

P0960
MAWILL

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

P096050179

FACILITY: Bimbo Bakeries USA Inc.	SRN / ID: P0960
LOCATION: 8330 West Chicago, DETROIT	DISTRICT: Detroit
CITY: DETROIT	COUNTY: WAYNE
CONTACT: Robert Connors , Regional Vice-President, Operations	ACTIVITY DATE: 07/19/2019
STAFF: Stephen Weis	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance
	SOURCE CLASS: Minor
SUBJECT: Compliance inspection of the Bimbo Bakeries USA Inc. facility in Detroit. The Bimbo facility is scheduled for inspection in FY 2019.	
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:	

Location:

Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc. (P0960)
8330 West Chicago
Detroit 48204

Date of Activity:

Friday, July 19, 2019

Personnel Present:

Steve Weis, EGLE-AQD Detroit Office

Purpose of Activity

A self-initiated inspection of the Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc. facility (hereinafter "Bimbo") on West Chicago Road in Detroit was conducted on Friday, July 19, 2019. The Bimbo facility was on my list of sources targeted for an inspection during FY 2019. The purpose of this inspection was to determine compliance of operations at the Bimbo facility with applicable rules, regulations and standards as promulgated by Public Act 451 of 1994 (NREPA, Part 55 Air Pollution Control), and with applicable Federal standards.

Facility Site Description

The Bimbo facility property is located on the northeast corner of West Chicago Road and Oakman Boulevard. The facility's property consists of a roughly 1.25-acre parcel. According to a recent real estate listing, the building structure on the facility property is just over 15,000 square feet in area.

The area around the Bimbo facility property includes a mix of uses, but the surrounding area is primarily residential, with extensive residential neighborhoods in areas to the north, west and south of the facility. Both sides of West Chicago are lined with various commercial and light industrial properties. There is a vehicle sales lot directly to the east of Bimbo's building, and Metropolitan Detroit Area Hospital Services, Inc. operates a joint laundry facility for southeast Michigan health systems in the building to the east of the Bimbo property on the northeast side of West Chicago and Cloverlawn Street. There is a commercial and light industrial area that extends on both sides of West Chicago to the east of the facility; it extends between Grand River and Joy Road, and roughly between Oakman Blvd and Bryden north of West Chicago, and between Roselawn and Central Streets south of West Chicago. The commercial/light industrial area includes a couple of scrap yards, a concrete batch facility, and a used oil processing facility among other businesses. The closest residential properties are located about 75 yards to the south of the Bimbo property on Northlawn and Cloverlawn Streets, and about 100 yards to the northwest along the west side of Oakman Blvd.

Facility Operations

The Bimbo facility was the location of a Bays English Muffin bakery for many years. Bays, which is a Chicago, IL based company, was purchased by Bimbo Bakeries USA (BBU), which itself is owned by Grupo Bimbo, a Mexican baking company. Other brands of baked goods that are part of BBU's portfolio include Sara Lee,

Thomas', Entenmann's, and Ball Park brand. According to Bimbo's website (www.bimbobakeriesusa.com), BBU, which is headquartered in Horsham, PA, operates more than 60 bakeries in the United States (12 in Michigan), and is the only commercial bakery manufacturer to serve all 50 states.

BBU sent correspondence to the then DEQ-AQD dated January 26, 2018 in which they provided an air permitting determination for the Bimbo facility on West Chicago. Per this correspondence, BBU stated that the Bimbo facility was a minor source of air emissions, further providing that the potential to emit (PTE) of VOC emissions from the facility operations was 17.30 tons per year (tpy). BBU provided a listing of the process equipment at the facility that vented to the ambient air, as well as identifying the permit to Install exemption criteria and associated provisions of the Michigan Administrative Rules that they felt applied to the process equipment. BBU identified the following equipment as operating at the Bimbo facility – a Muffin Grill (bakery oven); a flour silo, holding tank, and weigh scale; a parts washer; combustion equipment that included a water heater, two boilers, rooftop air handling units and two garage heaters; and a battery charging operation. A copy of the January 26, 2018 correspondence is attached to this report, and the original copy can be found in the facility file.

Later in 2018, BBU decided to permanently close the West Chicago facility. In correspondence that was sent by BBU to the State of Michigan's Workforce Development Agency (now referred to as the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity – Workforce Development) dated October 23, 2018, BBU provided official notice that the Bimbo facility on West Chicago would cease operations, and that BBU was anticipating a permanent closure of the Bimbo facility on or about January 2, 2019. There were also some reports of the facility's closing via some media outlets at around the time that BBU's notification of the closure was sent to the State of Michigan. Attached to this report for reference is a copy of the October 23, 2018 correspondence from BBU to the State of Michigan, along with a copy of an October 25, 2018 article in the *Crain's Detroit Business* publication that reports the closing of the facility.

I attempted to visit the Bimbo facility during the morning of Friday, July 19, 2019. At that time, I was not aware of the facility's closure. When I arrived, there was no activity at the facility. There was a vehicle parked in the loading area at the rear of the building. I spoke with the vehicle's occupant, a security guard who was guarding the property. He informed me that the facility had ceased operations earlier in the year, and that a few weeks prior, all of the equipment had been removed from the building. He told me that he had been inside and that the building was completely empty. In the time since, the building has been put up for sale.

Permits/Regulations/Orders/Other

A review of the facility file and permit files does not show any active permits that were issued to the Bimbo facility by either the former Wayne County Air Quality Management Division or EGLE-AQD.

Compliance Determination

Based upon the results of the July 19, 2019 site visit and subsequent information, the Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc. facility located at 8330 West Chicago in Detroit has permanently ceased operation. The facility file can be voided.

Attachments to this report: a copy of correspondence that was submitted to AQD by BBU dated January 26, 2018 providing an air quality determination for the facility; a copy of correspondence sent by BBU to the State of Michigan dated October 23, 2018 notifying of the pending permanent shutdown of the facility; a copy of an article from *Crain's Detroit Business* that reports the closing of the facility; information advertising the "for sale" status of the Bimbo facility property.

NAME

Steve W...

DATE

11/1/19

SUPERVISOR

JK