

B3234

MAVILA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Scheduled Inspection

B323455463

FACILITY: WOLVERINE GASKET DIVISION		SRN / ID: B3234
LOCATION: 2638 PRINCESS STREET, INKSTER		DISTRICT: Detroit
CITY: INKSTER		COUNTY: WAYNE
CONTACT:		ACTIVITY DATE: 04/17/2020
STAFF: Stephen Weis	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Compliance inspection of the Eagle-Picher Wolverine Gasket facility in Inkster. The Wolverine Gasket facility is scheduled for inspection in FY 2020.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Location:

EaglePicher Wolverine Gasket (SRN B3234)
2638 Princess Street
Inkster 48126

Dates of Activity:

Friday, April 17, 2020

Personnel Present:

Steve Weis, EGLE-AQD Detroit Office

Purpose of Activity

A self-initiated inspection of the EaglePicher Wolverine Gasket (hereinafter "Wolverine Gasket") facility in Inkster was conducted on Friday, April 17, 2020. The Wolverine Gasket facility was added to my list of sources targeted for an inspection during FY 2020. The purpose of this inspection was to determine the status of the Wolverine Gasket facility, which has active Wayne County and AQD permits, and by extension to determine compliance of the Wolverine Gasket facility with applicable rules, regulations and standards as promulgated by Public Act 451 of 1994 (NREPA, Part 55 Air Pollution Control), and with applicable Federal air quality standards.

Facility Site Description

The Wolverine Gasket facility property is located on the south side of Trowbridge Street, west of John Daly Road in Inkster. The facility's main entrance was essentially an extension of Princess Street, which runs south from Michigan Avenue, south of Trowbridge. The facility parcel is roughly 4.5 acres in area. The parcel is bounded by John Daly Road to the east, Trowbridge Street to the north, the Norfolk Southern railroad right-of-way to the south, and commercial properties to the west. The properties on the south side of the railroad right-of-way consist of commercial, institutional, and industrial uses, including Precision Material Handling Equipment, a Ford Paint & Body Technology Center, some City of Inkster offices, and Valicor Environmental Services.

Much of the area around the former Wolverine Gasket facility property is residential. The closest residential properties to the facility parcel are directly across Trowbridge Street on the north side of the street; the area between Michigan Avenue and Trowbridge contains primarily residential properties.

Facility Operations

The Wolverine Gasket facility manufactured adhesive gaskets for use in the automotive industry. The facility operated a process line that produced gaskets and was equipped with a thermal oxidizer for air emissions control.

In April of 2004, AQD received an email communication from EaglePicher asking where to send a request to void the facility's permits as all of the process equipment had been removed from the facility. The company had moved production from the Wolverine Gasket facility, and planned to use the facility for warehousing. A copy of the email exchange with EaglePicher is attached to this report for reference. A site visit in July of 2004 confirmed that the process equipment had been permanently removed from the facility, and that the building was being used for warehousing at that time.

Eventually, EaglePicher ceased all operations at their Inkster facility, and sold the facility.

Current Operating Status

The current status of the facility was checked due to the facility's permits still being classified as active in AQD databases. The building was demolished in 2018, and the parcel of land was cleared. EGLE-AQD Asbestos staff provided me with a "Notification of Intent to Renovate/Demolish" form for the 26731 Trowbridge address that looks to address the demolition of the Wolverine Gasket facility building structure, and that the demolition activity took place between August 30 and October 31, 2018. A copy of the Notification form is attached to this report.

At this time, there is a small building that is advertised as containing a cannabis processing facility that is located on what looks to be on the west side of the former Wolverine Gasket parcel. There is a mailbox in front of the building that displays an address of 2642, which is presumably Princess Street. In the area in the center of the parcel, at the time of my visit, there were some concrete foundations with hoop-shaped metal frames affixed to them. The configuration looked like the frames for future greenhouses. There was nothing else of note on the parcel that formerly contained the Wolverine Gasket facility.

Inspection Narrative

I visited the area of the former Wolverine Gasket facility on Friday, April 17, 2020 to investigate an odor complaint in the area. The complaint alleged odors from a facility along Princeton Street to the south. I arrived in the area just before 9:00am, and I started investigating in the area of

the former Wolverine Gasket facility along Trowbridge Street. As I noted in my investigation report associated with the complaint, I detected an odor along Trowbridge that I attributed to the cannabis processing facility that is located on the former Wolverine Gasket property.

As mentioned in the last section of this report, during the April 17 visit to the area, other than the building associated with the cannabis processing operation and what looked like frames for greenhouses being erected, the rest of the property was empty.

Permits/Regulations/Orders/Other

Permits

There are currently three active permits listed in AQD's Permit Cards database for the Wolverine Gasket facility – two Wayne County permits, C-11430 and C-11431 for a nauta mixer, and for a coil coater line and associated process tanks, and one state permit, PTI No. 230-96 for a coil coating operation. These permits served as synthetic minor permits for the facility.

As mentioned previously in this report, EaglePicher sent notification to AQD in April of 2004 to provide notification that all of the process equipment had been removed from the facility, and to request that the facility's permits be voided. A search of the Detroit District Office's "The Detroit Database" Microsoft Access facility tracking database includes an entry for the facility that includes the comment that the facility has shut down.

The permits listed in Permit Cards will be noted as voided and the AQD records will be updated accordingly.

Compliance Determination

Based upon the results of the April 17, 2020 site visit and subsequent information about the facility, the EaglePicher Wolverine Gasket facility at 2638 Princess Street has permanently ceased operations. The former facility's building structure has been demolished, and the facility's parcel of property is being repurposed. Accordingly, the facility file can be voided.

Attachments to this report: A copy of an email exchange with EaglePicher from 2004 that discusses the removal of the process equipment from the facility; a copy of the "Notification of Intent to Renovate/Demolish" form for the 26731 Trowbridge address.

NAME



DATE

1/17/21

SUPERVISOR

JK