

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

N181955364	
FACILITY: TOWER AUTOMOTIVE OPERATIONS USA I, LLC	SRN /ID: N1819
LOCATION: 280 HUGHES DR. TRAVERSE CITY	DISTRICT: Cadillac
CITY: TRAVERSE CITY	COUNTY: GRAND TRAVERSE
CONTACT:	ACTIVITY DATE: 09/22/2020
STAFF: Caryn Owens	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Scheduled Inspection of Tower Automotive (now American Waste Recycling Center).	
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:	

On Tuesday, September 22, 2020, Ms. Caryn E. Owens of the Department of Environmental, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) – Air Quality Division (AQD) conducted a scheduled inspection of American Waste Recycling Facility, formerly Tower Automotive (SRN: N1819). The site is located at 280 Hughes Drive, in Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, Michigan. More specifically, the facility was located on the west side of Hughes Drive, approximately ¼ mile south of Hammond Road in Traverse City, Michigan. The field inspection was to determine compliance with Permit to Install (PTI) 57-06.

Source Description

At the time PTI 57-06 was issued, it was permitted for a natural gas-fired batch type burn-off oven to remove cured paints, oil, or grease from metal parts by thermal decomposition. The oven was to be equipped with a secondary afterburner with a maximum heat rating of 560,000 BTU/hr. In the meantime, Tower Automotive has went out of business and the facility was purchased by American Waste to be used as a Recycling Center. The PTI is still active, and so the site inspection was to see if the burn-off oven permitted at the facility was still active at the site or not.

On-site Inspection:

AQD was accompanied by Mr. Mike Hedding of American Waste, during the field inspection. AQD had appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), wearing safety glasses, high visible vest, steel toe boots, hearing protection, and a face mask. The weather conditions were partly cloudy with calm winds from the southwest, and approximately 64 degrees Fahrenheit. A slight garbage-like odor was present as we entered the facility, but not objectionable. The building consisted of: offices in the eastern portion; separators, compactors and shedder in the central and southern portions; storage of bulk compacted recyclables were stored on the western portion that were waiting for distribution; and a drop-off location in the northern portion (one area for construction/demo waste, and one area for a single waste stream). The drop-off area is sorted through for recyclable material and waste material that would go to a landfill.

According to Mr. Hedding, the facility accepts all kinds of recyclables, including plastics #1 through #7 and plastic bags, Styrofoam, cardboard boxes, magazines, junk mail, glassware, and all kinds of metal items. The full list of items accepted at the facility is listed on the American Waste website. Recycled material is accepted from Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Kalkaska, and Otsego Counties. According to Mr. Hedding, no hazardous waste is accepted at this facility, which includes fluorescent light bulbs. This material is handled by American Waste's sister company Northern A-1.

Mr. Hedding took me to the location in the facility in southwestern portion of the facility where there are two empty stacks in the ceiling, showing the burn-off oven has been removed. The facility was in full operation during the inspection, and AQD observed no dust or opacity concerns inside or outside the facility.

For additional information about the facility, former AQD employees toured the facility when it initially opened, not aware of the current SRN N1819, and their activity report is listed under SRN U28131725.

Based on the information reviewed and observed, the burn-off oven has been removed from the facility, and therefore PTI 57-06 can be voided.

NAME

Caryn Owens

DATE 9-24-20

SUPERVISOR

Sharon Markon