



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604**

SUBJECT: CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION REPORT
Advanced Plating Technologies, Milwaukee, WI

FROM: Brittany Cobb
AECAB (MI/WI)

THRU: Sarah Marshall, Section Supervisor
AECAB (MI/WI)

TO: File

BASIC INFORMATION

Facility Name: Advanced Plating Technologies

Facility Location: 405 W Cherry St, Milwaukee, WI 53212

Date of Inspection: 3/16/2022

EPA Inspector(s):

1. Brittany Cobb, Environmental Engineer
2. Emma Leeds, Environmental Engineer
3. Laura Steel, Environmental Engineer Intern

Other Attendees:

1. John Lindstedt, CEO
2. Erik Probasco, Plant Manager
3. John Tinder, Environmental Manager
4. Tim Perry, Production Manager
5. Dre Hatch, Maintenance Manager

Contact Email Address: johnl@advancedplatingtech.com and
erikp@advancedplatingtech.com

Purpose of Inspection: Determine compliance with the Clean Air Act

Facility Type: Electroplating Facility

Regulations Central to Inspection: 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart WWWW - National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Area Source Standards for Plating and Polishing Operations

Arrival Time: 11:30 AM

Departure Time: 1:30 PM

Inspection Type:

- ☒ Unannounced Inspection
- ☐ Announced Inspection

OPENING CONFERENCE

- ☒ Presented Credentials
- ☒ Stated authority and purpose of inspection
- ☒ Small Business Resource Information Sheet not provided. Reason: provided via email
- ☒ Provided CBI warning to facility

The following information was obtained verbally from employees of Advanced Plating Technologies unless otherwise noted.

Process Description:

Advanced Plating Technologies (Advanced Plating or facility) performs the following electroplating: nickel, lead, gold, tin, silver, and copper. Advanced Plating also performs electroless plating, powder coating and vapor degreasing services and has numerous rinse and pretreatment tanks. The facility has rack plating and barrel plating lines for different products depending on their size and customer requirements. The 13 electrolytic nickel tanks (plus an additional tank that is nonoperational) and the 5 electrolytic lead tanks are subject to 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart WWWW.

Advanced Plating controls emissions from the nickel and lead tanks with monthly additions of wetting agents. The facility also takes monthly qualitative measurements of surface tension using a wire with a loop in it. According to Erik Probasco, the facility dips the wire into the tanks and if the bubble that forms is less than half the size of the loop, then the surface tension is too high, and they add more wetting agent.

Staff Interview:

Advanced Plating has 65 employees, and the hours of operation are Monday through Friday 5:30 AM to 10:00 PM. Approximately 6 years ago one of the nickel tanks was replaced. The facility treats all waste from the tanks on site. The facility has an air permit with the Wisconsin DNR.

Advanced Plating has two buildings where electroplating is performed, one at 405 W Cherry St and another at 428 W Vliet St. The facility reported emissions from each building separately.

There is a discrepancy between the reported emission, which Advanced Plating attributed to the fact that they are actually reporting all emissions together now.

TOUR INFORMATION

EPA Tour of the Facility: Yes

Data Collected and Observations:

EPA was led on a tour of the facility by John Lindstedt and Erik Probasco. There was about 660 pounds of cyanide in a powder form on site, Advanced Plating uses about 440 pounds per month. EPA examined the wetting agents used in the nickel and lead tanks (IMG_1416.JPG, IMG_1417.JPG and IMG_1418.JPG). EPA looked at the following plating lines:

1. Watts nickel, sulfamate nickel, and black nickel
2. Cyanide copper
3. Bright nickel, sulfamate nickel, and tin
4. Sulfamate nickel and electroless nickel
5. Silver and nickel
6. Silver and nickel
7. Lead
8. Gold and nickel

EPA observed trench containment under the tanks to contain any spills. The larger nickel tanks, hydrochloric tanks, and sulfuric acid tanks exhaust to composite mesh pads (CMP). The cyanide tanks do not exhaust to CMPs. EPA also observed Advanced Plating take a qualitative surface tension measurement of a nickel tank with the wire. The bubble filled more than half of the loop in the wire.

Photos and/or Videos: were taken during the inspection.

Field Measurements: were not taken during this inspection.

RECORDS REVIEW

1. Operation and Maintenance Plan

CLOSING CONFERENCE

☒ Provided U.S. EPA point of contact to the facility

Requested documents:

1. 40 CFR Part 63, Subpart WWWW MACT Annual Certification/Report (40 C.F.R. § 63.11509(c)) for years 2018 – 2021
2. Tank list and sizes
3. SDS for nickel and lead wetting agents
4. Records of wetting agent additions from January 2020 to today's date

DIGITAL SIGNATURES

Report Author: Brittany Cobb

Digitally signed by
Brittany Cobb
Date: 2022.05.10
17:02:39 -05'00'

Section Supervisor: SARAH MARSHALL

Digitally signed by
SARAH MARSHALL
Date: 2022.05.11
08:10:43 -05'00'

Facility Name: Advanced Plating Technologies

Facility Location: 405 W Cherry St, Milwaukee, WI 53212

Date of Inspection: March 16, 2022

APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

1. Digital Image Log

Facility Name: Advanced Plating Technologies
Facility Location: 405 W Cherry St, Milwaukee, WI 53212
Date of Inspection: March 16, 2022

APPENDIX A: DIGITAL IMAGE LOG

1. Inspector Name: Laura Steel	2. Archival Record Location: https://usepa.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/R5_Work/r5erc/ecad/AECAB%20Library/Advanced%20Plating%20Technologies/Photos?csf=1&web=1&e=TSmhjA
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Image Number	File Name	Date and Time (3/16/2022, CT)	Description of Image
1	IMG_1415.JPG	11:24	Front of building
2	IMG_1416.JPG	12:16	Tin/lead wetting Agent
3	IMG_1417.JPG	12:17	Nickel wetting Agent
4	IMG_1418.JPG	12:18	Sulfamate nickel wetting Agent
5	IMG_1419.JPG	12:32	Nickel tank/containment
6	IMG_1420.JPG	12:33	Black nickel tanks
7	IMG_1421.JPG	12:36	Bright nickel tanks
8	IMG_1422.JPG	12:43	Sulfamate nickel tanks
9	IMG_1423.JPG	12:43	Sulfamate nickel tanks
10	IMG_1424.JPG	12:45	Sulfamate nickel containment
11	IMG_1425.JPG	12:48	Wire loop surface tension measurement