

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Self Initiated Inspection

P092044496

FACILITY: Wolverine Scrap Metal		SRN / ID: P0920
LOCATION: 1721 Chicago Drive SW, GRAND RAPIDS		DISTRICT: Grand Rapids
CITY: GRAND RAPIDS		COUNTY: KENT
CONTACT: Mike Graham , Yard Foreman		ACTIVITY DATE: 05/24/2018
STAFF: Adam Shaffer	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: Minor
SUBJECT: Self Initiated Inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Air Quality Division (AQD) staff Adam Shaffer (AS) completed a self-initiated inspection of Wolverine Scrap Metal Company (WSM) at 1:45 pm on May 24, 2018 after observing a plume of black emissions coming from the site. The weather conditions at the time of the inspection were partly cloudy, winds from the south at 5-10mph, and low 80's°F.

Facility Description

WSM is a metal scrapyard company. WSM receives scrap metals such as aluminum, iron, stainless steel, brass, and copper from various locations. The metal is cut down to acceptable sizes and shipped to foundries where the materials are reused. WSM has no history of air pollution permits nor has the facility been inspected by the AQD.

Compliance Evaluation

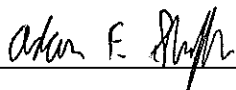
Upon entering the facility, AQD staff AS met with Mr. Mike Graham, Yard Foreman. The reasoning behind the visit was stated, and it was concluded that the source of the black emissions was when WSM staff were cutting scrap metal and an oil pocket had been hit. A tour of the facility was then provided by Mr. Graham who also answered site specific questions. Follow up phone conversations were completed with Mr. Scott Hosford, President, regarding torch cutting. The following observations were made during the facility walk through.

- Upon receiving scrap metal, WSM utilizes several torch cutters to cut materials down to size prior to shipping them off site. The torch cutters are located in the exterior portions of the facility. In a letter to WSM dated March 24, 2017, it was stated to the company that changes were being made to the Rule 285 exemption for portable torch cutting. The most recent torch cutter that was purchased by WSM was on February 20, 2015; therefore, the torch cutters are grandfathered under the July 2014 Rule 285(g) exemption. Maintenance and purchase records were requested and provided by WSM since January 2017. The January 2017 date is when the present Rule 285(2)(g) exemption went into effect. The maintenance and purchase records provided identified several purchases of torch cutting tips. No additional maintenance was completed for the torch cutters during this time frame. This was concluded to be acceptable at this time. In the future, if WSM completes activities regarding torch cutting that would trigger Rule 201 they will need to either meet the new Rule 285(2)(g) exemption requirements or apply for a permit.
- Large piles of scrap metal such as iron and stainless steel were observed along exterior portions of the facility. Scrap materials such as copper, brass and aluminum are kept within the storage area of the building on site.
- One 1,200-gallon liquid oxygen tank for torch cutting was observed on site.
- Several 55-gallon containers containing hydraulic engine oil were observed within the storage area of the building on site.

Conclusion

Based on the observations made during the facility walkthrough, and the records received, it was concluded that at this time WSM appears to be in compliance with applicable air quality rules.

NAME



DATE

06/13/18

SUPERVISOR

