UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Summary of Observations and Photographs
TAV Holdings, Inc., Empire Boulevard
EPA ID # GAD 033 537 663
October 6, 2021, October 20, 2021, and December 6, 2021

FROM: Brooke York
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ARACELI CHAVEZ Digitally signed by ARACELI CHAVEZ Date: 2022.01.06 12:34:59 -05'00'

TO: File

Introduction

This Memo is to document the main observations relating to conditions and operations at the TAV Empire Facility that may present risk to human health and the environment. These observations were made by Brooke York and David Champagne during the October 6, 2021 Compliance Evaluation Inspection, the October 20, 2021 Case Development Investigation Evaluation, and the December 6, 2021 Site Visit accompanying the Occupational Health and Safety Administration inspectors. Photographs were taken by Brooke York and David Champagne during each visit to the site and can be seen in Attachments 1-4 of this Memo.

Summary of Observations

Auto shredder residue (ASR) waste was observed in the Receiving Area being stored in open piles that are exposed to weather elements (Attachment 1: Photographs 87-89, 96-99, 101, 110; Attachment 2: Figures 2-17; Attachment 3: Figures 1- 9; Attachment 4: Figures 6-12)

The inspectors observed that the area had received rainfall in the days prior to the October 6, 2021, inspection and the ASR waste piles were wet (Attachment 1: Figures 48-51, 87-89). Water contaminated with small particles was observed to be pooling on the asphalt area immediately east of the Receiving Area, also known as the Jig Pad Area (Attachment 1: Figures 87 and 88; Attachment 2: 5-12, 73-77; Attachment 3: Figures 1-4, 33 and 34; Attachment 4: Figures 7-8, 28-32).

During each visit, the inspectors observed numerous piles of ASR waste in various stages of processing being stored outside (Attachment 1: Photographs 87-89, 96-99, 101, 110; Attachment 2: Figures 2-17;

Attachment 3: Figures 1- 9; Attachment 4: Figures 6-12). Some of these piles were ASR waste that had been reduced in particle size to a dust-like material. The material easily became airborne during transportation activities. Both employees and pedestrians were observed in areas where transportation activities were occuring.

The inspectors observed holes in the roof (Attachment 1: Figures 35-39) and inadequate containment of process water, stormwater, and/or wastewater in the Keebler Building (Attachment 1: Figures 52-61,64-68,70; Attachment 2: Figures 20, 21, 25, 29-39, 44-47, 78-91; Attachment 3: Figures 13,18,20 and 21; Attachment 4: Figures 13-18, 25-27, 33, 37, 39, 40, 43-53, 55-58), which allowed the comingling of process water, stormwater, and/or wastewater (Attachment 1:Figures 72-80; Attachment 2: Figures 78-87; Attachment 4: Figures 15, 34, 35, 37, 53-55, 57-63). The inspectors observed employees sweeping the combined process water, stormwater, and/or wastewater out of the Keebler Building onto the ground (Attachment 1: Figure 79, and 55; Attachment 2: Figure 37; Attachment 4: Figure 61) and where it flows uncontained from south to north and collects in the Jig Pad Area.

The inspectors observed storage/staging areas for in-process ASR waste or other waste material in the Keebler Building at the Facility exposed to the uncontrolled overflow of process water, stormwater, and/or wastewater due to improper storage and containment of material (Attachment 1: Figures 26, 27, 31, 33-39, 41-42, 60-61, 70; Attachment 2: Figures 29-36, 41-48, 78-91; Attachment 3: Figures 12, 13, 18-22, 35; Attachment 4: Figures 13-21, 33, 37-40, 46-50, 54-57, 61-63, 103-105).

Employees work in areas of the Facility where process water, wastewater, and/or stormwater are uncontained and pooling, overflowing, or actively flowing (Attachment 1: Figures 64, 79 and 80, Attachment 2: 13-47, 68-100; Attachment 3: Figures 1-8, 12-22, 27-35; Attachment 4: Figures 6-61, 69, 71, 72, 94-96, 101-105). These employees may encounter uncontained sludge, process intermediates, and wastewater during the course of their workday.

The inspectors observed that the clarifier (a settling basin) and/or tanks in the Waste Water Treatment (WWT) Area were overflowing (Attachment 1: Figures 62-79; Attachment 2: Figures 36-39, 83, 84, 87-97; Attachment 3: Figures 15, 16; Attachment 4: Figures 34, 35, 57-62, 69-72). The presence and condition of secondary containment in the WWT Area could not be determined or properly inspected due to the unsafe conditions present. The inspectors observed exposed equipment, including moving gears and belts, and electrical components. The inspectors observed overflowing tanks, as well as a thick accumulation of sludge on the surface of the ground (Attachment 1: Figures 70-79, Attachment 2: Figures 37-40, 87-97; Attachment 3: Figures 15 and 16; Attachment 4: Figures 34, 35, 57-63, 69-72).

The inspectors observed that the only staff wearing respiratory protection were laboratory staff, who were wearing half-face respirators. The inspectors asked the laboratory staff about their use of respiratory protection. The staff informed inspectors that they had determined that it was in their best interest to wear respiratory protection in the lab due to the levels of lead in the material that may become airborne in the laboratory.

