

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

A642866145

<b>FACILITY:</b> BUSKIRK LUMBER CO	<b>SRN / ID:</b> A6428
<b>LOCATION:</b> 319 OAK ST, FREEPORT	<b>DISTRICT:</b> Grand Rapids
<b>CITY:</b> FREEPORT	<b>COUNTY:</b> BARRY
<b>CONTACT:</b> Tad Landheer , Accountant	<b>ACTIVITY DATE:</b> 01/18/2023
<b>STAFF:</b> Eric Grinstern	<b>COMPLIANCE STATUS:</b> Compliance
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Unannounced on-site compliance inspection	<b>SOURCE CLASS:</b> Minor
<b>RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:</b>	

**Unannounced on-site inspection of Buskirk Lumber Company. The facility is located in the village of Freeport in Barry County.**

**At the facility, staff consisting of Eric Grinstern (EG) met with Tad Landheer, Accountant, and Travis Kamps, Timber Buyer.**

**The facility primarily buys, sells, and processes hardwood logs. The facility resells approximately 30% of the high-end logs purchased, processes 70% of the logs purchased and kilns dries (off-site) approximately 60% of the processed logs purchased. The facility processes approximately 9.5 million board feet per year.**

**The facility currently consists of two sawmills, the original existing sawmill, as well as a new sawmill that was recently constructed. The new sawmill is projected to process between 12.5 and 14 million board feet per year. It is projected that the existing sawmill will not be operated once the new sawmill is fully operational. Additionally, the facility has log storage and grading activities that occur on-site.**

**AQD records show that the facility has one active permit (PTI No. 533-89) for a wood-fired steam boiler. However, during the last AQD inspection it was noted that the steam boiler was no longer at the facility and that the facility requested a void of the permit on October 22, 2015. Following the inspection, EG requested that Permits void the permit if it was still active.**

**Mr. Landheer accompanied EG on an inspection of the facility.**

**The original sawmill (not operating during the inspection) has the following processes: debarking, (2) head saws, a resaw, an edging saw, and a trim saw. Debarking is located outside, while the rest of the mill is located inside a single building. All of the sawdust and trimmings fall to a conveyor that takes it to a chipper/screen. The chips are loaded in a truck and sold, while the saw dust is processed through a cyclone and then stored in an enclosure. The sawmill has a file room where saw blades are sharpened/maintained. The file room has no capture or control associated with the blade sharpeners, etc.**

**The new sawmill is similar to the original sawmill. Logs are debarked prior to entering the building where the logs are processed. The new sawmill has two head saws, a resaw, an edging saw and a trim saw. Saw dust and trimmings are conveyed to a chipper/screen with the sawdust being conveyed to a cyclone and then stored in an enclosure. The chips are conveyed into a truck. The new sawmill also has a file room that does not have capture or control associated with the blade sharpeners, etc.**

During the previous inspection, the sawmill processes were evaluated for exemption from permitting under Rule 285(2)(I)(vi)(c) as well as Rule 290. Staff at that time calculated PM emissions of 240 pounds per month based on 9,000,000 board feet processed per year. Based on that emission estimate, the new sawmill would still have emissions less than the allowed 500 pounds per month under Rule 290, assuming a maximum annual throughput of 14 million board feet.

The debarking processes appears to be exempt under Rule 285(gg), which exempts equipment used for chipping, flaking, or hogging wood or wood residues that are not demolition waste materials.

The processes associated with the file rooms appear to be exempt from permitting under Rule 285(2)(I)(vi)(A) or (B), since the processes are used on a nonproduction basis, and they are vented to the general in-plant environment.

The facility has two outdoor wood boilers on-site. One boiler heats the building that contains the offices, while the second boiler heats the new sawmill building. The larger of the two outdoor wood boilers is associated with the new sawmill and has a maximum Btu rating of 2.2 MM Btu/12 hr. (manufacturer specification data) based on hardwood 18% moisture. The outdoor wood boilers appear to be exempt from air permitting under Rule 282(2)(b)(iii). Observation of the boiler associated with the new sawmill showed some opacity from the stack. Observation of the logs used to fire the boiler showed them to be wet and stored uncovered. EG discussed the possibility of less opacity and more efficient combustion associated with burning dry wood. EG explained Rule 301 and the 6-minute average opacity limit.

Based on the information and observations made during this inspection, the facility appears to be in compliance with applicable air quality rules and regulations.

NAME Eric Grinstern

DATE 01/25/2023

SUPERVISOR 