



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

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF
ECW-15J

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Robert Maciel
Environmental Manager
ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor,
LLC 250 West U.S. Highway 12
Burns Harbor, IN 46304

Subject: December 8, 2020 and December 9, 2020 Inspection Report for ArcelorMittal
Burns Harbor, NPDES Permit Number IN0000175

Dear Mr. Maciel:

Enclosed, please find a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Inspection Report that describes, and documents the activities at ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor, LLC on December 8, 2020 and December 9, 2020.

The purpose of the inspection on December 8, 2020 and December 9, 2020 was a Compliance Evaluation Reconnaissance Inspection to observe the section of the Storm Ditch south of US-12 from the banks of the ditch and from a canoe to look for plumes of water entering the Storm Ditch that could be the source of the addition of ammonia.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, or the inspection report, please contact Joan Rogers at (312) 886-2785 or at rogers.joan@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

**RYAN
BAHR**

Digitally signed by
RYAN BAHR
Date: 2021.01.27
17:04:43 -06'00'

Ryan J. Bahr Chief, Section 2
Water Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch

Enclosure

cc: Nicholas Ream, Environmental Engineer
Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Jason House, Branch Chief of Wastewater Compliance
Indiana Department of Environmental Management

**CWA COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION REPORT
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 5**

Purpose:

Compliance Evaluation Reconnaissance Inspection

Facility:

ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor, LLC
250 US-12
Burns Harbor, Indiana 46304
Porter County
41.625, -87.117

NPDES Permit Number:

IN0000175

Date of Inspection:

December 8, 2020 and December 9, 2020

EPA Representatives:

Joan Rogers, Environmental Scientist 312-886-2785
Rogers.joan@epa.gov

State Representatives:

Nicholas Ream, Indiana Department of Environmental Management 219-730-1691
Wastewater Inspector
nream@idem.IN.gov

Dave Greinke, Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Emergency Responder

Facility Representatives:

Morgan Swanson, Environmental Engineer 219-787-2646
Morgan.swanson@arcelormittal.com

Report Prepared by:

Joan Rogers

Inspector Signature: JOAN ROGERS Digitally signed by JOAN ROGERS
Date: 2021.01.27 07:47:00 -06'00'

Approver Name and Title: Ryan Bahr, Chief, Section 2, WECAB

Approver Signature/Date: RYAN Digitally signed by RYAN BAHR
Date: 2021.01.27 16:58:30 -06'00'

1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to describe and document the discussion and site inspection at the ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor facility December 8, 2020 and December 9, 2020. This inspection was performed pursuant to Section 308(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended.

The ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor (AMBH) facility is one of the largest fully integrated steel mills in North America, with the capacity to produce approximately 5 million tons of raw steel per year. They operate under NPDES Permit No. IN0000175, which was issued on May 27, 2016 and expires on June 30, 2021.

The inspection on December 8, 2020 was a Compliance Evaluation Reconnaissance Inspection to observe the section of the Storm Ditch south of US-12 from the banks of the ditch. EPA used a FLIR Thermo-Imaging camera to look for plumes of water entering the Storm Ditch that could be the source of the addition of ammonia.

The inspection on December 9, 2020 was a Compliance Evaluation Reconnaissance Inspection to observe the section of the Storm Ditch south of US-12 from the water using a canoe. EPA used a FLIR Thermo-Imaging camera to look for plumes of water entering the Storm Ditch that could be the source of the addition of ammonia.

2. SITE INSPECTION

Site Entry and Opening Conference

	December 8, 2020	December 9, 2020
Arrival Time:	9:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.
Presented credentials?	No.	Yes.
Credentials presented to whom and at what time?	No facility personnel were present, but permission to access the site was granted over the phone.	1:00 P.M. to Morgan Swanson.
Was an opening conference held? With whom?	No. No facility personnel were present, but the activities for the day were discussed with facility representatives by IDEM inspector on the phone.	No. The activities for the day were discussed with facility representative by IDEM inspector on the phone in the morning.
If photographs or documents were taken, does the facility consider any to be Confidential Business Information (CBI)?	No.	
Which information does the facility consider to be CBI?	None.	

Was EPA vehicle parked in approved location?	Yes.
Location where EPA vehicle was parked?	Near the section of Storm Ditch south of US-12.

Photos will be provided to the facility digitally. They are too numerous to attach to this inspection report.

On December 8, 2020, EPA inspector, Ms. Joan Rogers, met with IDEM inspector Mr. Nick Ream and IDEM Emergency Responder, Mr. Dave Greinke, at the Storm Ditch for the ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor plant. Through sampling, the facility had determined that the section of the Storm Ditch south of US-12 and north of the confluence of the Storm Ditch flow and the flow from Outfall 011 was where the addition of ammonia was occurring. There are no known pipes entering the Storm Ditch in this section.

