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

M438344260

FACILITY: FORT IRON & METAL		SRN / ID: M4383
LOCATION: 9607 DEARBORN, DETROIT		DISTRICT: Detroit
CITY: DETROIT		COUNTY: WAYNE
CONTACT: Frank DeNardo, President		ACTIVITY DATE: 04/30/2018
STAFF: Jonathan Lamb	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Scheduled inspection, FY 2018		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

INSPECTED BY: Jonathan Lamb, AQD  
PERSONNEL PRESENT: Joe DeNardo, Facilities Manager; George Curran, Attorney  
FACILITY PHONE NUMBER: (313) 841-8658  
FACILITY CONTACT: Frank DeNardo, President

**FACILITY BACKGROUND:**

Fort Iron & Metal is a scrap metal recycler which processes commercial and industrial scrap for use in the steel industry. [Note: the facility was previously known as Hog Brothers, LLC, but was under the same ownership as it is today.] The facility is located on a 7-acre parcel in a mixed industrial and residential area and has access to a rail line which runs through the property. This site has been operated as a scrapyards since the mid-1990's, though the company has expanded the property in the past few years. There are approximately 30 employees on site and hours of operation are 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, with occasional weekends.

**COMPLAINT/COMPLIANCE HISTORY:**

Over the past several years, AQD has received numerous complaints alleging fallout, torch cutting, odors, and track out from this facility. The facility (as Hog Brothers) was issued a Violation Notice for exceeding the 6-minute opacity limit during torch cutting on February 9, 2011.

On April 5, 2018, AQD was contacted by Rep. Stephanie Chang's office regarding citizen concerns about large piles of material which recently appeared on the facility's property. This issue is discussed in the inspection narrative below.

**PROCESS DESCRIPTION AND INSEPTION NARRATIVE:**

I arrived at the facility on the afternoon of April 30, 2018, and met with Mr. Joe DeNardo, Facilities Manager. Upon my arrival, Mr. DeNardo contacted the company's attorney, George Curran, who was driving to the site to participate in the inspection. While we waited for Mr. Curran, Mr. DeNardo gave me an overview of facility operations. Once Mr. Curran arrived, we went outside to walk the property and observe operations.

Fort Iron & Metal receives scrap metal (primarily ferrous materials) from commercial and industrial sources, including steel production, auto manufacturing, machine shops, and demolition activities; no scrap is purchased from the general public. This facility does not accept junk cars or appliances.

Scrap is delivered via truck or railcar during normal working hours. The company owns a spur off the main rail which runs through the facility and allows the company access to the railcars for loading and unloading through a contract with CSX. Up to twelve railcars of material may be unloaded per day. After scrap material is unloaded, it is sorted into type and segregated into individual piles for processing. Material handlers (magnetic cranes) are used to load and unload materials and move scrap to various piles.

These storage piles are segregated into various materials, including mill scale, grindings/shavings, kish, borings, metal turnings, and larger metal scrap. Mr. DeNardo informed me that the metal turnings are scrap from machine shops and have been pre-cleaned before arrival to remove residual oil and grease. The piles of mill scale, grindings/shavings, and kish are a finer material which looks like soil or aggregate from afar. These piles develop a "crust" on the surface when exposed to moisture, which helps control fugitive emissions from the piles during normal storage; however, fugitive emissions can be produced when moving material to or from the piles. During the inspection, material handlers were being used to move material. I observed some minor fugitive emissions

generated while the material was being moved but the dust did not appear to be traveling off site at this time.

There are three shearers which cut large pieces of metal into smaller pieces. The shearers were not in operation during the inspection, but based on past observations of shearing operations, the shearers do not appear to generate any appreciable particulate emissions to the ambient air and would therefore not be required to be permitted under AQD regulations.

There are approximately 50 propane-fueled torches on site which are also used to cut large pieces of scrap into smaller pieces. Since the torch cutting is performed on a production basis outside without control, the torches do not qualify as exempt under R.285(2)(j). During the inspection, I observed torch cutting being performed on site with some opacity being generated from the cutting. I did not perform Method 9 readings, but the opacity appeared to exceed 20% based on casual observation.

The sorted and processed scrap metal is delivered via railcar or truck to customers for reuse in steel production. Customers include steel mills both local (AK Steel and US Steel) and out of state.

The company also owns the property across the street, which it uses for storing empty roll-off boxes. No processing is performed on this lot.

There are several exempt storage tanks on the property:

- one 1,000-gallon diesel tank and one 2,000-gallon diesel tank, which are used to fuel equipment on site. These tanks are exempt per R.284(2)(d).
- one 1,000-gallon propane tank used to fuel portable torches. This tank is exempt per R.284(2)(b).
- one 1,500-gallon oxygen tank used as an accelerant for torch cutting. This tank is exempt per R.284(2)(j).

During the inspection, I enquired about the numerous large piles of material which recently appeared on the property. According to Mr. Curran, most of this material had been previously stored inside a building owned by the company located at 330 S. Livernois in Detroit (SRN A7785). That property was claimed by the state under eminent domain as part of the impending Gordie Howe International Bridge construction, so the materials were moved to 9607 Dearborn location several weeks ago. Mr. Curran stated the company is looking for a new location to store this material, but until then the material will be stored and processed at this location. I informed Mr. Curran and Mr. DeNardo that while the storage piles themselves do not appear to violate AQD rules, the facility should take measures to reduce the potential of nuisance dust from the piles impacting nearby residential areas. Recommended measures include limiting material handling on windy days and decreasing the height of the storage piles.

### **APPLICABLE RULES/PERMIT CONDITIONS:**

There are no permits issued to this facility and the facility is considered a true minor source of air pollutants.

On December 20, 2016, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Air Quality Division (AQD), finalized changes to Part 2 of the Michigan Air Pollution Control Rules. Specifically, Rule 336.1285(j) was amended, which pertains to portable torch cutting. The amended Rule 336.1285(2)(j) states that the requirement of Rule 336.1201(1) to obtain a permit to install (PTI) does not apply to any of the following:

- (j) Portable torch cutting equipment that does not cause a nuisance or adversely impact surrounding areas and is used for either of the following:
  - (i) Activities performed on a non-production basis, such as maintenance, repair, and dismantling.
  - (ii) Scrap metal recycling and/or demolition activities that have emissions that are released only into the general in-plant environment and/or that have externally vented emissions equipped with an appropriately designed and operated enclosure and fabric filter.

Fort Iron & Metal was notified of these changes by AQD in a letter dated March 31, 2017. While performing the inspection, I discussed the change in the exemption requirements with Mr. DeNardo and Mr. Curran and informed them that open, uncontrolled torch cutting is no longer exempt from permitting and that the practice, if continued, would be a violation of Air Quality rules.

### **FUGITIVE DUST CONTROL:**

