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

N682745736

FACILITY: Mission Hills Memorial Gardens Inc		**SRN / ID:** N6827
LOCATION: 3001 M 51 N, NILES		**DISTRICT:** Kalamazoo
CITY: NILES		**COUNTY:** CASS
CONTACT: Bert Edquist , Owner		**ACTIVITY DATE:** 08/22/2018
STAFF: Amanda Chapel	**COMPLIANCE STATUS:** Compliance	**SOURCE CLASS:**
SUBJECT:		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On August 22, 2018, AQD's Amanda Chapel (staff) conducted an unannounced inspection of Mission Hills Memorial Gardens located in just outside of Niles, Cass County. The purpose of this inspection was to determine the facilities compliance with Permit to Install (PTI) 159-00 for a Power-Pak II Crematory Incinerator and all applicable state and federal air regulations. The following will summarize the facilities operations and compliance status.

I arrived at the facility at about 1:30pm. When driving by the front of the facility, no visible emissions or odors were observed. I parked and entered the main building. From here I entered the office and introduced myself to the secretary saying that I was from the Department of Environmental Quality and was there to do an unannounced air quality inspection and handed her a card. She went and got Mr. Bert Edquist, the owner of the facility. I said that I would like to see the crematory incinerator and view any records associated with it.

Mr. Edquist said that the facility bought and installed the incinerator in 2001. They have 3 staff to operate the crematory part of the business. They work 1 shift per day and typically operate Monday-Friday and sometimes Saturday. Typically, they process one unit per day but sometimes more depending on the amount at the facility. There are no boilers, emergency generators, or cold cleaners at the facility. They have one active air permit.

Mr. Edquist led me through the back of the building and into the crematory room. At the time of the inspection, the incinerators was cooling down and was at about 500 degrees F. There is a temperature wheel installed at the side of the incinerator which records the temperature continuously. It is sett o automatically shut down if the unit gets too hot, at about 2000 degrees F. Typical run temperature is about 1580-1620 degrees F. There is also an alert that sounds if particulate is going out the stack. A beam is projected across the stack and if anything is going out the stack and crosses the beam, the alarm will sound and the oven will know to self-correct. This is called a pollution alarm.

No waste is burned in the incinerator aside from pathological waste. It is swept and vacuumed after each unit is processed. Air is brough in through a vent at the back of the building. It is heated and flows beneath the chamber, then up and through the chamber, through the secondary retention area, and then out the stack. The temperature gauge shows that the incinerator is not operated unless a minimum temperature of 1400 degrees F is reached and there is a minimum of 1 second retention time in the secondary chamber.

Typically, Mr. Edquist or Kenny operate the incinerator which is vacuumed after each use. The unit must heat for a minimum of 20 minutes before use but it typically heats for at least hour. The combustion air into the unit is automated by the unit and set according to manufacturers settings. They have it serviced every 2-3 years and there is a call number for assistance if anything is not operating properly. Mr. Edquist showed me the records that are kept at the facility. The keep the circular charts in a file cabinet in chronological order. Since each unit takes about 3-4 hours to process, the date, time the incinerator is started, the start time of processing, and end time of processing are all written under the corresponding temperature marking on the circular chart. This satisfies both the permit requirement to keep records of the temperature in the combustion chamber and the records of period of time when pathological waste is burned. Up to three years of records were available for review.

Once the records were reviewed, Mr. Edquist and I walked around the back of the building. I observed the air intake vent and the outlet stack. There were no emissions or any fallout visible on the ground. We walked back through the main building, I thanked Mr. Edquist for his time, and left the facility around 2:10 pm.

It appears the facility is in compliance with PTI 159-00 and all other air quality regulations.

NAME [signature] DATE 8/23/18 SUPERVISOR MA 8/24/2018