

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

N145566812

FACILITY: Noah's Pet Cemetery & Pet Crematory		SRN / ID: N1455
LOCATION: 2727 ORANGE AVE SE, CASCADE TWP		DISTRICT: Grand Rapids
CITY: CASCADE TWP		COUNTY: KENT
CONTACT: Rob McGee , Owner		ACTIVITY DATE: 03/08/2023
STAFF: Michael Cox	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Self-initiated Unannounced Inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS: C-23-00867		

At approximately 1:30 P.M. on March 8, 2023, Air Quality Division (AQD) staff Michael Cox conducted a self-initiated inspection of Noah's Pet Cemetery and Pet Crematory, Inc. located at 2727 Orange Avenue, in Cascade Township. The purpose of the inspection was to determine the facility's compliance with state and federal air pollution regulations and Permit to Install (PTI) Nos. 13-88I, 344-06, and 104-10 in response to a recent odor complaint. Accompanying AQD staff on the inspection was Rod VanLewen, operator and Rob McGee, owner.

Facility Description

Noah's Pet Cemetery and Pet Crematory, Inc. is a pet cemetery and also an animal crematorium that typically operates five days a week. There are three, natural gas-fired, pathologic incinerators each equipped with a secondary afterburner for emissions control. The two smallest incinerators are located on the south side of the building and the largest incinerator is located on the north side of the building. The building is surrounded by residential buildings on all sides.

Compliance Evaluation

Prior to entering the facility, odor and visible emission observations were conducted. No visible emissions were noted coming from the three stacks for the pathologic incinerators. Fleeting odors associated with the incinerators were detected immediately downwind of the stacks on Old Village Ct, SE, but did not constitute a Rule 901 violation at the time. All three units were operating at the time of the site visit.

PTI No. 13-88I:

BLP-200/1000 Animal Incinerator

This emission unit is a natural gas fired pathologic incinerator for animal remains. This unit is rated for 200 pounds per hour (lbs/hr) with a maximum load of 1,000 pounds and equipped with a secondary afterburner for emissions control.

This unit is subject to particulate matter (PM) emissions of 0.20 pounds per 1,000 pounds of exhaust gases corrected to 50% excess air. This limit is based on testing, which has not been required or requested. The incinerator appeared to be installed, maintained, and operated in a satisfactory manner as required by PTI No. 13-88I. It also appears that the incinerator's afterburner is being operated with recommended operating and maintenance procedures including not overloading the units, keeping the combustion air adjusted to reduce smoke, and posting operating instructions. It was noted that a manual timer switch, as required by the permit, to ensure use of the afterburner whenever the incinerator is operating was installed.

The facility is maintaining all records (daily and weekly) as required. Records are kept next to the incinerator of the date, total weight of carcasses charged to the unit per burn, gas usage, proposed hours of burn, and hearth temperature. It should be noted that PTI No. 13-88I does not require afterburner temperature records but are being maintained by the facility. All records were reviewed on site for the past year and no issues were noted.

During the facility walk-through it was noted that the afterburner temperature of the incinerator was at 1,648°F with a charge rate of 64.50 pounds. It was also noted that the charge was incinerated for approximately 1 hour, which calculates below the permitted charge rate of 200 lbs/hr. All waste materials appeared to be handled correctly.

One stack is listed in association with the incinerator. The stack was observed venting unobstructed vertically. The stack appeared to be consistent with the dimensions listed in PTI No. 13-88I.

PTI No. 344-06:

EU-CREMATORY2

This emission unit consists of a natural gas fired Therm-Tec Model G-30-9 Animal Crematory. This unit is rated for 340 lbs/hr with a maximum load of 3,400 pounds and equipped with a secondary afterburner for emissions control.

This unit is subject to particulate matter (PM) emissions of 0.20 pounds per 1,000 pounds of exhaust gases corrected to 50% excess air. This limit is based on testing, which has not been required or requested. The incinerator appeared to be installed, maintained, and operated in a satisfactory manner as required by PTI No. 344-06. It

also appears that the incinerator's afterburner is being operated with recommended operating and maintenance procedures including not overloading the units, keeping the combustion air adjusted to reduce smoke, and posting operating instructions.

This unit is equipped with an interlock that prevents the primary chamber from firing until the afterburner has reached a temperature of 1,500 °F.

The facility is maintaining all records (daily and weekly) as required. Records are kept next to the incinerator of the date, total weight of carcasses charged to the unit per burn, gas usage, proposed hours of burn, and hearth temperature. All records were reviewed on site for the past year and no issues were noted.

During the facility walk-through it was noted that the afterburner temperature of the incinerator was at 1,660°F, which is above the minimum 1,500°F, with a charge rate of 900 pounds. All waste materials appeared to be handled correctly.

One stack is listed in association with the incinerator. The stack was observed venting unobstructed vertically. The stack appeared to be consistent with the dimensions listed in PTI No. 344-06.

PTI No. 104-10:

EU-CREMATORY3

This emission unit consists of a natural gas fired B&L Cremation Systems Pet Cremator, Model BLP 500/150. This unit is rated for 150 lbs/hr with a maximum load of 500 pounds and equipped with a secondary afterburner for emissions control.

This unit is subject to particulate matter (PM) emissions of 0.20 pounds per 1,000 pounds of exhaust gases corrected to 50% excess air. This limit is based on testing, which has not been required or requested. The incinerator appeared to be installed, maintained, and operated in a satisfactory manner as required by PTI No. 104-10. It also appears that the incinerator's afterburner is being operated with recommended operating and maintenance procedures including not overloading the units, keeping the combustion air adjusted to reduce smoke, and posting operating instructions.

This unit is equipped with an interlock that prevents the primary chamber from firing until the afterburner has reached a temperature of 1,600 °F.

The facility is maintaining all records (daily and weekly) as required. Records are kept next to the incinerator of the date, total weight of carcasses charged to the unit

per burn, gas usage, proposed hours of burn, and hearth temperature. All records were reviewed on site for the past year and no issues were noted.

During the facility walk-through it was noted that the afterburner temperature of the incinerator was at 1,643°F, which is above the minimum 1,600°F, with a charge rate of 41.8 pounds. It was also noted that the charge was incinerated for approximately 1 hour, which calculates below the permitted charge rate of 150 lbs/hr. All waste materials appeared to be handled correctly.

One stack is listed in association with the incinerator. The stack was observed venting unobstructed vertically. The stack appeared to be consistent with the dimensions listed in PTI No. 104-10.

Conclusion

Based on the observations made during the facility walk-through and records reviewed, Noah's Pet Cemetery and Pet Crematory, Inc. appears to be in compliance with PTI Nos. 13-88I, 344-06 and 104-10 and all other applicable State and Federal air quality rules and regulations.

NAME Michael T. Cox

DATE 3/28/2023

SUPERVISOR 