

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

N703246680

FACILITY: Hartford Manufacturing Co		SRN / ID: N7032
LOCATION: 67901 Red Arrow Hwy, HARTFORD		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: HARTFORD		COUNTY: VAN BUREN
CONTACT: Shawn Forbes ,		ACTIVITY DATE: 10/16/2018
STAFF: Amanda Chapel	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT:		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On October 16, 2018, AQD's Amanda Chapel (staff) conducted an unannounced inspection of Hartford Manufacturing (facility) located in Hartford, Van Buren County. The purpose of this inspection was to determine compliance with Permit to Install (PTI) 272-01A for two densifiers controlled by a knock-out box equipped with a secondary mesh pad and all applicable state and federal air regulations. The following will summarize facility operations and compliance status.

I arrived at the facility at 11:00 am. The sign in front of the facility, along Red Arrow Highway read Environ Group. I drove past an empty guard house and to the front door. The facility looked abandoned. The front door was locked. I drove back toward the guard house and saw the gate was open with a newer chain and lock. I drove back around the east side of the building. Along the east side, plastic drums, pallets, and other various plastic materials. Behind the back of the main building is another building which appeared to have been used for more plastic storage. Here, the door was open and I saw a worker operating a forklift.

I parked the car and walked into the room. The two workers, one operating a forklift and one sweeping, came to talk to me. I introduced myself and explained I was there to do an air quality inspection and I asked if there was someone to talk to. They directed me further into the building. Mr. Shawn Forbes, Production Manager, come and introduced himself. I presented him with my credentials and a business card and explained why I was at the facility. He explained that Environ Group and Mr. James Trent purchased the property about 60 days before. The had begun work in the back building about 30 days prior. I asked him if he was aware the facility had an air permit through the previous owners and he said no. He also said the old equipment was all unused and either dismantled or disconnected. I asked for a tour of the current facility.

Mr. Forbes said the current operation is taking virgin plastic line and chopping it into smaller pieces. These smaller pieces, stored in plastic supersacs were then shipped off site to a plastic injection molding operation. There are currently two workers and himself working 1 shift per day, Monday to Friday. The operation was not running while I was on site and the equipment was bagged up to protect it from the dust of clearing out the old plastic detritus. Currently on site there is one granulator to cut the line into smaller pieces. This goes onto a conveyor to two buskirks which further cut the line. The buskirks are attached to an internally vented cyclone. The cut pieces are then conveyed into a plastic supersac and stored until they can be shipped off site. Mr. Forbes indicated the current plan is to connect the granulator to the cyclone as well so any small pieces can dropout from the cyclone into the buskirks. This operation appears to be exempted per Rule 285(2)(l)(vi)(b).

Mr. Forbes also shows me the dismantled equipment from the previous owner. He pointed out a conveyor with metal detector, vacuum, cyclone, and shredder/grinder which is currently in the building but dismantled and not operational. The company has no intention of using this equipment in their operation. He also showed me part of a dismantled densifier which was up on a shelf. He didn't know where the other parts to that densifier were or where the other one was. The current operation has no need for a densifier because they are just chopping virgin line, not pelletizing recycled plastic. There are no boilers or cold cleaners on site and only a small portable generator until the power can be turned back on. Currently, the main building is not accessible, locked, and not used by the current owners. It appeared to have more plastic detritus inside.

I gave Mr. Forbes an extra business card to give to Mr. Trent when he returned. Mr. Forbes didn't have any contact information on hand for Mr. Trent. I told him the facility is likely operating under exemptions and does not need an air permit. However, the new owners do need to apply to terminate the existing air permit for the location since all the equipment has been dismantled and is not going to be used. I also

told Mr. Forbes that if they do expand the operation and things become vented externally, they should call to see if they need a permit. I thanked him for his help and left the facility about 11:30am. As of October 17, I had not heard from Mr. Trent.

NAME Aaron Clyff

DATE 10/17/18

SUPERVISOR MD 10/17/2018