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

N772932107

FACILITY: MICHIGAN WOOD FUELS LLC		SRN / ID: N7729
LOCATION: 1125 INDUSTRIAL AVE, HOLLAND		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: HOLLAND		COUNTY: ALLEGAN
CONTACT: Kevin Dumont, Plant Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 11/03/2015
STAFF: Dale Turton	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: SM OPT OUT
SUBJECT:		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

An unannounced inspection was conducted on this wood pellet manufacturing company. The entire operation is operating under permit # 354-06H. Kevin Dumont is the new plant manager. He was not in the office during the inspection so James Ackerson took me on the plant tour and made me copies of some of their monitor tracking sheets.

EUBURNER

This burner is used to provide heat to the dryer for the drying of the wood chips. When starting up from a shutdown, they start up with a pile of dry material manual placed on the burner hearth. After the material is lit, the door is closed, and combustion air is introduced. The emissions go directly up into burner stack S20. After a short time when the fire is established, the S20 stack is closed off and the heat and emissions are directed to the dryer.

While in steady production mode, the fuel is fine wood material collected from FGPROCESS that is blown into the burner. The fuel rate from the auger feeder is recorded once per hour. A snapshot of the dry fuel rate for the day of the inspection showed that they averaged between 1 and 1.5 tons/hr. The permit limit is 2.43 tons/hr. The moisture of the wood fuel going to the burner is being tested at least once per shift.

Staff did not observe the emission from stack S20 during this inspection since the exhaust was being directed to the dryer. Records are kept of each burner startup as is required in the permit.

EUDRYER

Upon driving up to the facility, I noted that the opacity from the dryer stack (S21), through the multiclone, was approximately 10%. The water vapor plume had a slight brownish color. The opacity limit for this process is the standard 20%, so they were in compliance.

After the raw wood chips are received in the yard, they are hammer-milled to reduce the size. The smaller chips are loaded into the hopper which feeds the dryer. The number of loader buckets full of chips are logged per hour and compiled per day. Each scoop has been determined to be 2.0 tons for the current material being used. For the overnight shift prior to this inspection, they averaged 10.2 tons/hour. The limit is 12.75 tons/hr.

The moisture of the undried wood material being feed into the dryer is being tested at least once per shift. The permit requires that this material be a maximum of 55% moisture. The sample taken from the most recent shift showed it was at 38.6%.

The temperature of the dryer inlet was at 577 deg F, whereas the maximum allowed is 825 deg F.

The particulate emissions from the dryer are controlled by the multiclone. There are two ways to determine if the multiclone is being operated properly. One way is by the opacity from the stack. This is being read once per shift by an employee at the company. The other way is to monitor the differential pressure gauge that is installed across the control equipment. At the time of the inspection, the gauge was not working. They immediately cleaned and unplugged the gauge and got it working again. The reading was at 6.6 inches of water.

EUCOOLING

There is a cyclone installed on the cooler to control the particulate emissions. There are two ways to determine if the cyclone is being operated properly. One way is by the opacity from the stack. This is being read once per shift by an employee at the company. The other way is to monitor the differential pressure gauge that is installed across the control equipment. At the time of the inspection, the gauge was reading 6 inches of water. Upon driving up to the facility, there were no visible emissions observed from the cyclone stack. Permit Condition V(1) requires that this stack be retested for particulate within 180 days of the third pellet mill being installed. The mill is being installed now.

FGPROCESS

This is a flexible group that includes all the equipment that is exhausted through the baghouse. There are two ways to determine if the baghouse is being operated properly. One way is by the opacity from the stack. This is being read once per shift by an employee at the company. The other way is to monitor the differential pressure gauge that is installed across the control equipment. At the time of the inspection, the gauge was reading 4 inches of water. There were no visible emissions observed from the baghouse stack.

FGMWF

Records and calculations are being kept of the oven-dried tons per year of wood product processed. This is reported on the MAERS report. At the present time, they are operating 24 hours a day and 6 days a week. The fugitive dust plan for road dust is being followed.

The company has two people certified in Method 9 smoke reading. This allows them to cover both shifts in the daylight hours.

Consent Order

There is an active consent order (20-2010) in place for this facility. The consent order is now eligible for termination if all of the conditions have been met. The company has been notified that they must make a written request to AQD to have it terminated, according to condition 18 of the order.

NAME Dale Turton

DATE Nov 12, 2015 SUPERVISOR MD 11/12/2015