

T. Plant

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
AIR QUALITY DIVISION  
ACTIVITY REPORT: Self Initiated Inspection

P031424913

FACILITY: Lake Michigan Crematory Inc.		SRN / ID: P0314
LOCATION: 166 Fifth Ave, HOLLAND		DISTRICT: Grand Rapids
CITY: HOLLAND		COUNTY: OTTAWA
CONTACT: Steven Palmateer , Owner		ACTIVITY DATE: 04/15/2014
STAFF: April Lazzaro	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Announced, scheduled inspection.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Staff, April Lazzaro arrived at the facility to meet with owner Steven Palmateer to discuss the requirements of Permit to Install No. 12-12D. Staff provided Mr. Palmateer with a copy of the DEQ Environmental Inspections: Rights and Responsibilities brochure and discussed its contents.

The original crematory unit located at this facility was lost to a fire, that was not related to crematory use. The facility installed an identical unit, and re-permitted at the same location.

The unit is highly automated, and is remote accessed by the manufacturer weekly for operational observation, in case a burner needs tuning or other operational parameters need to be tweaked. The unit is equipped with an interlock so that the oven door does not unlock until the secondary chamber reaches 1,450 F. Mr. Palmateer maintains the base temperature at 1,500 F to account for any possible temperature fluctuations.

The unit is equipped with a strip chart to continuously record temperature. When a burn is started, the operator will write the time and the charge number. The chart is marked at the end of the burn, which indicates the duration of the burn. The dolly that is used to transport the charge to the crematory is built in with a scale and therefore verifies that the charge weighs less than 750 pounds. The permittee will maintain all records for the required five years.


The stack was not measured, but staff was assured that it was built to specification with the permitted information. When looking at the stack, it looks much larger in diameter than 20 inches. Staff was informed that there is an inner stack that is the 20" diameter, which is surrounded with a refractory lined stack.

Appendix A was discussed as suggested guidelines. The company will follow manufacture's guidelines for maintenance, which is once every six months. All maintenance will be maintained in the computer system that runs the automation of the unit.

The facility reclaims any materials that are not cremated in the process, for example artificial hip, shoulder and neck medical devices. These are generally a metallic or synthetic material that is sent to the University of Michigan for reclamation. Any money generated from this process is donated to Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. If a pacemaker is present and still has usable life, it will be sent to Haiti for re-use.

Mr. Palmateer indicated that he expects to take possession of the second identical crematory unit at the end of the month, and will likely be operational some time at the beginning of June 2014. He will contact me at that time to let me know the status, so that I may conduct an additional inspection.

This facility was in compliance at the time of the inspection.

NAME 

DATE 4-17-14

SUPERVISOR PAB