

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

M473253748

FACILITY: AmCane Sugar LLC		SRN / ID: M4732
LOCATION: 21010 TROLLEY INDUSTRIAL DRIVE, TAYLOR		DISTRICT: Detroit
CITY: TAYLOR		COUNTY: WAYNE
CONTACT: John Lang , VP Operations		ACTIVITY DATE: 05/28/2020
STAFF: Terseer Hemben	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Sugar Processing Plant		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

AmCane Sugar LLC: Inspection

On May 28, 2020, I arrived at the premises of the AmCane Sugar LLC at 1130 hours. The purpose of this visit was to conduct a surveillance on the facility's operation status and emission compliance. The EGLE-AQD had been in communication with the AmCane Sugar facility for 3 years regarding the resolution of previous violation notices issued to the Company. The conversations between the EGLE-AQD and AmCane Sugar LLC regarding the violations and necessary compliance resolution is captured in the Appendix A.

Summarily, the AmCane Sugar LLC submitted to the EGLE-AQD that the violation issues regarding the boiler stacks were resolved and the company was prepared to set up a stack testing session for compliance. According to the facility manager, John Cieslowski, a testing consultant was contacted for the testing service and negotiations were underway. The lockdown and quarantine order slowed compliance pursuit activities at the facility as confirmed by on-site surveillance conducted in March 2020. I wrote to the AmCane Sugar management requesting an update on the progress of testing arrangements. Staff received no response. Spurred by the media publications that AmCane was closing its operations on March 1, 2020, I made follow up phone calls to the management and left voicemail messages requesting updates. Up to the time of reporting, the AQD has not received the updates requested.

Summarily, based on conversations listed in the Appendices, I visited the facility on May 28, 2020 to ascertain the facility's operation status. I observed activities going on at the facility. There were bands of crews cleaning the inside of the facility and feeding the trailer bin located in one of the bay doors. No unusual odor was detected in the cleaning and binning area.

I observed the stacks were not active. The stacks exit points indicated zero opacity. I noticed the cooling tower water was in operation, however the system fan was being idled without a duty load. I drove around the facility and observed the technical contractors were entering and leaving the building using the back doors. There were several Palmer Inc. mover-vehicles parked in front of the building. None of the crew members seen on the site wore a Covid19 PPE. I did not exit my vehicle or engage anyone at the site. I left the area at 1240 hours.

I called the facility phone from my vehicle. The voicemail recording device activated. I left a message for John Cieslowski to return my call. I followed up with an email message to John after I returned to my work computer. The email message bounced back undelivered. The appended return message from the SOM OUTLOOK mail system informed the email addresses were not active.

In conclusion, the AmCane Sugar facility did not confirm if the facility is operational or closed to business at the location. Further visits are planned for confirmation. Further google search indicated that Michigan Sugar advertised open positions for their plants located at several sites. However, the Taylor location was not listed among the Company sites.

Appendix A

Hi John,

Please give me an update on your facility operating status. I performed a surveillance on the facility and observed operational activity on May 28, 2020.

Please provide an update on the Boilers and Stack Testing preparations.

Regards,

Terseer Hemben, DM.

313-208-6193

From: Cieslowski, John <John.Cieslowski@Michigansugar.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 12:15 PM
To: Lang, John <John.Lang@Michigansugar.com>; Hemben, Terseer (EGLE) <HEMBENT@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Update from AmCane

Dr. Hemben,

So you are aware, I was able to contact a 2nd company and we have been in discussions. They have all of the initial information they've requested and are in the process of preparing a quote.

Thank you, I will keep you informed on progress,

John Cieslowski

Food Safety and Regulatory Manager

AmCane Sugar LLC

21020 Trolley Industrial Drive | Taylor, MI 48180

Work: 313-299-1300, ext. 106

John.Cieslowski@MichiganSugar.com

[Web](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Lang, John
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 7:15 AM
To: Hemben, Terseer (EGLE)
Cc: Cieslowski, John
Subject: Update from AmCane

Hello Dr. Hemben,

Quick update on progress.

1) We have sent some information to the stack gas testing company we contacted. On Monday, I will send them a copy of our permit. They need the information to write and submit a test protocol.

2) I have not heard back from Jenifer Dixon, InfoBoilerNeshap@michigan.gov, or 517-284-6892 but after looking around some more on the EGLE website and running their online tool, I'm not sure she's the right person. I am out of town until Monday 12/2 and will pick up this immediately.

Best regards,

John Lang

VP Ops

AmCane Sugar LLC

21020 Trolley Industrial Drive | Taylor, MI 48180

Work: 313-299-0234 | Cell: 734-355-2607 | Fax: 313-299-1302

John.Lang@MichiganSugar.com

Determination

Staff reviewed communication from John Cieslowski stating the company had finally moved the business out of the address and determined the Company was not doing substantial business at the facility. Staff made a non-contact surveillance trip to the facility and determined a draft letter would be necessary to void the company's permits in due course.

NAME T.H.

DATE 7/28/2021

SUPERVISOR J.K.