

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: On-site Inspection

P108557631

FACILITY: South Flint Gravel		SRN / ID: P1085
LOCATION: 6090 Belford Road, HOLLY		DISTRICT: Warren
CITY: HOLLY		COUNTY: OAKLAND
CONTACT: Chuck Oleary , Facility Director		ACTIVITY DATE: 04/07/2021
STAFF: Robert Joseph	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Scheduled inspection of mining facility		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On Wednesday, April 7, 2021, I, Michigan Department Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy-Air Quality Division staff Robert Joseph, conducted a scheduled inspection of South Flint Gravel located at 6090 Bedford Road, Holly, MI 48442. The purpose of the inspection was to determine the facility's compliance with the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act; Part 55, Air Pollution Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451; and the Michigan Department Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy-Air Quality Division (EGLE-AQD) Administrative Rules.

Facility Overview

The facility is a mining operation and mines aggregate material consisting of stone and sand. The EGLE-AQD first became aware of the facility on July 5, 2018, when soil and sedimentation track-out material was observed along Dixie Highway which was originating from the facility's entrance/exit due to truck traffic. I arrived onsite and met with Mr. Mike Aldridge, owner of Aldridge trucking. He indicated the facility owner, Mr. Rob Aldridge, would have to be contacted before the AQD could inspect the facility. He repeatedly stated the AQD need not inspect the facility stating the facility was in compliance with all environmental regulations. I informed him that I would speak to Mr. Rob Aldridge, and that I'd return on a later date to inspect the facility during normal business hours per State of Michigan Act 451 Air Pollution Control Rules of the State of Michigan.

I contacted the facility owner, Mr. Rob Aldridge, the next day on Friday, July 6, 2018, to inquire about inspecting the facility. Mr. Rob Aldridge was very hostile over the phone and used profanity via email to express his displeasure with the AQD's desire to conduct an inspection. I informed him that the AQD would attempt to inspect the facility unannounced in the future. The following day on Saturday, July 7, 2018, Mr. Rob Aldridge apologized via email for his behavior and indicated that he would welcome the AQD during a visit.

The AQD ultimately returned to conduct a joint self-initiated inspection of the facility with Water Resource Division (WRD) staff member, Ryan Schwarb on August 20, 2018. WRD was to confirm if the facility required a NPDES (National Permit Discharge Elimination System) permit as well as to verify if the track-out material was a threat to the surface waters of the state. Upon entering the facility, I observed minimal track-out material leading in from Dixie Highway. We met with the facility's supervisor, Mr. Chuck Oleary. Although the track-out material was minimized compared to the previous visit to the facility, I expressed the AQD's concern to Mr. Oleary and he assured me the facility would implement facility wide measures to control the track-out. I informed Mr. Oleary that if future complaints are received by the district office that it would subject the facility to violation if confirmed upon arrival.

The facility was not inspected during fiscal year 2019. The facility was then inspected again last fiscal year 2020, on October 11, 2019, following a fugitive dust inquiry by AQD personnel who had observed track-out in the area. I arrived on-site and immediately noticed that the sedimentation trackout had increased from my previous visit. I informed Mr. Oleary that a violation would be issued to the facility and further violations would ultimately require the facility to submit a fugitive dust plan. A violation notice was issued to the facility on November 6, 2019. The facility followed up with a satisfactory response indicating that measures would be implemented to control the track-out material including utilizing the exit off of Belford Road since this exit is heavily vegetated and constructed of aggregate material (compressed aggregate).

Today's inspection was a follow-up to last fiscal year's inspection and to verify that the facility has implemented measures to control the sedimentation track-out onto Dixie Highway.

Opening Introduction

Upon entering the facility, I did not observe any sand or soil sedimentation track-out extending from the facility's driveway approach to the travel lanes of Dixie Highway. I proceeded to enter the facility and met the receptionist at the facility's office. I introduced myself and presented my identification and credentials and stated the purpose of my visit. I inquired if either Mr. Oleary, Mr. Rob Aldridge, or Mr. Mike Aldridge were available to assist me to tour the facility. Mr. Oleary arrived at the office site and provided me a tour of the facility.

The facility operates year-round and operates typically 6:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. during the winter months and 6 a.m to 5 p.m. during the summer months. It has been in operation at this location for over 50 years. The facility employs approximately 40 people and is located in northern Oakland County which is home to largest square mile mining area in the State of Michigan as well as nationwide. The facility is exempt from Rule 201 (permit to install) via Rule 285(2)(t) given its mining operations.

Facility Inspection

I informed Mr. Oleary that I did not observe any sedimentation track-out material upon entering the facility. He indicated that the facility applies water and calcium chloride along the facility's roadways, sweeps the exit of the facility leading onto Dixie Highway as needed, and routes truck traffic away from the exit when precipitation is present on site.

I asked Mr. Oleary to describe the facility's processes and he indicated the facility mines aggregate material, primarily sand (class II and III) and small stone. He indicated the facility provides the mined aggregate material to contractors, residents, and retail establishments. Mr. Oleary also indicated the facility provides aggregate material to many local and county road projects, as well as commercial projects within the state. The facility's most commonly sold item is sand, which includes sands for state beaches. Other materials include stone materials with varying diameters such as those classified as pea gravel and limestone.

The facility also accepts broken concrete, broken asphalt, limestone, class II sand, screened materials, and many other aggregate materials. I asked Mr. Oleary if there were any portable concrete crushers on site and he indicated there were not any presently on-site. I asked Mr. Oleary if concrete crushing occurs at the facility and he indicated it is performed on-site sometimes by a portable concrete crusher operated by an independent contractor. The site appeared to be well maintained, and the dirt roads within the facility appeared to be free from any fugitive dust clouds.

The facility has four connected conveyor belts within a manmade body of water which lifts the aggregate material from beneath the subsurface of the existing bedrock of the facility. Equipment probes prod the subsurface and detect the materials present within the area. Once each aggregate material is detected and mined to the surface, it is screened to size, washed, and sorted into its own individual pile. The washed fluid then is transported to an inland lagoon where the washed residue settles to the bottom and the filtered water is transported back to the manmade body of water. The lagoon is dredged annually to remove all the settled matter. The mining operation consists of a total of (15) conveyor belts and two screen belts, one each for sand and stone.

Suppressants are used to control the dust on-site - primarily water via a water truck at a rate of 1500 gal/day, as needed, and depending on weather conditions. The facility also uses calcium chloride on some occasions when large rainfall events are not expected.

Aldridge Trucking

Aldridge Trucking is a transportation company that is located within the property limits of South Flint Gravel. The company maintains its own fleet of vehicles and they are used to transport the aggregate material to the facility's customers. Mr. Oleary indicated that an independent contractor can also be utilized at the customers' request, however, it is the company preference to use their own truck fleet given the size and driver awareness of the facility.

Conclusion

I thanked Mr. Oleary for taking the time to accompany me on a tour of the facility. Based on the observations of today's inspection of South Flint Gravel they appear to be in-compliance with the aforementioned regulations.

NAME Robert Joseph

DATE 04/14/21

SUPERVISOR K. Kelly