

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

N568660563

FACILITY: CENTRAL MICHIGAN CREMATORY		SRN / ID: N5686
LOCATION: 15150 6 1/2 MILE RD, BATTLE CREEK		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: BATTLE CREEK		COUNTY: CALHOUN
CONTACT: Michael Brutsche , President		ACTIVITY DATE: 10/20/2021
STAFF: Amanda Chapel	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT:		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On October 19, 2021, Amanda Chapel (staff) arrived at Central Michigan Crematory to conduct an unannounced air quality inspection of the crematory. The facility was last inspected by the AQD on October 30, 2018 and was determined to be in non-compliance at the time. The facility has four crematories on site with associated permits to install issued for each unit. The purpose of the inspection was to determine compliance with the permits to install and all other applicable state and federal air quality regulations.

I made initial contact with the secretary who called Mr. Kurt Dittmer, Supervisor and operator of the crematory. I provided my business card and said I was there to complete an unannounced air quality inspection. Mr. Dittmer met me in the office and we walked back to the crematory. Three of the four units were running at the time of the inspection. Regular business hours are 8am to 4:30 pm but with increased volume at the facility, cremation can be done between the hours of 5 am and 11 pm.

PTI 27-821

This PTI contains Unit A, a Matthew Model Power Pak (IE43) and it is used for human remains only. This was installed in 1983 and was in the process of cooling down. The setpoint of the temperature in the chamber was 1600. This did not have a temperature chart but there are no requirements to monitor the temperature continuously. The operational process is as follows for all the units: pre-heat the unit up to temperature for 30 minutes, the ignition burner turns on, then the cremation burner turns on. This unit can handle about 250 pounds for a cremation and it takes approximately 2-2.5 hours. In order to reduce charges, the progress is monitored, and the door is only opened to reposition, as needed.

Maintenance of all units is done daily, monthly, yearly, and as needed. The inside is cleaned after every use. Monthly, the electric eyes are cleaned which help determine high opacity issued. Yearly, Implant Recycling completes full maintenance on the units. Mr. Dittmer checks visible emissions during operation. Mr. Dittmer did say they do occasionally have opacity issues, which can be caused by the amount of fat on the body being processed. They adjust the temperature to try and reduce the opacity. There was a heat signature but no visible emissions from the stack during the inspection. This unit completed 88 cremations in August and 95 in September.

The facility appears to be in compliance with this permit.

PTI 486-95

This PTI contains Unit B, a Matthews Power Pak II (IE43-PPH) and it is used for human remains only. It was cooling down from a cycle during the inspection. The minimum temperature setting was 1600. It is operated like Unit A, described above. The temperature is recorded on a circle chart that was operational. The chart is changed every Monday, however the date on the chart was 10/11/21 which was the previous Monday. I suggested to Mr. Dittmer that he change the chart after the inspection and start it on the Tuesday of the circle chart. The temperatures on the overlap were still visible. There was a heat signature but no visible emissions from the stack during the inspection.

The preheating time on the unit is 30 minutes, as described above and as required by the permit. The maximum weight charged to this unit is 200 pounds. The facility keeps records of every body charged to a unit. These records were reviewed and they include the time and date, customer, name of the person, weight, date and time into the unit, tag #, and the date returned to the funeral home. The facility is also tracking number of cremations in each unit, monthly. In August, 86 cremations were in Unit B and in September, 97 cremations were completed in the unit.

The facility appears to be in compliance with this permit.

PTI 227-09

This permit contains EUCREMATORY4 or Unit E which is a Matthews Cremation Division Super Power Pak (IE43-SPP) Natural Gas, 750 Pound Max Charge, 200 Pounds/hr burn rate for human remains. This was also cooling down during the inspection. The temperature setting was 1600 degrees on the temperature reader. This was also equipped with a circle chart which was operational with a date of 10/11/21 on the chart. This was also recommended to be changed but the temperature was being recorded continuously.

This unit preheats for 30 minutes with low fire before the cremation burner turns out. This unit takes approximately 2-2.5 hours to complete a cremation and this can hold large bodies up to 500 to 600 pounds. Mr. Dittmer is a trained operator and has attending trainings throughout his career with CMC. This unit completed 87 cremations in August and 97 in September. There was a heat signature but no visible emissions from the stack during the inspection.

The facility appears to be in compliance with this permit.

PTI 485-95A

This permit contains EUCREMATORY3 or Unit C which is a Matthews Cremation Division Power Pack II (IE43-PPII) Natural Gas, 750 Pound Max Charge, 150 Pounds/hr burn rate for animal remains. This was not operational during the inspection. It was last operated on 10/18/21. The minimum temperature setting was 1600. Since it was not running, Mr. Dittmer turned the oven on to show the temperature setting on the monitor.

Records are maintained which include the time and date, customer, pet name, weight, date and time in, tag #, and date returned.

Mr. Dittmer brought me into the office to review temperature charts. For the most part, the temperatures reach above 1600 degrees with some fluctuations when the temperature got too high. There is a high temperature interlock set at 1750. When the temperature reaches 1750, the burners turn off to bring the temperature back down in the chamber. There were a few places on a one of the charts from the last week of September where the unit didn't reach the 1600 setpoint and there were large lines. Mr. Dittmer said that a thermocouple failed in the unit later that week and needed to be replaced. The temperature charts appeared normal after that part was replaced.

Mr. Dittmer also showed me the cooler and the types of caskets that are processed. They process cardboard, tray, and cremation caskets. The handles are removed before processing.

I thanked Mr. Dittmer for showing me around and left the facility. At the time of the inspection the facility appears to be in compliance with all permits.

NAME *Quinn Clupel*

DATE 10/22/21

SUPERVISOR *R/L* 10/22/21