



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

DATE: MAY 21 2019
SUBJECT: CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION REPORT
Hormel Foods, Beloit, Wisconsin
FROM: Kenneth Ruffatto, Environmental Engineer
AECAB (IL/IN)
THRU: Nathan Frank, Section Chief
AECAB (IL/IN)
TO: File

BASIC INFORMATION

Facility Name: Hormel Foods

Facility Location: 3000 Kennedy Drive, Beloit, Wisconsin

Date of Inspection: April 11, 2019

EPA Inspector(s):

1. Kenneth Ruffatto, Environmental Engineer
2. Sasha Letuchy, Environmental Engineer

Other Attendees

1. Robert Weilbrenner, Beloit Project Engineer, Hormel Foods
2. Jon Thiering, Engineering Tech, Hormel Foods

Contact Email Address: rrweilbrenner@hormel.com

Purpose of Inspection: Opacity inspection based off of visible emissions when driving by the facility

Facility Type: Food Company

Arrival Time: approximately 2:45 PM

Departure Time: 3:15 PM

Inspection Type:

- ☒ Unannounced Inspection
- ☐ Announced Inspection

OPENING CONFERENCE

- ☒ Credentials Presented
- ☒ CBI warning to facility provided

The following information was obtained verbally from Hormel Foods staff unless otherwise noted.

Process Description:

Hormel Foods creates a wide variety of food products including salsas, chilis, hashes, etc. The facility is set up so that areas can be switched out when new products need to be produced. Hormel has boilers used to provide steam for the facility. Natural gas is used as the primary fuel for the boilers, but #2 fuel oil may be used in instances when the natural gas cannot be fed to the boiler.

Staff Interview: Hormel Foods operates under a registration air permit # 154004290-ROPA. EPA noticed high opacity coming from a stack at the plant while driving on I-90 and performed a brief inspection. Hormel Foods stated that they had a gas valve failure at their #3 boiler causing them to switch over to #2 fuel oil around 1:00PM which caused the high opacity. This is not a typical occurrence at the boilers.

TOUR INFORMATION

EPA toured the facility: No

Data Collected and Observations:

EPA observed high opacity (>50%) coming from the boiler #3 stack at Hormel Food's facility. EPA was unable to take a photo or Method 9 opacity readings due to the location of the plant.

Photos and/or Videos: were not taken during the inspection.

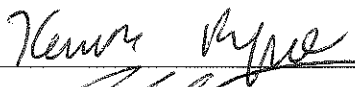
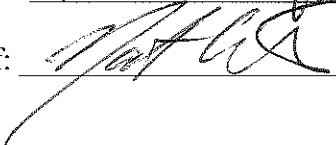
Field Measurements: were not taken during this inspection.

CLOSING CONFERENCE**Requested documents:**

- Emailed explanation of the cause of the opacity
- Pictures of the stack once adjustments were made to decrease opacity

Compliance Assistance: EPA informed Hormel Foods that they had excessive opacity coming from their boiler #3 stack, though EPA did not perform Method 9 opacity readings.

SIGNATURES

Report Author:  Date: 5/15/2019
Section Chief:  Date: 5/21/19