

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

U61191025351316

<b>FACILITY:</b> Swanson Pickle Co.		<b>SRN / ID:</b> U611910253
<b>LOCATION:</b> 11561 Heights Ravenna Rd., Ravenna		<b>DISTRICT:</b> Grand Rapids
<b>CITY:</b> Ravenna		<b>COUNTY:</b> MUSKEGON
<b>CONTACT:</b> Katie Hensley , CFO		<b>ACTIVITY DATE:</b> 11/07/2019
<b>STAFF:</b> Scott Evans	<b>COMPLIANCE STATUS:</b> Compliance	
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Facility inspection to assess potential need for permitting.		<b>SOURCE CLASS:</b>
<b>RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:</b>		

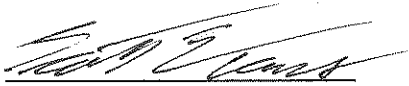
On Thursday, November 7, 2019, an unannounced inspection of Swanson Pickling was conducted by inspectors Scott Evans (SE) and Eric Grinstern (EG). During this inspection, a complaint was investigated. The notes of this complaint investigation can be found in a separate report (CA U61191025351318).

Upon initial arrival, a drive-by assessment of the facility found no noticeable odors coming from the facility. A single chimney was noticed to be giving off some emissions (primarily steam), which was confirmed during the site visit to be a wood-boiler system used to heat their equipment garage. The facility was entered and SE and EG met with John Swanson (owner) and Katie Hensley (CFO). After introductions, John and Katie led SE and EG on a facility tour to explain the processes of the facility.

The facility is a cucumber pickling facility. They farm their own cucumbers, harvest them, and pickle them in a simple salt solution. The pickles are then packaged and sold to other companies, where the pickles are finished as needed for sale as pickle products.

It was described that the fresh cucumbers are brought into a building via conveyors to be sorted by size. The pickles are then placed into large, open top, outdoor pickling vats along with the brine solution. The brine solution was described to contain primarily salt and water with small amounts of Calcium Chloride and Sodium Benzoate to serve as preservatives. These tanks would be considered exempt as storage tanks containing noncarcinogenic liquids under 40,000 gallons as outlined in Rule 284(2)(i). The vegetables are removed from the brine once the pickling process is completed and transferred to trucks to be sent to the purchaser. On site there are large storage tanks that house water or fertilizer, and there are two large grain silos used for field replenishing crops. These tanks are exempt per Rule 284(2)(i) by the same reasoning as the pickle brine tanks. None of the above-mentioned equipment includes any air emissions of note as part of their regular operation. The entire facility is paved with concrete and no notable dust emissions occur as a result of activity at the facility. The mentioned wood boiler is exempt from air permitting per Rule 282(2)(b)(iii).

This inspection concluded that there is currently no need for permitting of Swanson Pickling regarding air pollution control regulations. At this time, no further action is required at the facility.

NAME  DATE 11/22/19 SUPERVISOR 