

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Complaint Investigation

U39210016056782

FACILITY: Kalamazoo Sandblast		SRN / ID: U392100160
LOCATION: 6565 E. K Avenue, Kalamazoo		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: Kalamazoo		COUNTY: KALAMAZOO
CONTACT: Joe Cornelius , Owner		ACTIVITY DATE: 01/19/2021
STAFF: Monica Brothers	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT: Investigation of a complaint that was called into EGLE staff on January 13, 2021.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Staff, Monica Brothers, arrived on-site at the complainant's residence at about 3:00 pm and met with the complainant's wife. I let her know that I was there because her husband, Guy Cherry, complained about the sandblasting fallout from the neighboring facility. I asked her if there were any spots where I could take a fallout sample on their property, but she said that she wasn't sure. There was a fresh layer of snow on the ground at that time, and there did not appear to be any obviously places where fallout had gathered on the property. So, no samples were taken at that time. I asked the complainant's wife to give me a call again if they ever experienced sandblasting fallout on their property in the future.

I then drove next door to Kalamazoo Sandblasting and met with the owner, Joe Cornelius. It did not appear that sandblasting or coating was occurring at the time, but I asked Joe to give me a tour of the facility and describe the processes. There is only one building where both sandblasting and coating occur. This building has only three sides to it, with a tarp draping over the front that Joe says is fastened during sandblasting and coating so that it limits the sandblasting material and paint from escaping. However, there were many holes in the building, and the tarps did not seem to be able to be secured well enough for the operation to be described as "internally vented". At that time, there was a large, semi truck sized metal structure that had been placed in the building for sandblasting, but Joe said that he had not yet started on it. The structure was so large that it stuck out from the building. Joe said that he had planned to build a temporary wooden structure around the metal item to be sandblasted, to which he would then attach more tarps. The building did not have any appropriate filters for a sandblasting or coating operation. Therefore these processes did not qualify for an exemption. This is a violation of Rule 201 and a Violation Notice will be sent. I let Joe know that he needs to either completely enclose the sandblasting operation or have the appropriate filters for external ventilation per R 336.1285(2)(l)(vi). For the coating operation, appropriate filters and recordkeeping will be required per R 336.1287(2)(c). If the facility cannot comply with an exemption, these processes will have to be permitted.

I thanked Joe for his time and left the facility at about 3:45pm.

The facility was not in compliance during the investigation and a Violation Notice will be sent.

NAME _____

DATE _____

SUPERVISOR _____