



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
AIR AND RADIATION DIVISION
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAR 25 2014

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Inspection of Cronimet USA, Chicago, Illinois

FROM: Bonnie Bush, Environmental Engineer *BB*
Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch (MI/WI section)

Molly Smith, Environmental Scientist
Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch (MI/WI section)

THRU: Sarah Marshall, Chief *SM*
Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch (MI/WI section)

TO: Files

Date of Inspection: March 13, 2014

U.S. EPA Representatives: Bonnie Bush, Environmental Engineer
Molly Smith, Environmental Scientist

Facility Representative: Jose Martinez, Plant Manager

Company Description: 3501 E. 106th St., Chicago, Illinois 60617
Primary Contact: Jose Martinez, Plant Manager
Contact Information: 773-933-0659

Purpose of Inspection: To learn what the facility does, evaluate whether it is subject to Clean Air Act regulations, and assess whether further investigation is needed.

Background: EPA is focusing on community outreach and addressing community concerns. This site was identified as of concern to residents in southeast Chicago; specifically, issues identified by the community include smoke, fumes, and metallic dust. Research into the facility prior to the site visit revealed no permit in the Illinois EPA (IEPA) database, and there were no records in EPA databases ECHO, Airs Facility Subsystem, or the Region 5 Enforcement Tracking System. It is noted that the name and address of the facility that was provided by the

community were inaccurate. However, EPA staff on another inspection in the general area spotted Cronimet, thus enabling this inspection.

Entry Procedures: We arrived at the site office building at 9:10 AM and presented our enforcement credentials to the receptionist, who contacted the plant manager, Jose Martinez. Mr. Martinez arrived within a few minutes, observed our credentials and escorted us to a conference room.

Initial Interview Information: Mr. Martinez related the following information. Cronimet is a stainless steel scrapyard that receives shipments of stainless steel and other alloys by truck from locations all over the United States. There are 18 staff employed here; Cronimet headquarters is in Pennsylvania. At this site, the materials are weighed (truck scale), unloaded, sorted, and piled. Six cranes with grapples blend the materials into specific mixtures according to customer specifications. The blends are loaded into trucks for shipment out to customers. About 35 to 40 trucks per day come in and out of the site. The facility uses shears to size the materials. Torch cutting is done maybe twice a year, but the shears are far more efficient. No appliances, cars, or car parts are processed at this site, and there is no shredder on site. There is a radiation detector at the scales, and there is a metal baler. There is an enclosed oil/water separator that is used to remove oil from property surface water runoff before the water goes into the sewer. Oil on the property comes from cutting oil on turnings in piles on the site.

IEPA inspected the facility about 2 months ago in response to a dust complaint. Mr. Martinez stated that the complaint was about black dust, and IEPA determined that Cronimet was not the source of the dust. He added that many trucks loaded with coal come through the neighborhood, and the coal is not covered with tarps. Cronimet uses a sweeper to clean roads on the property and the driveway.

Facility Walkthrough: At 9:40 AM, we followed Mr. Martinez into the site and walked through. We observed the scales, radiation detector, grapples, waste oil tanks (from the oil/water separator), diesel fuel tank (for the sweeper), oxygen tanks (for the torch), the metal baler, the shears, and totes of various metal grindings. The grindings appeared to be dust but on the day of inspection were solid to touch (temperature was below freezing). Mr. Martinez stated that black dust blows around the Cronimet site at times, and he led us to the edge of the site that borders the Calumet River and showed us a full coal barge tied up adjacent to the Arcelor Mittal site just south of Cronimet. The coal was covered by snow and was not tarped. Ms. Smith took photos throughout the walkthrough, attached.

Closing Interview: We returned to the conference room with Mr. Martinez, who agreed to contact us if there was a fugitive dust event related to blowing coal or petroleum coke from neighboring facilities south of and west across the river from Cronimet. We left the facility at 10:15 AM.

Attachments:

Cronimet photos (Note: the camera clock is one hour ahead of real time.)
Inspection notes of Ms. Bush and Ms. Smith are in the case file





