



REGION 5

CHICAGO, IL 60604

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION REPORT
New-Indy Hartford City, LLC, Hartford City, Indiana

FROM: Sasa Dunovic, Inspector/Enforcement Officer
AECAB (IL/IN)

THRU: Nathan Frank, Section Supervisor
AECAB (IL/IN)

TO: File

BASIC INFORMATION

Facility Name: New-Indy Hartford City, LLC (New-Indy)

Facility Location: 501 South Spring Street Hartford City, IN 47348

Date of Inspection: January 24, 2024

EPA Inspector(s):

1. Sasa Dunovic, Inspector/Enforcement Officer
2. Jason Schenandoah, Environmental Engineer

Other Attendees:

1. Phillip Freel, General Manager
2. Ian Miller, Environmental Manager

Contact Email Address: Phillip Freel phil.freel@new-indycb.com and Ian Miller ian.miller@new-indycb.com

Purpose of Inspection: Investigate odor complaints.

Facility Type: Stationary recycled paper mill.

Regulations Central to Inspection: Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit (FESOP)

Facility Name: New-Indy Hartford City, LLC
Facility Location: 501 South Spring Street Hartford City, IN 47348
Date of Inspection: January 24, 2024

Arrival Time: 1:00 pm EST

Departure Time: 3:40 pm EST

Inspection Type:

- ☒ Unannounced Inspection
- ☐ Announced Inspection

OPENING CONFERENCE

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

The following information was obtained verbally from New-Indy's personnel unless otherwise noted.

Process Description:

New-Indy recycles used paper. They mainly use Old Corrugated Containers (OCC) from distribution centers and municipal recycling facilities. They also use Double-lined Kraft (DLK), primarily made up of clippings from box plants. In addition, they use a mix of all types of paper, such as cereal boxes, envelopes, brown boxes, etc. There is only one production line comprising three main parts: a pulper, a paper machine with a dryer, and a roll-up section, each with auxiliary devices. Additionally, New-Indy operates a wastewater treatment plant consisting of primary and final clarifiers, an aeration lagoon with three aerators, and a sludge collection/storage and treatment facility. The boiler house with three boilers (two operational) provides heat to the facility and steam for drying part of the paper machine.

Recycled paper is fed into a pulper through a conveyor. Water is added to the paper, mixing everything to create a sludge or slurry. Any glass, metals (such as staples), or other materials are removed from the mix on the auxiliary equipment. Once the slurry is free of debris, it is mixed with additional water and fed into the forming, press, and dryer sections. The dryer section uses steam from boilers to dry the paper as it heads toward the rolling section at the end of the process. The paper is then rolled into large rolls, re-rolled into smaller ones, and stored for future use. The paper produced is primarily used to make boxes in other locations.

Staff Interview:

The facility operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with two 12-hour shifts. The facility employs around 95 employees. There have been no changes in the ownership of the facility, the manufacturing process, or any process equipment in the last five years. The facility's representatives acknowledged they were aware of odor complaints made by neighboring residents, which coincided with the operational issues with the wastewater lagoon aeration system. However, they did not believe that the lagoon was the source of the odor. As a result, the facility has acquired a portable hydrogen

sulfide (H₂S) monitor and has started monitoring H₂S concentrations east of the lagoon and northeast of the parking lot since the week of January 8th, 2024.

TOUR INFORMATION

EPA Toured the Facility: Yes

Data Collected and Observations:

Before entering the facility for inspection, we detected a strong, sewer-like odor at the intersection of South Spring Street and County Road 75 E, located approximately 0.3 miles southeast of the facility.

During the site tour, we observed the paper production process, wastewater treatment facility, and associated equipment. The paper production line was operating nominally. During the tour of the wastewater facility, the facility representatives informed us that the sludge filter press had been out of service since November 2023 and that Merrell Bros hauled all sludge from the thickener holding tank off-site for further treatment and disposal. The lagoon is located on the north side of the facility. All three lagoon aerators were operating during the inspection.

We used a forward-looking infrared camera (FLIR) to inspect the site for volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions and a portable four-gas meter to screen for excessive hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) emissions during the site tour. However, we did not observe or detect any VOC or H₂S emissions during the tour. Furthermore, we did not detect any unusual odors that could significantly impact the facility's vicinity, nor any odors described in the odor complaints received by the EPA before the inspection.

Photos and/or Videos: were taken during the inspection and are listed in Appendix A.

Field Measurements: were not taken during this inspection.

CLOSING CONFERENCE

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

Requested documents:

- Process flow diagrams for all current processes.
- SDS for the following chemicals:
 - Solenis additive,
 - Alkaline and Acidic Cleaners,
 - Defoaming agent,
 - Wastewater flocculant.
- H₂S Monitoring data, including but not limited to the following:
 - Model and specification of the monitoring device,

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- Dates and times of the monitoring,
- All monitoring results,
- Locations of the monitoring indicated on the plant layout.

DIGITAL SIGNATURES

Report Author: Dunovic, Sasa
Digitally signed by Dunovic, Sasa
Date: 2024.03.01 12:40:41 -06'00'

Section Supervisor: NATHAN FRANK
Digitally signed by NATHAN FRANK
Date: 2024.03.01 14:10:50 -06'00'

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APPENDICES

1. Appendix A: Digital Image Log and Digital Video Log

APPENDIX A: DIGITAL IMAGE LOG AND DIGITAL VIDEO LOG

Inspector Name: Sasa Dunovic and Jason Schenandoah

Archival Record Location: [Images and Videos](#)

Image Number	File Name	Date and Time	Description of Image
1	IMG_0546.JPG	1/24/2024 14:23	Hand-drawn process flow diagram
2	IMG_0547.JPG	1/24/2024 14:28	Two images of the same scene: Recycling paper loading area onto the conveyer leading to the pulper
3	IMG_0548.JPG	1/24/2024 14:28	
4	IMG_0549.JPG	1/24/2024 14:28	Image incidentally taken
5	IMG_0550.JPG	1/24/2024 14:28	Bottom portion of the pulper
6	IMG_0551.JPG	1/24/2024 14:35	Centrifugal Cleaner
7	IMG_0552.JPG	1/24/2024 14:43	Paper forming and drying line
8	IMG_0553.JPG	1/24/2024 14:46	Water collection basin under the forming section of the paper machine
9	IMG_0554.JPG	1/24/2024 14:47	Press section of the paper machine
10	IMG_0555.JPG	1/24/2024 14:51	Reel section, where paper coming out of the machine is wound onto individual jumbo rolls
11	IMG_0556.JPG	1/24/2024 14:51	Post processing section, where jumbo rolls are rewinded
12	IMG_0557.JPG	1/24/2024 14:55	Primary clarifier
13	IMG_0558.JPG	1/24/2024 14:57	Thickening, holding tank
14	IMG_0559.JPG	1/24/2024 15:00	Merrell Bross sludge pump used to pump out sludge from the thickening, holding tank
15	IMG_0560.JPG	1/24/2024 15:02	Two images of the aeration lagoon
16	IMG_0561.JPG	1/24/2024 15:02	
17	MVI_0562.MP4	1/24/2024 15:02	Video of the aeration lagoon
18	IMG_0563.JPG	1/24/2024 15:06	Surge tank, collected water goes back to the process from here
19	IMG_0564.JPG	1/24/2024 15:09	Final clarifier
20	IMG_0565.JPG	1/24/2024 15:09	
21	IMG_0566.JPG	1/24/2024 15:15	Boiler house