



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

DATE: NOV 21 2018
SUBJECT: CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION REPORT
Southwest Metal Recycling, Houston, Texas
FROM: Natalie Topinka, Environmental Scientist
AECAB (IL/IN)
THRU: Nathan Frank, Section Chief
AECAB (IL/IN)
TO: File

BASIC INFORMATION

Facility Name: Southwest Metal Recycling

Facility Location: 9435 Ronda Lane, Houston, Texas

Date of Inspection: November 9, 2018

EPA Inspector(s):

1. Natalie Topinka, Environmental Scientist
2. Scott Connolly, Environmental Engineer

Other Attendees

1. Brian Brand, Owner, Southwest Metal Recycling

Contact Email Address: nancyjbrand@yahoo.com

Purpose of Inspection: Assess compliance with the refrigerant disposal requirements

Facility Type: scrap metal recycler

Regulations Central to Inspection: 40 C.F.R Part 82, Subpart F

Arrival Time: 8:07 am

Departure Time: 8:40 am

Inspection Type:

- ☒ Unannounced Inspection
- ☐ Announced Inspection

OPENING CONFERENCE

- ☒ Credentials Presented
- ☒ CBI warning to facility provided

The following information was obtained verbally from Mr. Brand unless otherwise noted.

Process Description:

Southwest Metal Recycling accepts ferrous and non-ferrous metals for recycling, primarily from members of the general public. The facility accepts small appliances and hulks/carcasses of vehicles. No recovery of refrigerants from appliances or vehicles is done on-site.

Staff Interview: Mr. Brand stated that items come into the yard from customers and go directly into rolloff boxes after a brief period of sorting. There is a shredder on-site but Mr. Brand stated that it was not financially viable and it is in the process of being dismantled. Mr. Brand stated that Southwest Metals has a statement on its scale tickets related to refrigerants in appliances, but his office staff member was not on-site at the time of our inspection and so we did not obtain a copy of the ticket for review.

TOUR INFORMATION

EPA toured the facility: Yes

Data Collected and Observations:

We observed several dismantled small appliances on the scrap pile, and at least one that appeared to be intact.

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

Field Measurements: were not taken during this inspection.

CLOSING CONFERENCE

Compliance Assistance: We gave an overview of the regulatory requirements and compliance options in 40 C.F.R. Part 82, Subpart F.

Concerns: We discussed with Mr. Brand our observations that there were small appliances on Southwest's scrap pile that did not appear to have had the refrigerant properly recovered prior to delivery to the facility.

SIGNATURES

Report Author: Natalie M. Pin Date: 11/19/18

Section Chief: [Signature] Date: 11/21/18

Facility Name: Southwest Metal Recycling
Facility Location: 9435 Ronda Lane, Houston, Texas
Date of Inspection: November 9, 2018

APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

1. Digital Image Log
2. Digital Images attached on CD

Facility Name: Southwest Metal Recycling
Facility Location: 9435 Ronda Lane, Houston, Texas
Date of Inspection: November 9, 2018

APPENDIX A: DIGITAL IMAGE LOG

1. Inspector Name: Scott Connolly	2. Date(s) of Inspection: November 9, 2018
3. Company/Facility Name: Southwest Metal Recycling	4. Street Address, City, State: 9435 Ronda Lane, Houston, Texas
5. Number of Images: 5	6. Archival Record Location: CD-R labeled Southwest Metal Recycling Inspection photos, November 9, 2018

Image Number	File Name	Date and Time (CST)	Latitude and Longitude	Description of Image
70	PB090070.JPG	11/9/2018 10:23	29.672182, -95.543003	Southwest Metal Recycling – office reference photo
71	PB090071.JPG	11/9/2018 10:24	29.67177, -95.543278	Southwest Metal Recycling – wide angle of main ferrous scrap pile
72	PB090072.JPG	11/9/2018 10:26	29.671389, -95.543333	Southwest Metal Recycling – small appliance on scrap pile with cut refrigerant line
73	PB090073.JPG	11/9/2018 10:27	29.671535, -95.543422	Southwest Metal Recycling – small appliance with dismantled refrigerant circuitry
74	PB090074.JPG	11/9/2018 10:28	29.671513, -95.543453	Southwest Metal Recycling – view of small appliances in scrap pile

