

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

B563767766

FACILITY: MIDLAND IRON WORKS		SRN / ID: B5637
LOCATION: 57 W CHIPPEWA RIVER RD, MIDLAND		DISTRICT: Bay City
CITY: MIDLAND		COUNTY: MIDLAND
CONTACT: Steve Dent , Owner		ACTIVITY DATE: 06/14/2023
STAFF: Benjamin Witkopp	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Inspection of small foundry		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On June 14, 2023, Ben Witkopp of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) - Air Quality Division (AQD) went to 57 West Chippewa River Road, Midland, Michigan to check the status of Midland Iron Works. The facility operations are covered by air use permit 17-76. The facility is down to one employee, Al, and it is currently up for sale. Al has worked there for 25 years.

Al was in the process of making some green sand molds. He took the time to give a brief tour of the operations. The company makes its cores by using resin and catalyst. The resin used is Chem-rez Flexset 347 while the catalyst is Chem-rez CO90B. The foundry receives ingots and does not use raw scrap material. Al did not know where the ingots were purchased. The metal is melted in a small electric induction furnace with a capacity of less than one ton per hour. The molten metal is then poured into green sand molds. Al said they make counterweights. He did have a scrap counterweight handy and it was only about a foot long. Once cooled the product goes through a finishing operation to remove any burrs etc. Air use permit 17-76 has a single requirement that limits opacity to 20%. At the time of the visit there were no activities occurring capable of producing opacity.

Midland Iron Works is subject to 40 CFR Part 63 subpart ZZZZZ, the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Iron and Steel Foundries area sources. The company must make semiannual reports. However, Part C of the reports was left blank. Part C concerns the sourcing specifications of the metal being used. It also has a no methanol requirement for the catalyst.

On June 16, 2023 a call was made to Steve Dent the owner of the company. A request was made for an invoice to show the type of raw metal being used. The call was not returned. A similar plea was made on August 1, 2023.

Eventually contact was made and Steve said the foundry had closed and could be checked any time to verify it. A letter dated August 8, 2023 was received. In the letter, Steve sadly announced the closure of Midland Iron Works and requested the air permit be voided. Removal of equipment had commenced. A copy of the letter was provided to the AQD permit section and to the Emissions Reporting and Assessment Unit. This action was taken to ensure the facility was taken out of the AQD tracking system and that it would no longer be subject to fees.

Midland Iron Works is considered permanently closed.

NAME B. Witkopp

DATE 8/29/23

SUPERVISOR C. Mace