

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

N315328988

FACILITY: AMERICAN GRAPHITE CORP		SRN / ID: N3153
LOCATION: 21756 DEQUINDRE RD, WARREN		DISTRICT: Southeast Michigan
CITY: WARREN		COUNTY: MACOMB
CONTACT: Ken Smith, President		ACTIVITY DATE: 03/31/2015
STAFF: Sebastian Kallumkal	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: Minor
SUBJECT: Onsite Inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On Tuesday, March 31, 2015, I conducted scheduled annual inspection at American Graphite Corporation located at 21756 Dequindre Road, Warren, Michigan. The purpose of the inspection was to verify facility's compliance with the requirements of Article II, Air Pollution Control, Part 55 of Act 451 of 1994 and Permit to Install No. 955-91.

I arrived at the facility about 2:00 PM. At the facility I met with Mr. Kenneth Smith, President. I introduced myself and stated the purpose of my visit. I provided him the MDEQ Brochure for Environmental Inspections: Rights and Responsibilities.

He explained that facility is involved in the machining of graphite blocks (dyes) for various industries such as road construction (binder saw/diamond blade), heat treating, glass manufacturing, vacuum pumps in books manufacturing industry, etc. At the time of my inspection one of the machine which makes dyes for binder blade tips were operating. The facility has about 15 machines, has two employees, and operates 8 hours for 4-6 days. He told me that the business is very slow. Their main business is making dyes for binder blades used in concrete cutting during road construction.

The emissions from the machining operations are vented to dust collector baghouse, situated out side of the building. The exhaust from the baghouse is vented to the atmosphere during summer time and into plant building during winter time. The baghouse was operating at the time of my inspection. The collected graphite powder is stored in a 55 gal barrel. We observed that the system was leaking and the graphite powder is accumulated around the hopper. Mr. Smith told me that he did not know the leak occurred and offered to clean the powder as soon as possible. One of the employees started vacuuming the dust back into the hopper.

He explained that he inspects the dust collection on a daily basis and leak must have happened today. The leak appeared to be recent because the powder was not wet from the previous night rain. I advised him that he may want to check the dust collector operations more often than once per day. A leakage of the dust collector is a violation of the permit conditions. The dust may also cause fall out complaints from neighbors. He agreed to monitor the dust collector operations more often. He informed me that he intends to replace the barrel with collection bags and install stopper valve which would stop the dust collector if the barrel/bag is full. He showed me the bag and connections. He is waiting for one more parts for the installation. He indicated that the new system will be installed in a month. Follow up inspections will be conducted to verify facility's compliance.

Compliance Evaluation:

Special conditions 14 and 16: The PTI limits the particulate emissions to 0.01 pounds per 1000 pounds of exhaust gas. Stack testing to verify this emission limit was not required unless requested by AQD. A properly installed bag house could comply with the PM emissions limit.

Special Condition 15: The PTI limits the visible emissions from the process to 0% opacity. The exhaust from the dust collector was vented back to the building. I did not observe any visible emissions from the dust collector.

Special Condition 17: The PTI requires the permittee to install and operate a baghouse properly to

operate the process. The baghouse is installed, but the dust was leaking during operation. The compliance will be verified in the future. He told me that due to lack of business the facility is not in operation every day.

Special Condition 18: The PTI requires the disposal of air contaminants collected to be performed in a manner which minimizes the introduction of air contaminants to the air. Mr. Smith offered to clean the leaked dust.

Special Condition 19: The PTI prohibits use of any other material in the process unless authorized by AQD. The permittee only uses graphite, which was permitted, for the process.

Conclusion: The dust collector operations will be verified in the future. A Violation Notice is not recommended because the facility started correcting the violation and offered to change into a better collection system.

NAME Sebastian J. Kallanta DATE 3/31/15 SUPERVISOR CJE

