitman Center. I wanted to get some additional information regarding the facility, such as when the school closed, and when the building was demolished. I stopped at the Livonia Public Schools (LPS) Administration building, which is located at 15125 Farmington Road. I was met by Jill Wozniak, Executive Assistant for LPS. In response to my inquiries regarding Whitman, she tried telephoning a couple of LPS staff who work with facilities management, but she was unable to make contact with them. She looked through some of the files in the administration office, and she found some meeting notes from 1989 that included a discussion of plans to demolish Whitman and the former Bentley High School. Later on July 9, Jill called me back to inform me that she found records stating that Whitman closed as a Junior High School in 1978.

I was able to find information in the *Westland Observer* online archives that contained the "Advertisement for Bids" for the removal of asbestos from and the demolition of Whitman. These bids appears in the August 7 and 14, 1989 editions of the newspaper. A copy of the printout of these notices is attached to this report. I also checked with DEQ-AQD's Asbestos NESHAP staff to see if they have a record as to when the Whitman Center was demolished. There was no record of the demolition. Given the Advertisement for Bids, it is assumed that the statement in the Wikipedia article is correct in stating that the building was razed in the 1990's.

Permits/Orders/Regulations

There are a couple of Wayne County Permits to Install in the file for the Whitman Center. Permits C-3023&3024 and Permit C-6934 address the operation of an Abbot Incinerator. These permits appear to address the same incinerator unit. Permits C-3023&3024 were issued on November 2, 1973. Permit C-6934 was issued to address a change to the primary combustion burner in the same Abbot Incinerator unit. This permit was issued to LPS on June 7, 1985. All of these permits addressed an Abbot Incinerator that was capable of burning 200 pounds of Type II waste each hour. The information that accompanied LPS's permit application stated that the incinerator was to be used to burn paper, lunch waste and cardboard. Given the closing and demolishing of the Whitman Center, these Wayne County permits will be voided.

It is assumed that the school building would have contained boilers, as well. The installation of any boilers at the Whitman Center may have predated the County permit program. If any additional permits are discovered for the facility, they will be voided.

Compliance Determination

The Whitman Center has been permanently shut down, and the building demolished. Any files or permit information associated with this facility can be voided.

Attachments to this report: a copy of a Wikipedia article about LPS and the Whitman Center; copies of satellite images of the Whitman location; copies of the "Advertisement for Bids" from the *Westland Observer*; a copy of the e-mail exchange with DEQ-AQD NESHAP staff.

NAME Steve Wenz DATE 8/31/15 SUPERVISOR JK