



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

N793252679

FACILITY: AMERICAN RECYCLING CENTER INC		SRN/ID: N7932
LOCATION: 655 WABASSEE DR, OWOSSO		DISTRICT: Lansing
CITY: OWOSSO		COUNTY: SHIAWASSEE
CONTACT: Alex Dawe, General Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 03/03/2020
STAFF: Samantha Davis	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Unannounced, scheduled inspection for compliance with PTI No. 384-07.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

EGL Staff: Samantha Davis, 517-282-1373, daviss46@michigan.gov

American Recycling Staff: Alex Dawe, General Manager – 989-725-5100,
Casey, Operations Manager

Safety Equipment: Steel-toed boots, safety glasses, ear protection

On 3/3/2020 I conducted an unannounced, scheduled inspection at American Recycling Center, Inc. for compliance with Permit to Install (PTI) No. 384-07. This facility was last inspected in 2011.

Facility description:

This facility is a rubber recycling center. They receive manufacturer's discarded rubber, a lot of which are defective pieces from a variety of sources. American Recycling does not take scrap tire material. A lot of the material they produce ends up being used at playgrounds or athletic fields.

PTI 384-07 covers both Rubber Grind lines and the associated equipment. This permit includes a 5% opacity condition, and two conditions requiring installation, and proper maintenance and operation of the baghouse.

Emission Units:

Emission Unit ID	PTI No.	Description	Controls
EU-RubberGrind1 (Storm)	384-07	An industrial scrap rubber recycling process, shredder, granulator, augers, separation shaker, fluid bed, and packaging equipment.	Cyclone, and shared baghouse.
EU-RubberGrind2 (Monster)	384-07	An industrial scrap rubber recycling process, shredder, granulator, augers, separation shaker, fluid bed, and packaging equipment.	Cyclone, and shared baghouse.

I arrived on site at approximately 11:40am. I did not note any odor or visible emissions upon arrival. I asked to speak with Mr. Jeff Shann and was notified that he had left the company about 10 years ago. Mr. Alex Dawe is the General Manager of the plant and was able to meet with me and show me the process. Casey, Operations Manager joined us on the tour.

While walking through the facility I observed the two rubber grinding processes. EU-RubberGrind1, referred to as Storm, was in operation at the time. EU-RubberGrind2, referred to as Monster, was not in operation during my visit. The fluid bed was not being used during my inspection. Alex informed me that part of the process is only used when grinding really fine product, because it is used to knock down some of the finer particulate matter.

We observed the baghouse outdoors. The baghouse has 496 filters that are replaced as needed based on the readings from a pressure valve. There did not appear to be any visible emissions. Underneath the baghouse there was a small pile of ground rubber by the auger which moves the particulate back into the plant to be reused in the process. The pile was approximately 8 inches deep and 1 foot across.

I informed Alex and Casey that this was a violation of Rule 370, which requires the collection and disposal of air

contaminants shall be performed in a manner as to minimize the air contaminants in the outer air. I also informed them, that this had also been an issue back during the 2011 inspection. Alex was not aware of the 2011 inspection report. Casey informed me that he had already placed a call to staff to get the pile cleaned up.

Update: On 3/5/2020 I called Alex to talk about the pile of contaminants outside the baghouse. He said they already had it cleaned up and had inspected the conveyor. Upon inspection they found a small hole at the bottom which was causing some of the product to escape. He reassured me that the hole had already been patched up.

On 3/6/2020 I received an email from Alex with photos of the debris cleaned up, as well as a photo of the repair done to the trough of the auger.

Due to the cooperation from the company and quick resolution to this issue I have decided not to pursue a violation at this time. See photos and email correspondence for reference, located with the hard copy of this report.

American Recycling appears to be in compliance with PTI No. 384-07.

NAME Sandra Davis

DATE 3/20/2020 SUPERVISOR B.M.