



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
Four Penn Center – 1600 John F Kennedy Blvd
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2852

Report Title: Geospatial Measurement of Air Pollution of Evonik Corp Chester
Inspection Date(s): 03/29/2023
Regulatory Program(s): SIP, NSPS

Company Name: Evonik Corp
Facility Name: Evonik Corp Chester
Facility Location: 1200 W Front St
Chester, PA 19013
Latitude: 39.837605 **Longitude:** -75.37294
County/Parish: Delaware County

AFS/ICIS-Air Number: PA0003182
Permit Number: 23-00047
NAICS Code: 325130 **SIC:** 2819
Unique Project #: 3E23CA090A

Facility Representatives: **Point of Contact**

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EPA Lead Inspector

Signature

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Date

Supervisor

Signature

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Date

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I. Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a Geospatial Measurement of Air Pollution (GMAP) inspection at Evonik Corp Chester (Evonik or Facility) to determine if elevated levels of compounds were present. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) was notified of the inspection on March 20, 2023 via email. On March 29, 2023, EPA notified the Facility of the planned inspection via phone and email.

A. Summary of the Facility

The Facility is located at 1200 W Front St, Chester, PA. The Facility manufactures precipitated silica. The Facility uses sulfuric acid and ammonia in a controlled neutralization reaction of dilute sodium silicate to make the precipitated silica. The Facility is classified as industrial inorganic chemical manufacturing and synthetic dye and pigment manufacturing.

The Facility received a State Only Permit (23-00047) from PA issued on August 28, 2018.

Evonik Corp Chester is classified as synthetic minor for Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) and Particulate Matter (PM). The Facility is subject to, or potentially subject to the following federal regulations:

- 40 CFR Part 60 Subpart Db – Standards of Performance for Industrial Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units

B. Inspection Opening Conference

At 2:33 PM on March 29, 2023, EPA inspectors arrived at the Facility for a Clean Air Act (CAA) Inspection and conducted a brief opening conference. Evonik was represented by Frank Robertson, Plant Manager and Craig Gauthier, ESH Manager. Also, Heather Henry, PA DEP was present. EPA inspectors, Parmatma Adhikari, Nicholas Bobbs, Philip Myers and Scott Yanos, presented their credentials and explained the purpose of the visit was to conduct Geospatial Measurement of Air Pollution (GMAP) monitoring. EPA inspector Nichola Bobbs explained that the GMAP vehicle has the capability to monitor Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Methane (CH₄), Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) and Benzene (C₆H₆).

II. Site Activity/Process Description

Evonik receives the dilute sodium silicate from a pipe that comes from PQ Corp, located adjacent to the Facility, and uses sulfuric acid and ammonia to perform a controlled neutralization of the dilute sodium silicate to create the precipitated silicate.

The opening conference concluded at 2:44 PM.

III. Observations

EPA inspectors were led on a drive through of the Facility at 2:45 PM by Frank Robertson and Craig Gauthier of Evonik and Heather Henry, PA DEP also present for the drive through. Frank Robertson, Scott Yanos, Parmatma Adhikari and Heather Henry walked the perimeter of the facility while Nick Bobbs and Phil Myers followed in the GMAP vehicle.

The GMAP vehicle was lead around the perimeter of the Facility. No elevated air emissions were detected by the GMAP during the drive through. A designation of “elevated” means elevated concentrations of the listed pollutants the GMAP monitors were measured above the background level using the GMAP. Actual numeric concentration readings observed during the monitoring event were not yet verified at the time of this report, but can be shared with the Facility, once the date becomes verified.

The drive through concluded at 2:59 PM.

IV. Closing Conference

After the drive through, EPA inspectors, Frank Robertson, Craig Gauthier and Heather Henry of PA DEP had a brief closing conference to ask additional questions and discuss observations. The EPA inspectors noted that the investigation is on-going, and any areas of concern identified in the final report do not necessarily reflect a violation or deviation, rather, they are areas that will require further investigation. EPA also noted that they would issue an inspection report within in 60 days, with a copy to the State. Simultaneously, EPA will perform a detailed review of records and may have additional questions.

The inspection concluded at 3:00 PM.