



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

Ted Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lt. Governor
Chris Korteski, Director

November 22, 2010

RE: YOUNGSTOWN HARD CHROME
PRE-PERMIT INSPECTION
NPDES PERMIT NO. 31C00074

Mr. Daniel J McCarthy
Youngstown Hard Chrome, Inc.
P.O. Box 3508
Youngstown, OH 44513

Mr. McCarthy:

On September 14, 2010, this writer conducted an unannounced inspection of the Youngstown Hard Chrome facility located at 8451 Southern Blvd. in Boardman, OH. The intent of the inspection was to determine if any changes had been made to the wastewater handling systems. It was necessary to determine any changes in preparation for renewing the NPDES permit. The compliance record for the facility was also reviewed for this inspection.

Observations:

Based on our discussions during the inspection, and based on a review of the previous inspection report, it appears that no changes to the wastewater handling systems have been made. Chrome-containing wastewater flows into floor drains where it is pumped to a holding tank and then to an evaporator. After the mixture has been concentrated in the evaporator, it is hauled off-site as a hazardous waste material.

Only noncontact cooling water is discharged from the facility. The noncontact cooling water is collected in viewing pots for observation every four hours. The wastewater is inspected for color to monitor for any leaks in the heat exchangers that may permit the discharge of chrome containing wastes. Two viewing pots are used for the six hard chrome systems at the facility. A record of observations is maintained at each pot.

During the inspection, you indicated that the company was considering the installation of an auto-sensing system. The system would continuously monitor the noncontact cooling water for the possibility of contamination. It was understood that the auto-sensing system would have an automatic shut off to stop the discharge of noncontact cooling water in the event of an alarm condition.

The sampling point for the noncontact cooling water is a catch basin on the east side of the facility. Cooling water was discharging at the time of the inspection. No color or odor was observed at the time of the inspection. The receiving stream was also clear during the inspection.

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Compliance Review:

The monthly compliance record was reviewed as part of this inspection. The period of review was November 2009 through October 2010. Following are violations of the NPDES permit reported during the review period.

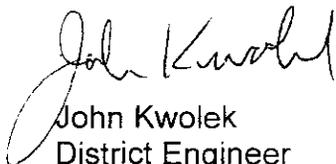
Reporting Period	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
January 2010	pH	1D Conc	9.0	9.62	1/5/2010

Summary:

No concerns were noted at the time of the inspection. It appears that no changes to the wastewater handling systems have been made. The wastewater handling systems were satisfactory at the time of the inspection.

You may contact this writer at (330) 963-1251 or at john.kwolek@epa.state.oh.us to discuss any questions you may have.

Respectfully,



John Kwolek
District Engineer
Division of Surface Water

JK/mt