

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

N111257740

FACILITY: W MICHIGAN AUTO STEEL & EN		SRN / ID: N1112
LOCATION: 550 E ELLIS, BELDING		DISTRICT: Grand Rapids
CITY: BELDING		COUNTY: IONIA
CONTACT: Herman Siegel III , President		ACTIVITY DATE: 04/13/2021
STAFF: Eric Grinstern	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Unannounced inspection to evaluate operating/compliance status		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On-site inspection conducted to evaluate the current operation and compliance status. The facility was previously issued VNs for failing to obtain a PTI for a small aluminum foundry operation.

Staff arrived on-site for an unannounced inspection and observed that there were no vehicles around the building housing the foundry operation. Staff observed that there were used shell molds in a roll-off dumpster located outside the facility, indicating that the facility was still engage in aluminum casting. Staff proceeded to a separate building on-site used for machining. Staff made contact with a worker who stated that limited aluminum casting is still being conducted. Staff made contact with the owner, Herman Siegel. Mr. Siegel stated that they are still operating the aluminum foundry, but are actively seeking to sell or contract with another facility to conduct the casting.

Staff explained that that the facility never followed up with submitting a complete PTI application. Mr. Siegel acknowledged not following through with providing the requested information to AQD Permits.

An inspection of the foundry operation was completed. Proper PPE and social distance were maintained due to the COVID pandemic. The process was not in operation since casting is normally conducted at night. The facility employs two workers that run the foundry operation. The facility has one gas-fired crucible furnace with a maximum holding capacity of 600 pounds. The facility only melts spec aluminum ingot and internal runaround. Annual melt is estimated at 13 tons. Mr. Siegel stated that they do not use any flux in the furnace. The facility utilizes shell cores and molds, which are made on-site with precoated sand. The facility has one gas-fired core machine and two gas-fired mold machines, that heat set the shell sand. The core and mold machines are low volume, vintage machines. The molds with cores are placed in one of four rectangular sand pits where they are poured with aluminum. After pouring, knock-off occurs adjacent to the sand pits. The facility conducts some finishing operations, such as cut-off. None of the processes have direct exhaust to the outside atmosphere or control.

Permitting Status:

Crucible Furnace: Exempt from permitting via Rule 282(2)(iv) - under 1,000 pound capacity, no fluxing

Shell Mold and Core Making: Possible Rule 290 or 291 exempt - limit production

Pouring/Cooling/Shakeout - Possible Rule 290 or 291 exempt - limited production

Finishing Operations - Exempt from permitting via Rule 285(2)(l)(vi)(B)

The facility was given until April 23, 2021, to start the process of submitting a permit application or to submit a determination that some or all of the foundry processes are exempt. The facility was also requested to provide status updates for permitting or exempting the processes.

On April 20, 2021 the facility provided an email stating that they had contacted a consultant who was compiling information on the facility's emissions to determine the proper route of permitting or exempting.

The facility remains out of compliance until they either receive a PTI or submit documentation of exemption.

NAME *Eric Grinstern*

DATE 4/21/2021

SUPERVISOR *HH*