



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

SUBJECT: CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION REPORT
Rocky Mountain Recycling, Commerce City, CO

FROM: Valeria Apolinario
AECAB (MN/OH)

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

TO: File

BASIC INFORMATION

Facility Name: Rocky Mountain Recycling

Facility Location: 6510 Brighton Blvd, Commerce City, CO 80022

Date of Inspection: June 22, 2022

EPA Inspector(s):

1. Valeria Apolinario, Environmental Engineer
2. Brianna Fenzl, Environmental Engineer
3. Laura Steel, Environmental Engineer

Other Attendees:

1. Leticia Acosta, Safety Manager
2. Tom Crane, Operations Manager/Assistant Plant Manager

Contact Email Address: lacosta@rmrscrap.com

Purpose of Inspection: to determine compliance with the Clean Air Act regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 82 Subpart F: Recycling and Emissions Reduction

Facility Type: Recycling Center/Scrapyard

Regulations Central to Inspection: 40 C.F.R. Part 82 Subpart F, including 40 C.F.R 82.155 safe disposal of appliances, such as small and motor vehicle air conditioners, and 40 C.F.R 82.156, proper evacuation of refrigerant from appliances.

Arrival Time: 3:00 pm

Departure Time: 3:50 pm

Inspection Type:

- ☒ Unannounced Inspection
- ☐ Announced Inspection

OPENING CONFERENCE

- ☒ Presented Credentials
- ☒ Stated authority and purpose of inspection
- ☒ Provided Small Business Resource Information Sheet – via email
- ☒ Provided CBI warning to facility

The following information was obtained verbally from Leticia Acosta and Tom Crane unless otherwise noted.

Process Description:

Rocky Mountain Recycling (facility) accepts ferrous and nonferrous material from the general public and commercial vendors. The facility accepts white goods, appliances, motor vehicles, and refrigeration components. When an appliance comes into the facility, personnel inspect the appliance to verify it has been drained of refrigerant. This inspection includes checking if the refrigerant circuitry is not intact within the appliance and if the compressor is removed. If refrigerant is no longer within the appliance, the facility accepts it. The facility accepts vehicles only if upon inspection there are no liquids, such as gasoline and refrigerant, contained within the vehicle. If refrigerant is found intact within an appliance or a vehicle contains liquid, the facility rejects the items. The facility does not recover refrigerant from appliances or motor vehicles.

Staff Interview:

- The facility has 80 employees, including office personnel.
- Upon acceptance of an appliance, the customer signs a statement either stating that the refrigerant was properly disposed of or had “leaked out” previously. Commercial customers sign the same verification statement as well, but the facility is currently drafting language for a one-year contract.
- “White Goods” is utilized as a specific code within the inventory of the facility. In an email from August 9th, 2022, the facility stated that this code is utilized to trigger the printing of a CFC verification statement if an appliance is part of a scrap load. Therefore, the use of this code in the facility’s inventory indicates that at least one appliance was part of a load. The facility also uses a specific code for air conditioner compressors.
- The facility accepts approximately 2-3 appliances per day.
- Approximately 90% of appliances stem from commercial vendors and 10% from the general public.

TOUR INFORMATION

EPA Tour of the Facility: Yes

Data Collected and Observations:

- At the entrance to the facility, a sign stated that “air conditioners, refrigerators and freezers must have all refrigerants safely extracted prior to disposals.” (Picture 1).
- At the scale, near the entrance of the scrapyard, a sign stated that “refrigerators with CFCs” were not accepted (Picture 2).
- A compressor was seen at the main scrap pile with a cut line (Picture 4 and 5).
- When asked about motor vehicle acceptances, facility personnel stated that there was a separate pile for motor vehicles.

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

CLOSING CONFERENCE

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

Requested documents:

- Copy of a signed CFC form from the past week (6/20-6/24/22), past 2 years (from 2020), and past 3 years (from 2019)
- Copy of email sent to commercial vendors on acceptance policy/inspections
- Records of the number of vehicles accepted over the last 3 years (since June 2019)
- Any records of acceptance of refrigerators, freezers, AC units, radiators, and refrigeration components (compressors, condensers) for the last 3 years, if kept
- Production records of the amount of scrap shredded over the last 3 years
- Material acceptance policy
- Rejection policy, if different from the material acceptance policy
- During the inspection, Rocky Mountain Recycling stated that there was a CFC contract currently being drafted for commercial vendors. EPA requested the current draft of this contract (as of 6/22/2022).

Compliance Assistance: US EPA discussed strategies for not incentivizing customers to vent refrigerant. These include rejecting appliances with cut lines and updating signage to communicate refrigerant recovery requirements.

Concerns: US EPA noted to the facility that the current acceptance policy encourages the general public and commercial vendors to cut and vent refrigerant lines. It did not appear that the facility had signage or other notification methods to notify customers that refrigerant must be properly recovered from appliances before delivery to the facility.

DIGITAL SIGNATURES

Report Author: **VALERIA APOLINARIO** Digitally signed by VALERIA APOLINARIO
Date: 2022.08.11 08:34:02 -05'00'

Section Supervisor: **Brian Dickens** Digitally signed by Brian Dickens
Date: 2022.08.11 10:27:34 -05'00'

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APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

1. Appendix A: Digital Image Log

Facility Name: Rocky Mountain Recycling
Facility Location: 6510 Brighton Blvd, Commerce City, CO 80022
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APPENDIX A: DIGITAL IMAGE LOG

1. Inspector Name: Laura Steel	2. Archival Record Location: Region 5 Electronic Records Center
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Image Number	File Name	Date and Time (incl. Time zone and DST)	Description of Image
1	IMG_0107.JPG	2022:06:22 15:30:50 MT	List of Items Not Accepted (at Office Entrance)
2	IMG_0108.JPG	2022:06:22 15:32:12 MT	Signage of Items Not Accepted at Drive-Up Entrance
3	IMG_0109.JPG	2022:06:22 15:34:14 MT	Scrap Pile
4	IMG_0110.JPG	2022:06:22 15:35:13 MT	Compressor on Ground
5	IMG_0111.JPG	2022:06:22 15:35:43 MT	Compressor Cut Line
6	IMG_0112.JPG	2022:06:22 15:38:13 MT	Back of Scrap Pile