



## Indiana Department of Environmental Management

*We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.*

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(800) 451-6027 • (317) 232-8603 • [www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

**Eric J. Holcomb**  
*Governor*

**Brian Rockensuess**  
*Commissioner*

June 17, 2024

Via Email to: [jlmcconnell@uss.com](mailto:jlmcconnell@uss.com)  
Mr. Joshua McConnell, Plant Manager  
US Steel Corporation Midwest Plant  
6300 US Highway 12  
Portage, Indiana 46368

Dear Mr. McConnell:

Re: Inspection Summary Letter  
US Steel Corporation Midwest Plant  
NPDES Permit No. IN0000337  
Portage, Porter County

An inspection of the above-referenced facility or location was conducted by a representative of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Southeast Regional Office, pursuant to IC 13-18-3-9. A summary of the inspection is provided below:

Date(s) of Inspection: June 13, 2024  
Type of Inspection: Reconnaissance Inspection  
Inspection Results: Conditions evaluated were found to be satisfactory at the time of the inspection.

A copy of the NPDES Industrial Facility Inspection Report is enclosed for your records. Please direct any response to this letter and any questions to Miya Spratt at 219-312-1266 or by email to [mcspratt@idem.IN.gov](mailto:mcspratt@idem.IN.gov).

Sincerely,

Mark A. Amick, Director  
Southeast Regional Office

Enclosure



# NPDES Industrial Facility Inspection Report

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

NPDES Permit Number: <b>IN0000337</b>		Facility Type: Industrial		Facility Classification: Major		TEMPO AI ID D	
Date(s) of Inspection: June 13, 2024							
Type of Inspection: Reconnaissance Inspection							
Name and Location of Facility Inspected: <b>US Steel Corporation Midwest Plant</b> 6300 US Highway 12 Portage IN 46368				Receiving Waters/POTW: Burns Waterway to Lake Michigan		Permit Expiration Date: 9/30/2026	
County: Porter						Design Flow: NA	
On Site Representative(s):							
First Name	Last Name	Title	Email	Phone			
Tim	Sullivan	Coordinator- Environmental	tsullivan@uss.com				
Joe	Hanning	Manager- Environmental Control	jehanning@uss.com				
Travis	Cunningham	Area Manager	tcunningham@uss.com				
Brian	Kishel	Utilities Manager	bkishel@uss.com				
Monique	Bebley	Certified Operator	mdbebley@uss.com				
Alexis	Piscitelli	Senior Director of Environmental	apiscitelli@uss.com				
Was a verbal summary of the inspection given to the on-site rep? <b>Yes</b>							
Certified Operator: Monique Bebley	Number: 21038	Class: D	Effective Date: 7-1-21	Expiration Date: 6-30-24	Email: mdbebley@uss.com		
Cyber Security Contact							
Name:				Email:			
Responsible Official: Mr. Joshua McConnell, Plant Manager 6300 US Highway 12 Portage, Indiana 46368				Permittee: US Steel Corporation Midwest Plant Email: jlmccconnell@uss.com Phone: Fax:			
				Contacted? Yes			
<b>INSPECTION FINDINGS</b>							
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Conditions evaluated were found to be satisfactory at the time of the inspection. (5) <input type="radio"/> Violations were discovered but corrected during the inspection. (4) <input type="radio"/> Potential problems were discovered or observed. (3) <input type="radio"/> Violations were discovered and require a submittal from you and/or a follow-up inspection by IDEM. (2) <input type="radio"/> Violations were discovered and may subject you to an appropriate enforcement response. (1)							
<b>AREAS EVALUATED DURING INSPECTION</b>							
<i>(S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)</i>							
S	Receiving Waters	S	Facility/Site	N	Self-Monitoring	N	Enforcement
S	Effluent/Discharge	S	Operation	N	Flow Measurement		
N	Permit	N	Maintenance	N	Laboratory	N	Effluent Limits Compliance
		N	Sludge	N	Records/Reports	N	Other:
<b>DETAILED AREA EVALUATIONS</b>							
This inspection focused on the Final Treatment plant, Pretreatment Plant, and the Chromium Treatment Plant.							
<b>Receiving Waters:</b>							
Comments: The receiving stream was free of notable foam, algae or solids at outfalls 002, 003, and 004. Outfalls 002 and 003 were observed from the west side of Burns waterway, and outfall 004 was observed from the east and west sides							

of Burns Waterway.

**Effluent/Discharge:**

Evaluation of Multiple Outfalls:

Outfall #	Insp. Date	Outfall Inspection Comments
002	6/13/2024	The effluent was clear and free of color at the time of the inspection.
003	6/13/2024	The effluent was clear and free of color at the time of the inspection.
004	6/13/2024	The effluent was clear and free of color at the time of the inspection.

Comments:

**Facility/Site:**

Comments:

The facility grounds are well maintained. Areas that were requested to be inspected were made accessible.

**Operation:**

Comments:

The Final Treatment Plant, Chrome Plant, and Pretreatment Plant appeared to be operating efficiently.

The Chrome Treatment Plant treats rinse water used on the tin line, which is held in a 60,000-gallon EQ tank that disperses flow to four tanks that are used in a train sequence. Two trains can be used at the facility, A and B. Sulfuric acid is added to the reduction tank to decrease the pH and begin the breakdown of hexavalent chromium to trivalent chromium. Wastewater enters the second tank where the pH is adjusted using sodium hydroxide and begins to precipitate chromium hydroxide. Wastewater then flows to a mix tank prior to entering the lamella clarifiers. Sludge from the lamella enters a sludge holding tank prior to being pressed. Water from the lamella goes through sand filters before discharging through Outfall 204.

In the Pretreatment Plant, oily wastewater is dosed with a coagulant and an emulsion breaker prior to treatment in the West API. Oil skimmed from the West API and the 75,000 Gallon Tank are sent to the East API, which is currently used as a decant tank. Wastewater flows from the West API are sent to the Dissolved Air Floatation systems (DAF) for additional treatment. Flow from the DAF goes to the Final Treatment plant.

The Final Treatment Plant is permitted to treat wastewater composed of treated non-hexavalent chromium process wastewaters. Treatment includes flow to a North or South Equalization Basin, where the pH is lowered using sulfuric acid. A mop skimmer is used in the north basin to assist with removal of oil and a rope skimmer is used in the south basin. There are plans to add additional mop skimmers in the future.

Flow from the Equalization Basins goes to the Mix Tank where a lime slurry is added to assist in raising pH and promote flocculation of solids. Discharge from the Mix Tank goes to the Sedimentation Tanks for settling. Flow of the Final Treatment plants discharges to Outfall 004.

**Effluent Limits Compliance:**

No 1. Were DMRs reviewed as part of the inspection?

Comments:

**IDEM REPRESENTATIVE**

Inspector Name: Miya Spratt	Email: mcspratt@idem.IN.gov	Phone Number: 219-312-1266
Other staff participating in the inspection:		
Name(s) Nick Ream	Phone Number(s) (219) 730-1691	
Nikki Gardner	(317) 232-8707	

**IDEM MANAGER REVIEW**

IDEM Manager: Mark A. Amick	Date: 6/14/2024
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