

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

P058835937

FACILITY: ANIMAL ANGELS, LLC		SRN / ID: P0588
LOCATION: 3779 S ORTONVILLE ROAD, CLARKSTON		DISTRICT: Southeast Michigan
CITY: CLARKSTON		COUNTY: OAKLAND
CONTACT: Justin Dunaskiss , Partner		ACTIVITY DATE: 08/10/2016
STAFF: Robert Elmouchi	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Scheduled inspection.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On August 10, 2016, I conducted a scheduled inspection of Animal Angels, LLC located at 3779 South Ortonville Road, Clarkston, Michigan. This facility is uniquely identified by the Air Quality Division with the State Registration Number (SRN) of **P0588**. The purpose of this inspection was to determine the facility's compliance with the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act; Article II, Part 55, Air Pollution Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Act 451); the administrative rules; and the conditions of Permit to Install (PTI) Nos.20-15 and 199-15.

Animal Angels shares a building with Rusty Relics. Google Maps incorrectly identifies Rusty Relics as occupying the north half of the building, which is actually occupied by Animal Angels. Animal Angels occupies the north half of the building plus adjacent warehouse buildings that house the crematoriums, delivery and processing areas. Rusty Relics occupies the south half of the building.

I entered the Animal Angels, LLC facility, met with Mr. Justin Dunaskiss, identified myself, presented DEQ photo identification and began the opening meeting by explaining the purpose of this inspection.

Animal Angels is a pet cremation service. Two nearly identical Matthews Cremation Division Power Pak II cremation units were pending electrical service and setup by the manufacturer's service technician. I observed that both crematories appeared to have the natural gas supply connected. During this inspection, Mr. Dunaskiss and I observed the exhaust stacks from both inside and outside the building. The exhaust stacks appeared to satisfy the permit conditions related to maximum diameter (20 inches) and minimum height (17 feet).

I observed that both crematories were equipped with chart recorders to record the temperature of the secondary combustion chamber. The paper charts were formatted for daily temperature tracking. I told Mr. Dunaskiss that it was important to maintain a supply of extra chart pens and chart paper because failure to record the secondary combustion chamber temperature would be a violation of permit conditions.

I reviewed the permit general conditions with Mr. Dunaskiss with emphasis on special condition 6, which addresses the unreasonable interference with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property; and special condition 11, which addresses visible emissions.

We then reviewed and discussed the operational conditions as well as the monitoring and recordkeeping conditions. Animal Angels owns a scale therefore the permittee will be able to

weigh the animal and any associated materials, which will be used to meet the permit recordkeeping requirement.

Mr. Dunaskiss indicated that Animal Angels will likely hire an experienced crematory operator. An experienced crematory operator may be more likely to operate the crematories in compliance with permit conditions and may have sufficient knowledge to operate the crematories in a manner that minimizes the potential for odor and opacity complaints. An experienced crematory operator will try to schedule the largest charge for the first cremation of the day after the primary combustion chamber has cooled overnight. This reduces the potential of rapid combustion in the primary combustion chamber. The experienced operator will also allow the primary combustion chamber to cool somewhat between cremations. This also prevents residual-heat initiated combustion in the primary combustion chamber before the secondary combustion chamber reaches 1600 F. Animal Angels owns a freezer, which will be used to preserve remains before cremation and to freeze large charges to slow the burn rate.

I informed Mr. Dunaskiss that because the neighboring business, Rusty Relics, occupies the south half of the building that it was very important to operate the crematories in compliance and use best management practices (e.g. let the primary chamber cool down between cremations, freeze large animals prior to cremation to limit the burn rate) to minimize potential complaints. Furthermore, since the business is located on M15, which is a busy road, opacity observed by passing vehicle drivers may be reported to the AQD.

I discussed exhaust stack best management practices with Mr. Dunaskiss. I explained that often the stack/vent restrictions require the exit point of the stack be a minimum of 1.5 times the building height. I pointed out that the building that houses the crematoriums has a peaked roof and that the exhaust stacks were not 1.5 times the height of the roof. I explained that Animal Angels may need to raise the exhaust stacks if odor complaints are determined to be valid.

Of interesting note, Mr. Dunaskiss stated that Animal Angels plans to landscape portions of the wooded property they own behind the building. They plan to provide a peaceful area where pet owners can spread the ashes of their beloved pet. For the planned spreading of cremains, Animal Angels plans to use a product that will be mixed with the cremains to adjust the pH for optimal plant growth. Mr. Dunaskiss stated that the city officials have been informed of this plan and have responded to it positively.

Conclusion

Animal Angels, LLC appears to be in compliance with the evaluated air pollution control rules. Another inspection should be conducted after the crematories begin operation.



Image 1(Animal Angels, Googl) : Full image name: Animal Angels, Google Maps 2. This is a Google maps image of the Animal Angels building location. Note that I have highlighted the portion of the structure occupied by Animal Angels.

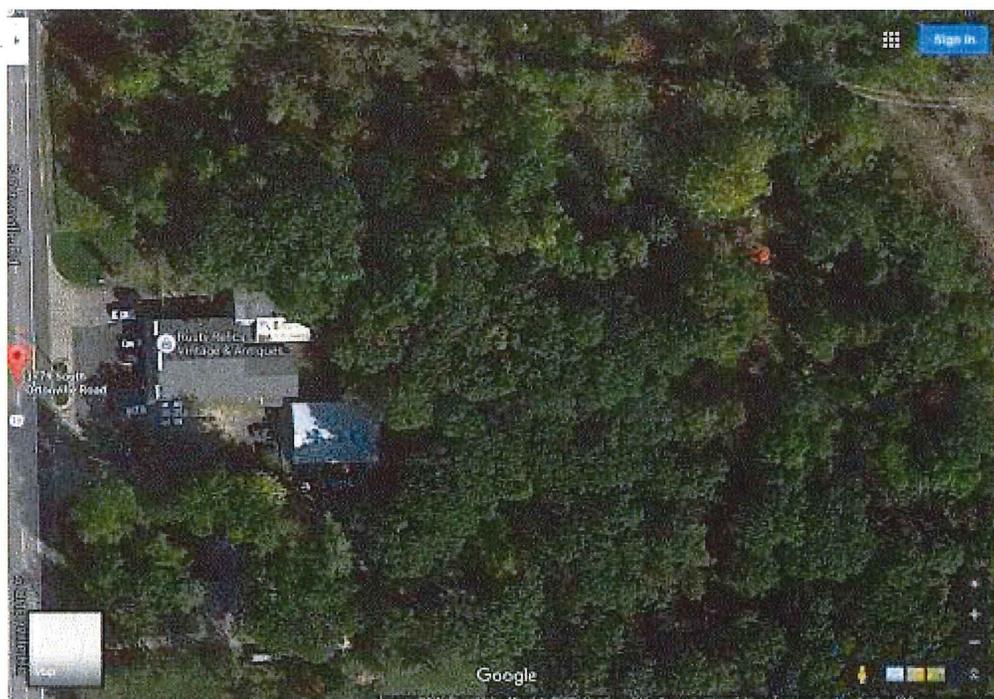


Image 2(Animal Angels, Googl) : Full image name: Animal Angels, Google Maps 3. Google maps image of the wooded area behind the building owned by Animal Angels. Portions of this area will be landscaped to provide customers a natural area to spread their beloved pet's cremains.

NAME *Robert A. Elmendorf*

DATE *9/3/16*

SUPERVISOR *Joyce [Signature]*