

N0226

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

N022655461

FACILITY: HINKLE MANUFACTURING, LLC		SRN / ID: N0226
LOCATION: 6340 MILLER RD, DEARBORN		DISTRICT: Detroit
CITY: DEARBORN		COUNTY: WAYNE
CONTACT:		ACTIVITY DATE: 09/25/2020
STAFF: Stephen Weis	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Compliance inspection of the Hinkle Manufacturing, LLC facility in Dearborn. The Hinkle facility is scheduled for inspection in FY 2020.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Location:**Hinkle Manufacturing, LLC (SRN N0226)****6340 Miller Road****Dearborn, MI 48126****Dates of Activity:****Friday, September 25, 2020****Personnel Present:****Steve Weis, EGLE-AQD Detroit Office****Purpose of Activity**

A self-initiated inspection of the Hinkle Manufacturing, LLC (hereinafter "Hinkle") facility was conducted on Friday, September 25, 2020. The Hinkle facility was on my list of sources targeted for an inspection during FY 2020. The purpose of this inspection was to determine compliance of operations at the Hinkle 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 Hinkle facility property is located on the east side of Miller Road between Ford Road and Warren Avenue in Dearborn. The parcel of property that the Hinkle facility operated on is just over 3 acres in size, and it is located on the east side of Miller between Haggerty and Hemlock Streets. The facility consists of a building that is just under 58,000 square feet in size that includes an office area in the western part of the building near Miller Road and a manufacturing/storage area.

The Hinkle facility property is located in an area of Dearborn that is a mix of residential, industrial, commercial, and institutional properties. The area to the west of the Hinkle property on the west side of Miller Road is a dense residential neighborhood; the closest residential properties to the Hinkle facility are apartment/townhouse-type buildings directly across Miller Road, about 50 yards to the west of the facility building. The Great Revelations Academy school is located on the east side of Miller Road directly to the north of the facility, and the Bint Jebail Cultural Center/banquet hall and the Detroit Furniture Warehouse are located to south. There is a small open/wooded area to the east of the facility property, with a railroad right-of-way running to the east of the property. There is a large lot that is currently used to park new vehicles to the east of the railroad right-of-way, and various commercial and industrial properties with frontage along Wyoming Avenue, including the EnviroSolids, LLC facility (SRN B9080).

Facility Operations

Hinkle Manufacturing was a packaging manufacturer that was headquartered in Perrysburg, Ohio. According to the company's website, which is still active (www.hinklemfg.com), the company was founded in 1962, and focused on providing returnable and recyclable packaging and dunnage, with a focus on packaging and dunnage for use in the automotive industry.

The Hinkle facility in Dearborn was identified as Hinkle North within the company. The facility was formerly owned and operated by Carroll Packaging and was purchased by Hinkle in 2008. There is a Carroll Products facility located in Sterling Heights (N3143) that is also involved in producing packaging; their website mentions that the company a manufacturer of packaging for parts for the automotive industry and now provides flexible packaging for a variety of markets with an emphasis on retail food packaging. It is unclear as to whether there is any relation between the former Carroll Packaging in Dearborn and Carroll Products.

Current Operating Status

In May of 2018, Hinkle Manufacturing was purchased by Orbis Corporation, a Wisconsin-based product supply chain company. By June 2018, it was announced that Orbis would be permanently closing the manufacturing facilities that were formerly owned and operated by Hinkle – the plant in Perrysburg, Ohio and the facility located at 6340 Miller Road in Dearborn, which was scheduled to close by December 25, 2018. Attached to this report is a company press release announcing Orbis' acquisition of Hinkle, and an article from *The Toledo Blade* newspaper reporting the closure of the Hinkle facilities.

When I visited the facility on September 25, there was a For Lease sign in front of the building. Attached to this report is real estate listing for the building and facility property from the RealtyTrac website, and a recent leasing listing for the property.

The Hinkle facility is permanently closed, and the building and facility property are currently unoccupied.

Inspection Narrative

I visited the Hinkle facility on Friday, September 25, 2020, arriving at 1:20pm. I noted the “For Lease” sign in front of the building, and that the parking lot was empty. I parked in the lot, and I walked around the building. I took some pictures of the front of the building and the “For Lease” sign, and I walked around the building. I looked through the windows on some of the doors, noting that the office area looked to be empty, and the portions of the manufacturing/warehousing area of the building were largely empty aside from a few older vehicles that were parked inside of the building. I have attached pictures that I took in these areas of the facility.

I left the facility and after returning home, I looked up some information regarding the facility. As mentioned previously, the Hinkle website is still active. I tried calling one of the phone numbers that is listed for the facility, and the phone kept ringing. There is also a contact email address provided on the company website. I sent an email to the address, and I received a response providing that my email was undeliverable. A copy of the email exchange is attached to this report.

I checked the real estate listing for the property which provided some details about the property and its status; a copy of information from the Realty Trac and Signature and Associates websites are attached to this report. I also researched the company via a web search and I read through some news articles and company information relating to the sale of Hinkle to Orbis in 2018, and the subsequent closure of the Hinkle facility in Dearborn later that year. Copies of a couple of these articles are attached to this report.

Permits/Regulations/Orders/Other

Permits

There do not appear to be any active permits associated with the Hinkle facility. A search of AQD’s Permit Cards database for “Hinkle”, “Carroll”, the facility’s SRN, and the facility address showed no permits. A search of the Detroit District Office’s “The Detroit Database” Microsoft Access facility tracking database shows one permit associated with Hinkle and the N0226 SRN – a state permit identified as 97-92 for a paint spray booth that was approved on May 1, 1993, and no Wayne County permits. A check of the Permit Cards database shows that PTI No. 97-92 was issued on May 1, 1993 to address a paint spray booth, but the permit was issued to a car dealership in Farmington Hills, completely unrelated to the operations at the Carroll Packaging or Hinkle facilities. Thus, it looks as though there were no permits issued for the facility under either owner/operator.

Compliance Determination

Based upon the results of the September 25, 2020 site visit and subsequent information about the facility, the Hinkle Manufacturing, LLC facility at 6340 Miller Road in Dearborn has permanently ceased operations. Accordingly, the facility file can be voided.

Attachments to this report: Company press release regarding Orbis Corporation purchasing Hinkle; real estate listings for the Hinkle facility property; pictures of the facility taken during the site visit; copy of a returned email to the company; copies of a couple of articles relating to the closure of the Hinkle facilities.

NAME Steve W.

DATE 1/4/21

SUPERVISOR JK