



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

DATE: 07/27/2021

SUBJECT: CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION REPORT
Alsip MiniMill LLC, Alsip, IL 60803

FROM: Karyn DeFranco, Inspector
AECAB (MN/OH)

THRU: Brian Dickens, Section Chief
AECAB (MN/OH)

TO: File

BASIC INFORMATION

Facility Name: Alsip MiniMill LLC

Facility Location: 13101 South Pulaski Road, Alsip, IL 60803

Date of Inspection: 06/30/2021

EPA Inspector(s):

1. Karyn DeFranco, Inspector
2. Natalie Schulz, Inspector

Other Attendees:

1. Neil Burchard, Environmental and Quality Manager, Alsip MiniMill LLC
2. Richard Hordyke, General Manager, Alsip MiniMill LLC

Contact Email Address: rhordyke@alsipminimill.com and nburchard@alsipminimill.com

Purpose of Inspection: To investigate compliance with the Lifetime Operating Permit and VOM emission limits.

Facility Type: Paper products manufacturing

Regulations Central to Inspection: The Lifetime Operating Permit limits VOC emissions from the boilers and the paper machine solvents.

Arrival Time: June 30th, 2021, 8:45 AM

Departure Time: June 30th, 2021, 11:08 AM

Inspection Type:

- ☒ Unannounced Inspection
- ☐ Announced Inspection

OPENING CONFERENCE

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

The following information was obtained verbally from Alsip MiniMill LLC (Alsip MiniMill) unless otherwise noted.

Process Description:

Alsip MiniMill operates a paper product manufacturing integrated mill. Corrugated cardboard is first fed to the pulping tub and broken down to pulp slurry, consisting of approximately 5% solids. The pulp slurry is then gravity and vacuum fed to the paper machine where it is dewatered using fabric sheets in the press section to create a mixture that is approximately 50% solids and 50% water. This mixture is further dewatered with steam-heater dryers to drive moisture down to 8%, the desired moisture for the final product.

Staff Interview:

The facility currently has approximately 125 employees and typically run 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The ownership of the facility changed approximately six years ago. The facility typically produces 675-680 tons of finished product per day, and discharge approximately one-million gal/day of excess water to MWRD.

The facility operates a dust collection system on the conveyor, which was left over from the previous company. The dust collector controls dust emissions from the cutting process before the corrugated cardboard enters the pulper. The pulper water is kept between 80-120°F. The pulp slurry goes through centrifuge and screening to remove anything that is not pulp. A few process chemicals are added to the process to agglomerate paper fibers in the wetting process.

Alsip MiniMill operates two boilers and one rental boiler in their Power House. The rental boiler was used for a project starting in 2018 and has recently been removed. Boilers use city water purified with chemicals.

TOUR INFORMATION

EPA Tour of the Facility: Yes

Data Collected and Observations:

Inspectors observed the preparation of raw materials for processing, as well as the paper machine. Inspectors went to the powerhouse to observe the boilers.

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

Field Measurements: were not taken during this inspection.

CLOSING CONFERENCE

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

Requested documents:

- FESOP application;
- Monthly running 12-month emissions calculation spreadsheet (2019-June 2021);
- SDS sheets for all chemicals used in process;
- Chemical usage of Boilers (2019 and 2020);
- Dust collector maintenance records and procedure; and
- CFM capacity of the dust collector hood.

DIGITAL SIGNATURES

Report Author: **KARYN DEFRANCO**  Digitally signed by KARYN DEFRANCO
Date: 2021.07.26 13:54:31 -05'00'

Section Chief: _____

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Date of Inspection: June 30, 2021

APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

1. Appendix A: Digital Image Log

Contains Items Claimed as CBI – Non-Releasable

Facility Name: Alsip MiniMill LLC

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CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION ATTACHMENT

NONE.

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APPENDIX A: DIGITAL IMAGE LOG

1. Inspector Name: Natalie Schulz	2. Archival Record Location: C:\Users\kdefranco\OneDrive - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)\Alsip Mini Mill, IL\Inspection 2021\063021 Inspection Photos
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Image Number	File Name	Date and Time (incl. Time zone and DST)	Latitude and Longitude	Description of Image
1	IMG_0009.JPG	June 30, 2021 10:02 a.m.		Facility entrance.
2	IMG_0010.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:12 a.m.		Dust collection system.
3	IMG_0011.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:13 a.m.		Raw material stream.
4	IMG_0012.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:16 a.m.		Agitator.
5	IMG_0013.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:16 a.m.		Agitator.
6	IMG_0014.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:18 a.m.		Example of dust buildup near agitator.
7	IMG_0015.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:23 a.m.		Material screening area.
8	IMG_0016.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:24 a.m.		Paper machine.
9	IMG_0017.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:25 a.m.		Paper machine.
10	IMG_0018.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:28 a.m.		Paper machine.
11	IMG_0019.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:29 a.m.		Paper machine.

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12	IMG_0020.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:33 a.m.		Rollers on paper machine.
13	IMG_0021.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:34 a.m.		Steam dryer area.
14	IMG_0022.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:38 a.m.		Winding and cutting area.
15	IMG_0023.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:47 a.m.		Materials that have been filtered out of feed.
16	IMG_0024.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:50 a.m.		Powerhouse entrance.
17	IMG_0025.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:52 a.m.		Boiler.
18	IMG_0026.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:52 a.m.		Tanks in powerhouse.
19	IMG_0027.JPG	June 30, 2021 11:52 a.m.		Tanks in powerhouse.