The inspectors observed sludge-like material migrating from the Keebler Complex, through the WWT Area (Attachment 1: Figures 52-61,64-68,70-80; Attachment 2: Figures 36-39, 83-97; Attachment 4: Figures 34, 35, 55-62, 69-72) and Jig Pad Area (Attachment 1: Figures 87-88; Attachment 2: Figures 11, 12, 75-77; Attachment 3: Figures 1-4, 33, 34; Attachment 4: Figures 28-32, 69, 71, 72) to the Facility stormwater Outfalls (Attachment 1: Figures 98-106; Attachment 2: Figures 98-100, 123-128, 130-142, 146; Attachment 3: Figures 27-30, 48, 49, 51-53; Attachment 4: Figures 94-98) and the

unnamed tributary of the South River (Attachment 1: Figures 104-106; Attachment 2: Figures 129, 143-145; Attachment 3: Figures 54-58, 60-66).

The inspectors observed that the settlement basin at Outfall 003 (the Outfall near the big pile of ASR waste on the 111 Hollow Tree parcel with the sediment basin) was completely full of sludge or sediment (Attachment 1: Figures 100-103; Attachment 2: Figures 66, 68-71, 99, 100; Attachment 3: Figures 27-30) and was releasing directly to the land and the unnamed tributary of the South River (Attachment 1: Figures 104-106; Attachment 2: Figures 69-71, 99, 100, 125-134, 137-140; Attachment 3: Figures 27-30,51-53).

The inspectors observed evidence of stormwater and sludge having overflowed the Jig Pad Area. The ASR waste appeared to have bypassed Outfall 002 (the Outfall near the Jig Pad) (Attachment 2: Figures 141 and 142) and had released directly to the land and the unnamed tributary of the South River.

The inspectors observed a large ASR waste pile at the 3320 Empire Boulevard location (Attachment 1: Figures 84 and 110; Attachment 2: Figures 111, 112; Attachment 3: Figures 46 and 47; Attachment 4: Figure 1, 129 and 130) that lacked a fence and was unsecured and unguarded. This ASR waste pile lacked containment and other measures to prevent release of ASR waste directly to the environment (Attachment 1: Figures 84, 108-11; Attachment 4: Figures 1, 129 and 130).

The inspectors observed staining and what appeared to be the same material as the ASR waste piles at the Facility accumulating in and along the curb on Empire Boulevard and running down the road (Attachment 2: Figure 121).

Members of the community can access the ASR waste pile at the 3320 Empire Boulevard location from the road or right-of-way (Attachment 4: Figures 1, 129 and 130).

Inspectors observed children walking and dribbling basketballs on Empire Boulevard, passing by access points to the unnamed tributary and the unsecured ASR waste pile at 3320 Empire Boulevard.

The rear portion of Crawford W. Long Middle School is fenced along the unnamed tributary of the South River. However, the tributary is accessible from Empire Boulevard, northwest of the Facility. The inspectors noted evidence of camping activity, a tent, clothing, and personal items, on the Facility side of the unnamed tributary near Outfall 002 (the Outfall near Jig Pad) at the time of the October 20, 2021 sampling event.

The 111 Hollow Tree location is partially fenced, and the entry gate (Attachment 2: Figure 1) was observed open during operating hours. There is a guard shack at the entry gate that is sometimes occupied.

The inspectors observed that the nature of the material stored at the Facility is of such small particle size that it could become airborne and release/migrate to the surrounding environment and community.

On December 6, 2021, the EPA accompanied Occupational, Safety, and Health Administration (OSHA) inspectors to the Facility. The EPA observed conditions at the Facility to be similar to those conditions observed during the previous visits on October 6 and 20, 2021. Photographs from the December 6, 2021 site visit are in Attachment 4.

Summary of Photographs of October 20, 2021 Sampling Activity

Attachment 2: Figures 7-12, 73-77; Attachment 3: Figures 1-4, 33, 34 depict the general location where the Sample WA01 was taken from the Jig Pad Area where process water, wastewater, and/or stormwater runoff were observed to be ponding.

Attachment 2: Figures 31-36; Attachment 3: Figures 13 and 35 depict the general location where the Sample WA03 was taken near the clarifier conveyer in the WWT Area.

Attachment 2: Figures 41-42; Attachment 3: Figures 18, 21 and 22 depict the general location where the Sample WA04 was taken from an ASR waste pile stored in the Keebler Building.

Attachment 2: Figures 37, 87, 88 depict the general location where the Sample WA05 was taken from the clarifier screw auger loading dock in the outdoor WWT Area.

Attachment 2: Figures 66, 69-71; Attachment 3: Figures 27-30 depict the general location where the Sample WA07 was taken from Outfall 003 near the Jig Pad Area.

Attachment 2: Figures 141-147; Attachment 3: Figures 48, 49, 54-58 depict the general location where the Sample SD01 was taken from the unnamed tributary of the South River that flows in an easterly direction just north of the Facility, at a point immediately east (downstream) of Outfall 002 (the Outfall near the Jig Pad).

Attachment 2: Figures 125-134; Attachment 3: Figures 51-53, 61-66 depict the general location where Sample SD02 was taken from the unnamed tributary of the South River at Outfall 003.

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Brooke York
Inspector

Date

DAVID CHAMPAGNE Digitally signed by DAVID CHAMPAGNE
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David Champagne
Inspector

Date

Attachments 1-4

Attachment 1

TAV Holdings, Inc.
Atlanta, Georgia

EPA ID No.: GAD033537663

EPA RCRA CEI Photographs
"PXL" Photographs taken by: David Champagne

"IMG" Photographs taken by: Brooke York

Photos taken by Brooke York and David Champagne
October 6, 2021