

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

N794272553

FACILITY: BEDNARYCZK FARMS LLC		SRN / ID: N7942
LOCATION: 8209 VAN DYKE RD, MARLETTE		DISTRICT: Lansing
CITY: MARLETTE		COUNTY: LAPEER
CONTACT: Isaac Bednaryczk ,		ACTIVITY DATE: 04/24/2024
STAFF: Loren Hicks	COMPLIANCE STATUS:	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT:		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On April 24, 2024 EGLE-AQD, represented by L. Hicks & D. McGeen, conducted a scheduled inspection of Bednaryczk Farms, which was last inspected by the AQD in 2016, for the purposes of assessing permit compliance and response to a prior violation notice. This facility is a family-run farm, with a single 30,000-gallon anhydrous ammonia storage tank and associated handling processes, nurse tanks and applicator tanks. The last inspection report indicated permit non-compliance due to the lack of proper signage, and a violation notice was issued at that time; part of this inspection's purpose was to verify compliance with that notice. L. Hicks and D. McGeen arrived at Bednaryczk Farms on April 24, 2024 at about 10:15 a.m. No odors or visible emissions were noted on arrival or during the inspection; however, it's worth noting that the weather conditions were very gusty. We met with Rodney & Isaac Bednaryczk on site and discussed some preliminary checks prior to inspecting the tank itself. No changes to equipment, in process, of suppliers, etc., and no leaks or accidental releases since the last inspection were reported to us at that time. We were able to verify that the signage required to be put in place by the past violation notice has since been posted. The equipment seemed to be in overall good working condition; however, I did notice that there was some dead vegetation and standing water around the tank transfer area, some streaking and discoloration on nurse tanks, some visible rust on tanks, some flaking paint, and posted identification, warning labels, or decals were somewhat faded. One tank had a gauge that was missing a needle, and some hoses didn't have caps on the ends. When asked about the old paint and faded signs, they indicated that they had plans in place to address these issues imminently. We went through the permit's process equipment requirements together and determined that they appear to be met. They do not currently have a respirator with an ammonia-type cannister & refill cannisters as part of their available PPE even though this was strongly recommended in 2016; however, they indicated they were willing to obtain one. We went through their process requirements together and determined that they appeared to be met. I was informed that they have a current emergency response plan on file with their local fire department, but that they had been declined regular meetings and have not documented them since. We recommend that they annually mail an updated copy of their plan to their local fire department and keep a dated copy for their own records. I wasn't shown any records on site, but I put in a request via email shortly after the site inspection was concluded. (Nurse tank inspection and maintenance records are performed and kept at the users' discretion, but storage tank inspection and maintenance records are required at least bi-annually, although higher frequency is strongly recommended.) I have stayed in contact via weekly email with Isaac Bendaryczk from the time of the inspection to work with him on getting the necessary records (pertaining to their inspection and maintenance records and their emergency response plan). By June 28, 2024, Isaac had sent me the records they had available that I would need to complete the inspection report. They provided a sample of the discretionary daily inspection and maintenance records for the nurse and applicator tanks (the first page of Appendix A), approximately one per

year going back to 2019; they also provided some mandatory inspection and maintenance records for the storage tank, also approximately one per year going back to 2019. There were samples of Spring inspections conducted for every year from 2019-2024, and additionally one Fall inspection in 2020. PTI 396-07 Part III.(2) requires that the permittee operate EU-AMMONIA according to the inspection and maintenance program specified in Appendix A, and Appendix A requires that the permittee conduct inspections and complete the corresponding form at least twice per year (prior to spring and fall application seasons). Inspection and maintenance records were provided for annual inspections but are insufficient to meet the biannual requirement stated in the inspection and maintenance program found in Appendix A. Additionally, they were not able to locate or provide a copy of their emergency response plan at the time of writing. I reached out to the Marlette Fire Department to see if I could obtain a copy of that record from them, but I was unable to reach anyone from the department at this time. To date, monitoring and record keeping method requirements are not being met on two counts: their records are lacking the required inspection and maintenance reports and an emergency action plan. This violates special conditions III.(2), III.(3), and VI.(2); a violation notice will be issued for these two instances of insufficient records.

NAME Loren HicksDATE 07/10/2024SUPERVISOR RB