

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

P062635081

FACILITY: NORTHERN STAR INDUSTRIES		SRN / ID: P0626
LOCATION: 3201 E INDUSTRIAL DRIVE, IRON MOUNTAIN		DISTRICT: Upper Peninsula
CITY: IRON MOUNTAIN		COUNTY: DICKINSON
CONTACT: Daniel Ortscheid , Safety Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 06/30/2016
STAFF: Ed Lancaster	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Conducted scheduled, unannounced inspection.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Northern Star Industries is a manufacturer of utility industry electrical panels and equipment enclosures. The operations at the plant consist of metal fabrication, painting (powder coating, roll-on and spray), and assembly/construction. They are located in the Iron Mountain Industrial Park. All of the company's operations originally met the Rule 201 exemptions allowed in Rules 278 through 290. Based on potential expansion of their painting operations, (which would exceed the Rule 287(c) exemption), the company applied for a Permit to Install (PTI). On September 14, 2015, PTI No. 134-15, was issued for two (2) metal parts coating lines.

Upon arriving at the facility I met with Daniel Ortscheid, Environmental, Health and Safety Director, and Jim Smeberg, Environmental, Health and Safety Assistant. As it was my first inspection of the facility we began with a discussion of the operations at the plant and then reviewing the conditions of the company's PTI.

The gentleman explained the second coating line has not been nor is likely to be installed in the near future. The company is in their first year of the permit, therefore the 12-month rolling time period averages for VOC and Acetone emissions were not available. On July 7, 2016, I received from Mr. Smeberg an electronic copy of the company's 12-month rolling average VOC summary and monthly VOC/Acetone/Phosphoric Acid data for January through June 2016 (see file).

The VOC/Acetone emissions for the first six (6) months of 2016 have not exceeded more than 0.22 tons per month, which will keep them in compliance with Special Condition (SC) No. I.1. The highest phosphoric acid emission occurred on May 4th, when 13.695 pounds were emitted, in compliance with the 19.5 pounds per day limit of SC No. I.2.

The records supplied showed all of the coatings were well below the 3.5 pounds of VOC per gallon limit of SC No. II.1. Environmental Data Sheets are used to determine the VOC content of the coatings as required by SC No. V.1. Mr. Smeberg said most of the coatings are water-based.

During the inspection I observed the paint and waste material storage room and was informed approximately once per month Safety Kleen transports the waste material for disposal (SC Nos. III.1 and 2). I did not observe any open containers of coatings, reducers, solvents or thinners during the inspection (SC No. III.3).

As mentioned above the company operates a powder coating operation. The powder coating booth appeared to have an appropriate particulate control system and natural gas-fired dryer, meeting the requirements of Rule 336.1287(d).

The spray booth was not operating during my inspection, however I did note that the exhaust filters were installed and was told an HVLP applicator is used per SC Nos. IV.1 and 2.

The company is in compliance with all of the recordkeeping requirements identified in Section VI of their permit.

The company is required in Section VII.1 to report within 30-days after completion of the installation of the new paint booth. This condition is no longer applicable as there are currently no plans to install the new paint booth.

At the time of this inspection the company appears to be in compliance with their PTI and the DEQ's Air Pollution Control Rules.

NAME Ed Lancaster

DATE 7/19/16

SUPERVISOR Dan W. Malin