

File Code: 4530-3

Name of Entity

Madison-Kipp

Telephone Number

FID Number

Street or Route

Date of Contact

July 13, 1994

Time of Contact

0700h

City, State, Zip Code

Conferred With

Arnie Dalsoren, Mgr. of Plant
Engineering & Maintenance

District

Southern

Type of Contact:

☐ Conference

☒ Field Check

☐ Telephone Conversation

☐ Other

RE: Odor Investigation

Odor noted from 0630-0650: One odor was a metallic solvent-like smell on Waubesa and Marquette Streets; another was a foundry-like burning/acrid odor on Atwood Ave. I spoke briefly with a passerby who indicated that the metallic odor was frequently but transiently present. On calm summer days she said the smell just hangs in the air. It occurs frequently in the mornings. She thought it came from Madison-Kipp or Durline Scales. She also indicated there was a noise problem which was not present at the time we spoke. The wind was blowing from the NE, judged by a high flag, but wind conditions in the neighborhood were highly variable in direction around the neighborhood. Prevailing winds cannot be used in evaluating air quality in this area.

I determined the source of the metallic odor was most likely from Madison-Kipp. The acrid odor was definitely from this source. I entered the plant to investigate. The Plant Manager was not present, and I was told that "no one is in charge." Arnie was familiar with the processes, and accompanied me around the facility.

There were visible fumes in the plant, particularly in the aluminum and zinc die casting, and aluminum machining areas. A die lube is sprayed on the dies prior to metal injection. The acrid odor outside was consistent with the odors in these areas.

On entering the zinc area downstairs on the south (Atwood) end of the plant, there was a very strong smell similar to natural gas. Throughout the tour, Arnie stated he either could not smell the odor, or that it smelled "normal" to him. This is not uncommon for people working in the presence of certain odors for a length of time.

I smelled a faint transient odor similar to the metallic solvent-like odor I had smelled outside in the zinc area. The windows were open along the wall next to the dock on the north side, however, and it is possible odors from elsewhere were entering this area. I looked at the machining washer and drying oven. The oven operates at 210°F. Two pressure gauges which measure the pressure drop across a filter which removes particulates were partially filled with water, and both fluctuated slightly around 5 psi. A steam cloud was present.

Arnie stated that all processes were operating, and that all were at "normal operations," and there were no process upsets or malfunctions that morning. He said Kipp had recently performed OSHA testing, and no toxics were found. I promised to send him a copy of my report.

I was unable to determine the source of the metallic odor. It is possible it is a stack odor, rather than a fugitive odor. If so, a possible solution may be raised stacks. It is also possible that the metallic odor is a combination of smells. I intended to find the odor outside again, and compare it to the many smells inside the plant. I was unable to smell properly on leaving the plant, however, and could not follow through. The most likely source was the zinc area: machining, washing, and casting.

Within a few minutes of leaving the plant (less than 5 min.), I experienced a dizzy, "woozy" feeling. My face and fingers felt numb and tingly, my heart was pounding, and I found my breathing rapid and shallow. My proprioception was disrupted, and I did not believe I could safely drive. I knew my sense of smell was affected because I could barely smell the raspberry soda I was drinking, which ordinarily has a strong, distinctive odor. This was at 0730h. The symptoms subsided and I drove around Durline Scales. I detected no activity besides a worker outside taking measurements by a frame structure.

A squeaky humming sound from Kipp was noticeable on Marquette Street. At 0745h I smelled the NG odor I had noted on the north side of the zinc area at the corner of Atwood and Waubesa. By about 0810h I notice no health effects.

I recommend that the Public Health Office and/or OSHA be notified of this event. I further recommend that any odor surveys of the plant be performed prior to entering the facility, and that an investigation into compounds which may produce these health effects be initiated.

cc: Arnold Dalsoren - Madison-Kipp Corp. P.O. Box 3037, Madison WI 53704

City of Madison Public Health Dept., Office of Air Quality, 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Madison WI 53703
Occupational Safety and Health Admin., 4802 E. Broadway, Madison WI 53716

c: AM/7 - CMP, INS

Southern District Air Management

Submitted By

Lynda L. Cutts

Date

July 14, 1994