

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

P115073504

FACILITY: Daisy Hill, Inc.		SRN / ID: P1150
LOCATION: 3737 South Isabella Road, MOUNT PLEASANT		DISTRICT: Bay City
CITY: MOUNT PLEASANT		COUNTY: ISABELLA
CONTACT: Steven Keckeissen , Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 07/17/2024
STAFF: Benjamin Witkopp	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Facility inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On July 17, 2024, Ben Witkopp of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy - Air Quality Division (EGLE-AQD) conducted an inspection at Daisy Hill, Inc. The facility is a crematory for human remains. It is covered by Permit to Install (PTI) No. 127-20. Initially no one answered the door so the Clark Funeral Home was contacted as they own Daisy Hill. Steve Keckeissen was the facility manager and soon arrived on site to provide access. Spencer Moore was inside and functions as the operator. Steve acknowledged that he is also an operator.

The cremator is a Matthews Power Pak I (IE-43- PPI). The unit is natural gas fired with a maximum charge of 750 lbs and capable of burning 150 lbs/hr. During the inspection, the cremator was operating. Though the unit is rated for a 750 pound charge, Steve stated they have their own internal limit of 500 pounds. Any charge over 500 pounds is handled through another company.

The cremator is equipped with an opacity sensor which monitors the stack opacity. The unit is set at the manufacturer settings. Steve said an alarm will sound if excess opacity is detected. There is a live camera which monitors the stack. The camera then provides visual feed to a screen in the employee office / work room. There is also a mirror situated near the cremator which allows a worker to glance at it and see the screen back in the office when they are physically outside of it. If excess opacity is detected, Spencer said the first step they take is to personally confirm the opacity existence. If opacity is confirmed, they contact "Instant Support." The Instant Support is a 24 hour direct contact system provided by the units manufacturer. Spencer and Steve said the contact first walks them through a solution or is capable of remotely taking over control of the operation to correct the matter.

The cremator is natural gas fired. Human pathological waste and associated materials are the only materials burned in the unit. Spencer said they weigh each charge on a scale. The operator records the date, case number, name, gender, height, weight, etc. in addition to permit record requirements. They also record the time involved for the burn. A burn will not commence until proper temperature of the secondary combustion chamber is reached and maintained. Charges are automatically lifted and loaded into the unit. Steve provided access to all records.

Weights of the charges were checked. Since the company has a policy of sending any charge greater than 500 pounds to another company, the heaviest charge on record was just over 400 pounds. That weight is well below the permit limit of 750 pounds. The unit continuously monitors and records the temperature in the secondary combustion chamber. The temperatures are recorded on a paper disc. Staff also write information directly related to each charge such as case number, name, and run times, so a correlation can be made if needed. Each disc has individual hours which comprise a 24-hour time scale. A disc represents a calendar day of operation. Therefore, the time period markings for burns match the time for each charge. The

temperature discs also include information on periods when maintenance or malfunctions occurred. A minimum temperature of 1600°F in the secondary combustion chamber is required to be maintained. The unit is preset by the manufacturer to maintain a minimum temperature between 1600°F and 1650°F. Records reviewed did not indicate a difficulty of maintaining the minimum temperature. Typical temperatures were 1,775F. However, there were two instances of the temperature being significantly higher for short periods of time which is likely due to a burn being out of control. Such incidents can occur through no fault of the equipment or operators and be charge dependent. Directional loading of the charge and charge sequence order could also be in play. Such a burn could result in excess opacity and this was pointed out to the staff as it could lead to future compliance issues.

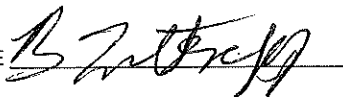
Operating instructions are posted on the wall next to the cremator. A daily checklist is also posted. Both Steve and Spencer are certified to operate the unit. Once a charge is completed Spencer said a cooldown period occurs. Grates are then cleaned after every charge. Brooms and/or a high temperature vacuum are used to recover as much of the cremated remains as possible.

A routine maintenance check is conducted on the unit each week for such items as fire bricks, loading, opacity monitoring etc. The manufacturer service arrangement has the unit being routinely checked by the company technicians. The most recent visit was October 20, 2023. Records of service and maintenance are maintained. Maintenance activities are conducted on weekly, monthly, or quarterly time frames. Records show the date and what was completed, and by whom.

The company does sell both human and pet urns. Staff confirmed the crematory only conducts human cremations onsite. Pets remains are sent to a pet crematory owned by another company. They were made aware that if they pursued a pet crematory in the future a permit to install would be needed from AQD before construction started.

At this time of the inspection, the facility appears to be in compliance.

NAME



DATE

9-22-24

SUPERVISOR

