

**Environmental
Protection Agency**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

May 4, 2011

RE: KOVATCH CASTINGS
3GR00414*BG
STORMWATER
SUMMIT COUNTY

Mr. Frank E. Lysiak, CPA
Vice-President-Chief Financial Officer
Kovatch Castings
3743 Tabs Drive
Uniontown, Ohio 44685

Dear Mr. Lysiak:

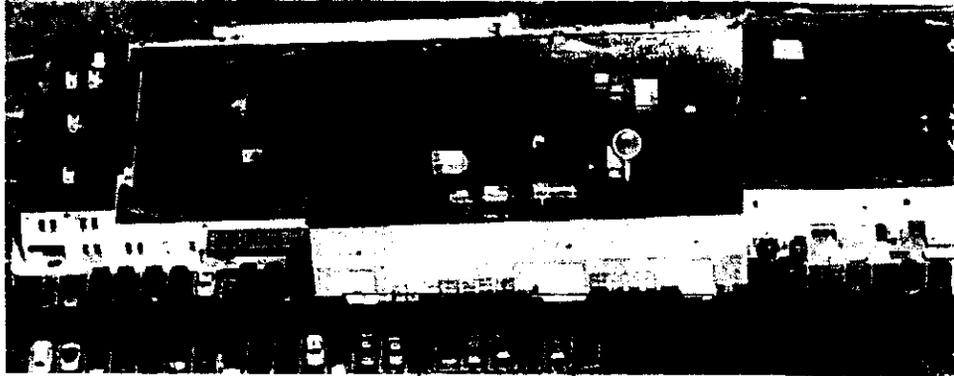
On April 29, 2011 this writer conducted an inspection of your facility, located at 3743 Tabs Drive, Uniontown, Summit County to determine compliance with your Industrial General Storm Water NPDES permit referenced above. Besides you, in attendance were Mr. Brislen, Kovatch Castings. Below you will find a summary of the inspection:

General

Kovatch Castings produces various products for industry such as aerospace, medical, military, and automotive, and many others. Your company uses the investment casting process. In general the following process produces the final product (taken from your web site): a pattern is made by injecting wax into a metal die, Patterns are fastened on to one or more runners and the runners are attached to a pouring cup. Patterns, runners and pouring cups comprise the cluster or tree, which is needed to produce the ceramic mold. The ceramic shell mold technique involves dipping the entire cluster into a ceramic slurry, draining it, then coating it with fine ceramic sand. After drying, this process is repeated again and again, using progressively coarser grades of ceramic material, until a self-supporting shell has been formed. The coated cluster is placed in a high temperature furnace where the pattern melts and runs out through the gates, runners and pouring cup. This leaves a ceramic shell containing cavities of the casting shape desired with passages leading to them. The hot molds may be poured with the assistance of vacuum, pressure and/or centrifugal force. After the poured molds have cooled, the mold material is removed from the casting cluster. This is done by mechanical vibration, abrasive blasting, and chemical cleaning. Individual castings are then removed from the cluster by means of cut-off wheels and any remaining protrusions left by gates or runners are removed by belt-grinding. The castings are then ready for secondary operations such as: heat treating, straightening, machining, finishing, inspection, non-destructive testing, and then shipment to the customer.

Inspection Observations

- 1) The area indicated below had numerous containers stored alongside the wall of the building. It was obvious that a few of the containers had been leaking as a white stain could be seen on the pavement which leads to a storm sewer. Pictures attached for your reference.



area of waste or product storage

- 2) There are numerous dust collectors located along the north wall. Most of them were leaking as various amounts of dust could be seen around the dust containers. In addition the waste produced from the casting process is stored all along the building wall. Some of it is stored under cover, some of it is not. Pictures attached for your reference.

Bag house and waste storage area from casting operations



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Both the north and south sides of the building are areas where waste materials are exposed to storm water. This is of concern to this agency as open storm sewer grates are located within 10 to 20 feet of these areas and will quickly receive pollutants during a rain event. These areas must be addressed as soon as possible. Waste must be properly contained and stored where it is not exposed to storm water. Please be advised that your stormwater permit does not authorize the discharge of pollutants such as contaminated runoff to waters of the State of Ohio.

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) was to be prepared within 6 months of obtaining your first General Industrial Stormwater Permit. At the time of the inspection the SWPPP had not been prepared. You are requested to prepare an SWPPP as soon as possible but no later than July 8, 2011. USEPA has published a template for a SWPPP with instructions that you may find useful. It can be found at the following web address: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/msgp.cfm>, under Sample MSGP SWPPP Template (WORD).

If you should have any questions concerning this letter, feel free to contact this writer at (330) 963-1136 or by email phil.rhodes@epa.state.oh.us.

Sincerely,



Philip P. Rhodes, P.E.
Environmental Specialist II
Division of Surface Water

PPR/mt

File: Industrial Stormwater

