

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

N192564897

FACILITY: HOMESTEAD TOOL INC		SRN / ID: N1925
LOCATION: 4361 N M 18, COLEMAN		DISTRICT: Bay City
CITY: COLEMAN		COUNTY: MIDLAND
CONTACT: Tim Ewert, Plant Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 09/27/2022
STAFF: Benjamin Witkopp	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Facility Inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On September 27, 2022 Ben Witkopp of the Michigan Department of Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) - Air Quality Division (AQD) visited Homestead Tool. The facility was last inspected on September 30, 2009. The facility has air use permit 455-88. The permit covers a sheet molding compound manufacturing process. Tim Ewert was the contact as he stated the business owner just recently died.

The process covered by the permit was no longer on site. Tim said it was sold years ago to Quantum Composites. I told Tim I would ask Lansing Permit section to void the permit on his behalf given the ownership situation.

The remaining equipment consisted of machining operations being performed on metal items. The metal involved was aluminum. The operations are exempt via rule 285 (2) (i) (vi) (B) as the equipment has emissions that are released only into the general in-plant environment.

OBSERVATIONS

There are actually 4 buildings on the property, numbered 1 through 4. The building numbers begin with the one closest to the east. Homestead Tool is located in building 2. Tim stated there are three businesses.

Building 3 houses Homestead Products. It comprises operations involving plastic products. The far south end has four plastic injection molding machines. The north end is for storage of raw materials / warehousing. The middle of the building houses 3 vacuum forming (a.k.a. thermoforming) operations. Natural gas is burned to heat the plastic to desired temperatures so it can be molded. The combustion gases are externally exhausted. Two of the operations are 4 station units and the other is a single station. Polyethylene plastic is the vast majority of the material in use though Tim said they occasionally use some abs.

The injection molding is exempt from permitting via rule 286 (2) (b). The vacuum forming / thermoforming operations are exempt from permitting via rule 286 (2) (d).

Building 4 had been used primarily for storage but was currently being used by Robinson Industries which is located north of Homestead. Robinson had a fire burn down their buildings housing thermoforming equipment and they were in the process of setting up some thermoforming equipment. The equipment would be exempt via rule 286 (2) (d).

Building 1 houses Homestead Foundry. The west side of the building is dedicated to making forms by hand. The east side contains the foundry. A two part resin system is used to act as a binder in sand to make molds. One material is Alpha Resins 8018

Pt I and the other is Alphathane NB 1151 Pt II. The true status of the foundry needs to be explored further as several exemptions may apply based on the type of furnace, fluxes used, if any etc. There is the possibility of federal regulations too.

CONCLUSION

Homestead Tool, as a single entity, located in building 2, is considered to be in compliance. The relationship between the various other companies at this location, as well as the specific operations at Homestead Foundry, needs further investigation.

NAME B. Zentgraf

DATE 9-29-2022 SUPERVISOR C. Gore