EPA and IDEM planned to walk the banks of the Storm Ditch to attempt to observe if there were any pipes or flow entering the Storm Ditch. The banks of this section of the Storm Ditch are overgrown with vegetation and because of that, are impassible in some areas. Additionally, EPA and IDEM were also using this day's reconnaissance to see if it was possible to use a canoe to observe the Storm Ditch from the water. Ms. Rogers had a FLIR Thermo-imaging camera for use in the inspection and took photos in all the locations that will be mentioned below.

Although there was previous coordination with facility personnel to join EPA and IDEM, on December 8, 2020, AMBH's Mr. Rob Maciel let the inspection team know that the facility personnel would not be joining them. AMBH believed that the reconnaissance inspection was unsafe for facility personnel to participate in but granted access to the EPA and IDEM inspectors.

EPA and IDEM crossed the Storm Ditch from west to east just south of US-12 by utilizing the large pipe that was positioned there as a bridge. On the east side, EPA and IDEM hiked down to the bank of the Storm Ditch and could not walk any further south along the bank due to the vegetation. EPA and IDEM crossed back to the west side.

On the west side, EPA and IDEM could walk south at the top of the berm for the Storm Ditch, but not close enough to view the water, except at a few locations. Approximately halfway down this section of Storm Ditch is a low-head dam and south of that are some stairs leading down to the water that the facility uses as a sample location. This was the only location that the inspectors could get down to the water level due to the vegetation on the bank.

On the west side of the Storm Ditch is a concrete outfall structure from an old pond that the facility has abandoned. There is ponded water behind the concrete structure from precipitation. The flow from the two currently used lagoons outlets from Outfall 011 on the south side of the old pond's concrete outfall structure.

EPA and IDEM then went back to their cars and drove to the south side of the old pond and north of the outfall channel to Outfall 011.

EPA and IDEM then drove to US-12 and turned south on McCool Road, which is west of the Storm Ditch and the way to access the facility's Outfall 001. EPA and IDEM walked to Outfall 001 and then was able to follow a trail to the north along the top of the berm for the Storm Ditch. Near the confluence with the flow from Outfall 011 and the Storm Ditch, EPA and IDEM were able to hike to the bank of the Storm Ditch and walked north along the Storm Ditch. EPA and IDEM were able to view the Storm Ditch from the west bank all the way to the low-head dam.

EPA and IDEM discussed the possibility of using a canoe to float on the Storm Ditch and take thermo-imaging photos from the water. EPA stated that it would depend on the analysis of the photos, which Ms. Rogers intended to do as soon as she could upload the photos on her computer later that day.

EPA and IDEM exited the facility on December 8, 2020 at approximately 12:00 P.M.

During the photo review, Ms. Rogers did not see that the FLIR camera had captured any indications of introduction of flow to the Storm Ditch from any area that she photographed. Because of the lack of access to several portions of the Storm Ditch in question, specifically north of the low-head dam, EPA and IDEM decided to meet on December 9, 2020 to attempt to use the canoe to observe the Storm Ditch from the water.

On December 9, 2020, EPA inspector Ms. Joan Rogers, met with IDEM inspector Mr. Nick Ream and IDEM Emergency Responder Mr. Dave Greinke, at the Storm Ditch for the ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor plant. Ms. Morgan Swanson, AMBH Environmental Engineer, was present on this day.

IDEM and EPA put the canoe into the water at the north end of the section of Storm Ditch south of US-12 on the west side. EPA inspector, Ms. Rogers, took FLIR Thermo-imaging photos from the canoe as they floated downstream to the low-head dam. They paddled back north and repeated this process.

During the trip on the canoe, EPA and IDEM did not observe any pipes entering the Storm Ditch. During the photo review, Ms. Rogers did not see any indications of the introduction of flow to the Storm Ditch from any area that she photographed. Approximately halfway to the low-head dam, EPA observed fine bubbles on the sand below the water on the west side of the Storm Ditch. This was the only location that the bubbles were observed. (Photo FLIR0561)

EPA and IDEM exited the facility on December 9, 2020 at approximately 2:00 P.M.

3. **LIST OF DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FROM FACILITY**

None

4. **INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY FACILITY**

None

5. **AREAS OF CONCERN**

The purpose of these inspections was to observe the Storm Ditch from the bank and from the water and using a FLIR Thermo-imaging camera to try to identify the introduction of flow to the Storm Ditch. EPA has reviewed the photos and did not identify any indications of flow to the Storm Ditch.

6. **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

None