

**CWA COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION REPORT
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 5**

Purpose:

Compliance Evaluation Reconnaissance Inspection

Facility:

Great Lakes Stevedoring LLC DBA MetroPorts
115 Steel Drive
Portage, IN 46368
Porter County
41.64031, -87.1556

NPDES Permit Number:

INRM02228

Date of Inspection:

October 13, 2022

EPA Representatives:

Joan Rogers, Environmental Scientist 312-886-2785
Rogers.joan@epa.gov

State Representatives:

Nicholas Ream, Indiana Department of Environmental Management 219-730-1691
Wastewater Inspector
nream@idem.IN.gov

Ramelito Biscocho, Indiana Department of Environmental Management 219-464-0233
Wastewater Inspector
rbiscoch@idem.in.gov

Kelly Paulson, Indiana Department of Environmental Management 219-464-0233
Environmental Manager 2
kpaulson@idem.in.gov

Alyssa Ruthkay, Indiana Department of Environmental Management 219-464-0233
Environmental Manager 2
aruthkay@idem.in.gov

Facility Representatives:

Steve Farmer, Operations Manager
Steve.farmer@metroports.com

Ken Stone, Terminal Manager for MetroPorts

Report Prepared by:

Joan Rogers

Inspector Signature/Date: _____

JOAN
ROGERS

Digitally signed by JOAN
ROGERS
Date: 2022.11.05
09:27:40 -05'00'

Approver Name and Title: Ryan Bahr, Supervisor, Section 2, WECAB

Approver Signature/Date: _____

Ryan Bahr

Digitally signed by Ryan
Bahr
Date: 2022.11.16
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1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to describe and document the reconnaissance inspection at the Great Lakes Stevedoring LLC facility on October 13, 2022. This inspection was performed pursuant to Section 308(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended. This was a joint inspection by EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

During an inspection at another facility, EPA and IDEM inspectors observed plumes of unknown material rising from the east side of the harbor. Rail cars prevented seeing the whole operation, but photos and videos were taken from the east side of the harbor facing west. At one point, EPA inspector, Joan Rogers, observed a front-end loader leave the brown building on the west side of the harbor and dump the contents of its bucket. The plume of unknown material rose immediately and was carried by the wind east and northeast. The plume reached the east side of the harbor where the inspectors were standing. The inspectors noted that the dry material could be felt on the tongue.

2. SITE INSPECTION

Facility Walkthrough

See Attachment A for the photolog of the photos taken during the facility walkthrough.

The inspection team ended the ongoing inspection and drove to the west side of the harbor to investigate. Upon arrival at the site, at 11:31 A.M., there was no one present. EPA and IDEM inspectors walked around the site and observed the unknown material on the ground, in puddles of storm water along the edge of the dock, and on the surface of the water in the harbor. The inspectors also observed the dust being lifted into the air by the wind.

There was a storage building on the site with the doors open on either side contained piles of broken rock on either side of the main aisle. The inspectors observed curtains hanging from the ceiling that could be used to prevent dust from leaving the building.

At approximately 11:40 A.M., the inspectors observed a vehicle arrive on site and walked to meet them. The inspection team introduced themselves and showed credentials to Mr. Steve Farmer, Operations Manager and Mr. Ken Stone, Terminal Manager for

MetroPorts. Mr. Farmer stated that the company was Great Lakes Stevedoring LLC, doing business as MetroPorts and the material was magnesite stone. Mr. Farmer explained that the material cannot be wetted to reduce the dust, and there were space issues in the building so that is why they were loading trucks outdoors. Mr. Farmer stated that the company had a Storm Water Permit, an Air Permit, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and a Spill Containment Plan. None of these documents were on site.

The inspectors described the plume visible from the east side of the harbor, the plume material in the storm water near the edge of the dock, and the plume material on the surface of the water in the harbor. The inspectors instructed Mr. Farmer and Mr. Stone to wet down the material on the ground so it could not be lifted by the wind and to clean up the material on the ground. The inspectors also instructed Mr. Farmer and Mr. Stone to load the trucks inside the building. IDEM inspector Nick Ream asked to be provided with pictures after the material was cleaned up and of the loading of the trucks in the building. Mr. Farmer stated that he would not be able to get someone to wet down the material on the ground until 1pm as the workers were on lunch but agreed to send the photos to Mr. Ream.

The inspection team exited the site at approximately 12:00 P.M.

On October 14, 2022, Mr. Farmer provided five photos of the material wetted down, the area after the material was cleaned up, and the truck being loaded in the building. Mr. Farmer also provided a video of a truck being loaded inside the building. See Attachment B for the photos provided by Mr. Farmer.

3. DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FROM FACILITY

- None

4. AREAS OF CONCERN

- A. The facility personnel were loading trucks outdoors during a day with strong winds which created a plume of magnesite dust that was carried downwind and landed in the harbor.

5. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- A) EPA Photolog
- B) Photos provided by Mr. Farmer