

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

U64180790546243

FACILITY: MM Sawmill		SRN / ID: U641807905
LOCATION: 8613 184th Street, Holton		DISTRICT: Grand Rapids
CITY: Holton		COUNTY: OCEANA
CONTACT: Mervin Yoder, Owner		ACTIVITY DATE: 09/24/2018
STAFF: Chris Robinson	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT: Open burning complaint investigation.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS: C-18-02707		

Following up on an anonymous open burning complaint, DEQ-AQD staff Chris Robinson (CR) and DEQ-WMRD staff Tim Unseld arrived at an unknown sawmill located at 8613 184th Street in Holton, Michigan at approximately 10:30 am. DEQ staff were met by Mr. Mervin Yoder Senior, owner, and later by Mr. Mervin Yoder Junior. CR presented proper identification and informed Mr. Yoder Senior that DEQ staff were onsite to follow-up on an anonymous open burning complaint. Weather conditions were overcast east-southeast winds at approximately 5 mph with a temperature of approximately 70°F and no precipitation. A slight burning odor and smoke were observed from a burn pile located approximately 80-feet west of the building.

Mr. Yoder Senior showed DEQ staff around and provided pertinent site information. The facility name is MM sawmill, which began operating in January 2018. This facility mills trees for manufacturing pallet wood, utilizing various saws. Assembly of the pallets is conducted offsite. A dust collector located inside the building is used to transfer sawdust from the equipment to a large pile located outside where it is stockpiled, until sold as animal bedding, on the north side of the building near the tree line. Mr. Yoder Junior indicated that the sawdust does blow around depending on weather conditions. CR informed the Yoder's of their responsibility to control dust. Plans are in place to construct a building to contain the sawdust in an enclosed building. The cyclone, which will be located on the roof of this building was observed onsite. Construction is planned to begin after the 2018 Deer hunting season. Currently the equipment cannot be considered exempt from Rule 336.1201 permitting requirements because the equipment is neither vented to the in-plant environment (R336.1285(2)(vi)(B)) nor is it controlled using a properly sized fabric filter (R336.1285(2)(vi)(C)). Therefore, a Permit to Install is required.

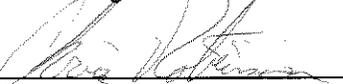
In addition, air being exhausted from a cyclone after particle separation (sawdust) is typically vented to ambient air, which is considered to be uncontrolled emissions. CR informed Mr. Yoder Senior on September 26, 2018 that a Permit to Install is required if the cyclone is vented in this manner. Permits are required prior to the commencement of construction per R336.1201 which states the following:

Except as allowed in R 336.1202, R 336.1277 to R 336.1291, or R 336.2823(15) a person shall not install, construct, reconstruct, relocate, or modify any process or process equipment, including control equipment pertaining thereto, which may emit any of the following, unless a permit to install that authorizes such action is issued by the department.

A pile of "tops" was observed burning and unattended. CR discussed burning regulations with Mr. Yoder Senior who indicated that he had previously been informed by the township that burning of trash was not allowed, however he was not aware that burning of mill waste, such as the "tops" was also not allowed. Mr. Yoder Senior informed DEQ staff that most of the waste material is sold for other uses such as firewood, mulch or bedding. However, they do burn the "tops", which is the scrap material left over from cutting that is too thin to use elsewhere. CR provided Mr. Yoder with a copy of the "Open Burning Regulations in Michigan" brochure and informed him of the definition of waste material, which includes the "tops" and that burning of waste material is not allowed. CR also discussed the complainant's concern of burning sawdust near the property line, which abuts Federal Forest Land. The Yoder's acknowledge concern but indicated that they do not burn the sawdust nor stockpile it anywhere else on site than the location north of the mill.

Based on observations made during this investigation, MM Sawmill is not in compliance with the requirements of R336.1201 for not obtaining a permit to install for the equipment currently being vented outside and R336.1310 for open burning of waste material. A violation notice will be issued.

NAME



DATE



SUPERVISOR

