

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

N534662986

<b>FACILITY:</b> MATTHEWS MILL, INC.		<b>SRN / ID:</b> N5346
<b>LOCATION:</b> 6400 E COUNTY LINE ROAD, SOUTH BRANCH		<b>DISTRICT:</b> Bay City
<b>CITY:</b> SOUTH BRANCH		<b>COUNTY:</b> IOSCO
<b>CONTACT:</b> Troy Kovach ,		<b>ACTIVITY DATE:</b> 05/24/2022
<b>STAFF:</b> Nathanael Gentle	<b>COMPLIANCE STATUS:</b> Compliance	<b>SOURCE CLASS:</b> MINOR
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Self-Initiated Onsite Inspection		
<b>RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:</b>		

On May 24, 2022, AQD staff conducted a self-initiated onsite inspection at Matthews Mill Sawmill, SRN N5346. Staff arrived onsite at 10:50 AM and departed at 11:10 AM. The purpose of the inspection was to determine compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act; Article II, Part 55, Air Pollution Control of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 Public Act 451; Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy, Air Quality Division (AQD) Administrative Rules; and to evaluate compliance with the facilities Permit to Install, PTI No. 462-94. Time was taken during the inspection to verify resolution of the Violation Notice (VN) issued to the facility on February 3, 2021. EGLE staff were assisted onsite by Mr. Troy Kovach. At the time of inspection, the facility was found to be in compliance.

### Facility Background and History

Matthews Mill Sawmill is a family-owned sawmill located at 6400 E County Line Rd, South Branch, MI. The facility specializes in sawing logs into pieces to be used for pallets. Equipment onsite includes a header saw, two splitter saws, a chipper, and heavy equipment for moving materials and logs. One Permit to Install (PTI) is associated with the facility, PTI No. 462-94. The permit was issued in October 1994 for a cyclone collector. District files indicate the cyclone collector was installed in 1994 following complaints from nearby residents. An inspection of the facility was last conducted on May 24, 2017. At the time of the 2017 inspection, the facility was found to be in compliance. Matthews Mill Sawmill is a minor source for all regulated air pollutants. The primary pollutant of concern is particulate matter (PM) generated from the sawing and grinding of wood onsite.

AQD began receiving citizen complaints regarding Matthews Mill Sawmill beginning in June 2020. Citizen complaints were for fugitive sawdust believed to be coming from the sawmill. Following a complaint received on 1/29/2021, an onsite complaint investigation was conducted at Matthews Mill on 2/2/2021. During the onsite complaint investigation, AQD staff observed excess fugitive dust. Sawdust produced during facility operation was not properly collected to minimize ambient air emissions. Additionally, sawdust collected from the control device was not stored in a manner to prevent reintroduction of contaminants to the outer air. A Letter of Violation (LOV) was issued to the facility on 2/3/2021 for violation of Rule 910 and Rule 370.

Matthews Mill was already in the process of designing a new dust containment system for their facility at the time the VN was issued. As part of their VN response, the facility was able to provide documentation showing a contract with contractors was already in place. Construction of the new sawdust collection and storage system began in September 2021. A variety of factors including, Covid-19, weather, scheduling with the contractors, and amendments to the collection

system design delayed the start of the project. The new system includes a replacement cyclone collector, new duct work, and a cement walled building in which the sawdust is collected and stored. The AQD last received a citizen complaint regarding Matthews Mill on 9/30/2021. Time was taken during the onsite inspection to observe the new sawdust collection system and to verify resolution of the outstanding VN.

## **Compliance Evaluation**

Matthews Mill Sawmill receives whole logs which are stacked onsite until they are cut. Whole logs are first fed through the head saw. The head saw uses a laser to systematically cut logs. Pieces cut in the head saw are then fed through one of two splitter saws. Staff explained one of the splitter saws contains six blades while the other contains two blades. Pieces from the head saw are fed into one of the two splitters depending on the desired size to be produced. The cut pieces are placed into bundles and sent to sales. Pieces of wood generated during the sawing process that cannot be sold are fed into an onsite chipper.

Sawdust generated by the head saw and splitter saws is collected in the newly installed sawdust collection system. Duct work is run from each of the three saws to the cyclone collector, Special Condition (S.C.) 19. Sawdust enters the cyclone collector and drops out into the cement walled building below. Staff report the cyclone collector is periodically monitored, including in the morning and again at noon to ensure the collection system is operating properly during facility operation. Saw dust remains in the cement walled storage building until it is removed and shipped out. The entrance to the storage building is equipped with plastic strips to help contain the stored sawdust. Chips and sawdust generated by the chipper are fed directly into an enclosed trailer. Collected particulate is disposed in a manner which minimizes the introduction of air contaminants to the outer air, S.C. 21. Sawdust and wood chips generated at the facility are sent to a burn plant where they are combusted for energy production.

Special Condition 17 states that visible emissions from the onsite process shall not exceed a 6-minute average of 10% opacity. During the onsite inspection, some fine dust could be observed in the air around the top of the cyclone collector. The opacity of the dust appeared to be 5% or less. Special Condition 16 states the particulate emission from the process shall not exceed 0.10 pound per 1,000 pounds of exhaust gases, calculated on a dry gas basis. Testing of this limit is required at the request of the district supervisor, S.C. 18. At this time, testing has not been requested for the facility. A PM10 limit of 4.5 pounds per hour and 9 ton per year is established by Special Condition 15. This limit is based on the facility operating 16 hours per day and 250 days per year. Facility staff verified the facility operates 16 hours a day, and less than 250 days a year.

The Matthews Mill facility is an unpaved facility. Onsite roadways include a combination of dirt and gravel roadways. AQD staff inquired about facility processes for minimizing fugitive dust from onsite truck traffic. Facility staff report a third-party company is hired to spray onsite roadways to control the dust. A local company completes the dust suppression spraying three times a year.

## **Summary**

Matthews Mill Sawmill is a family-owned sawmill located at 6400 E County Line Rd, South Branch, MI. The facility specializes in sawing logs into pieces to be used for pallets. Matthews Mill Sawmill is a minor source for all regulated air pollutants. The primary pollutant of concern is particulate matter (PM) generated from the sawing and grinding of wood onsite. One Permit to Install (PTI) is associated with the facility, PTI No. 462-94. The permit was issued in October 1994 for a cyclone collector. A Letter of Violation (LOV) was issued to the facility on 2/3/2021 for violation of Rule 910 and Rule 370. During an onsite complaint investigation conducted on 2/2/2021, AQD staff observed excess fugitive dust. Sawdust produced during facility operation was not properly collected to minimize ambient air emissions. Additionally, sawdust collected from the control device was not stored in a manner to prevent reintroduction of contaminants to the outer air. Construction of the new sawdust collection and storage system began in September 2021. The new system includes a replacement cyclone collector, new duct work, and a cement walled building in which the sawdust is collected and stored. During the onsite inspection, the new sawdust collection system was observed to be in operation. Based on onsite observations, it is recommended the VN issued on 2/3/2021 be resolved. At the time of inspection, the facility was found to be in compliance.

Nathanael Gentry

DATE 6/1/2022

SUPERVISOR Chris Hare

NAME