

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

U21220295363327

<b>FACILITY:</b> Bichler Concrete West	<b>SRN / ID:</b> U212202953
<b>LOCATION:</b> 1805 US 2 & 41, Bark River	<b>DISTRICT:</b> Marquette
<b>CITY:</b> Bark River	<b>COUNTY:</b> DELTA
<b>CONTACT:</b> Jason Livingston , Vice President	<b>ACTIVITY DATE:</b> 06/16/2022
<b>STAFF:</b> Lauren Luce	<b>COMPLIANCE STATUS:</b> Compliance
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Targeted Inspection FY22	<b>SOURCE CLASS:</b>
<b>RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:</b>	

**Facility: Bichler Concrete West (U212202953)**

**Location: 1805 US 2 & 41, Bark River, Delta County, MI**

**Contacts: Cory Pangborn, President; Jason Livingston, Vice President**

**Regulatory Authority**

*Under the Authority of Section 5526 of Part 55 of NREPA, The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) may upon the presentation of their card, and stating the authority and purpose of the investigation, enter and inspect any property at reasonable times for the purpose of investigating either an actual or suspected source of air pollution or ascertaining compliance or noncompliance with NREPA, Rules promulgated thereunder, and the federal Clean Air Act.*

**Facility Description**

Bichler Concrete West is a concrete batch plant located in the community of Bark River. The plant is located in a rural area near agricultural and forested land.

Concrete is composed essentially of water, cement, sand (fine aggregate) and coarse aggregate. Coarse aggregate may consist of gravel, crushed stone or iron blast furnace slag. Some specialty aggregate products could be either heavyweight aggregate (of barite, magnetite, limonite, ilmenite, iron or steel) or lightweight aggregate (with sintered clay, shale, slate, diatomaceous shale, perlite, vermiculite, slag pumice, cinders, or sintered fly ash). Approximately 75 percent of the U.S. concrete manufactured is produced at plants that store, convey, measure and discharge these constituents into trucks for transport to a job site. At most of these plants, sand, aggregate, cement and water are all gravity fed from the weight hopper into the mixer trucks. The concrete is mixed on the way to the site where the concrete is to be poured.

**Emissions**

Particulate matter, consisting primarily of cement and pozzolan dust but including some aggregate and sand dust emissions, is the primary pollutant of concern. In addition, there are emissions of metals that are associated with this particulate matter. All but one of the emission points are fugitive in nature. The only point sources are the transfer of cement and pozzolan material to silos, and these are usually vented to a fabric filter or "sock". Fugitive sources include the transfer of sand and aggregate, truck loading, mixer loading, vehicle traffic, and wind erosion from sand and aggregate storage piles. The amount of fugitive emissions generated during the

transfer of sand and aggregate depends primarily on the surface moisture content of these materials.

### Emissions Reporting

Bichler Concrete West is not required to report annual emissions to Michigan Air Emissions Reporting System (MAERS).

### Regulatory Analysis

The facility operates under a Permit to Install exemption, R 336.1289(d).

### Compliance History

The facility has not received any violation notices in the past five years. The facility was last inspected in September 2012 and was found to be in compliance with all applicable air quality rules and regulations at that time.

### Inspection

On June 16, 2022, AQD Staff (Lauren Luce) conducted a targeted inspection on the Bichler Concrete West in Bark River, MI. AQD Staff arrived at the facility and met with Jason Livingston, Vice President of Bichler Concrete & Gravel. It was explained that the purpose of the inspection was to ensure compliance with the Rule 289 exemption and all other applicable air pollution control rules and federal regulations. The inspection began by discussing the Rule 289 exemption and facility records.

The facility last operated in 2021. The plant was used sparingly over the last few years. Between 2020-2021, 1250 cubic yards of concrete were produced. It was struck by lightning in 2021 which rendered their batching system unusable. The facility has not been operated since and there is no plan to begin using the facility again. There was no concrete batching activity taking place on site during the inspection. There are two silos equipped with baghouses. The shop building is currently rented by an outside company.

### Compliance

Based on this inspection and records reviewed, Bichler Concrete West appears to be in compliance with the Rule 289 exemption and all other applicable air pollution control rules and federal regulations.

NAME 

DATE 6-24-2022

SUPERVISOR 