



Indiana Department of Environmental Management

We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.

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Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Brian Rockensuess
Commissioner

February 09, 2024

Via Email to: jlmccconnell@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: February 06, 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.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Amick, Director
Southeast Regional Office

Enclosure



NPDES Industrial Facility Inspection Report

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

NPDES Permit Number: IN0000337		Facility Type: Industrial		Facility Classification: Major		Facility Classification: D		TEMPO AI ID 14435	
Date(s) of Inspection:		February 06, 2024							
Type of Inspection:		Reconnaissance Inspection							
Name and Location of Facility Inspected: Us Steel Corporation Midwest Plant 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	(219) 763-5022					
Scott	Kiechle	Environmental Engineer	fskiechle@uss.com	(219) 763-5757					
Brian	Kishel	Utilities Manager Water Department and Energy	bkishel@uss.com	(219) 786-5188					
Joe	Hanning	Manager- Environmental Control	jehanning@uss.com	(219) 888-4500					
Was a verbal summary of the inspection given to the on-site rep? Yes									
Certified Operator: Monique Bebley		Number: 21038	Class: D	Effective Date: 7-1-2021	Expiration Date: 6-30-2024	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? No				
INSPECTION FINDINGS									
<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)									
AREAS EVALUATED DURING INSPECTION									
(S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)									
S	Receiving Waters	S	Facility/Site	S	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:		
DETAILED AREA EVALUATIONS									
This inspection focused on the Chrome Treatment plant.									
Receiving Waters:									
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 east and west sides of Burns									

waterway.

Effluent/Discharge:**Evaluation of Multiple Outfalls:**

Outfall #	Insp. Date	Outfall Inspection Comments
002	2/6/2024	The effluent was clear and free of color at the time of the inspection.
003	2/6/2024	The effluent was clear and free of color at the time of the inspection.
004	2/6/2024	The effluent was clear and free of color at the time of the inspection.
204	2/6/2024	The effluent was clear and free of color at the time of the inspection.

Comments:

The effluent was clear and free of color at the time of the inspection. The Chrome Treatment Plant discharges to internal outfall 204 before comingling with flow from the Final Treatment Plant and discharging at outfall 004.

Facility/Site:**Comments:**

The facility grounds are well maintained. Alarms for the Chrome Treatment plant appeared to be adequate and alerts personnel if the pH or the oxidation reduction potential is out of range. Areas that were requested to be inspected were accessible and available.

Operation:**Comments:**

All units of treatment appear to be operating efficiently within the Chrome Treatment Plant.

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. The Environmental Coordinator mentioned that trains A and B are not used simultaneously. 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.

pH in the tanks is monitored by pH probes, and turbidity probes are used at the effluent channels of the lamella.

Maintenance:**Comments:**

Maintenance generated a satisfactory rating. The facility uses an Oracle system to generate work orders and track maintenance.

Self-Monitoring:**Comments:**

The Self Monitoring Program was rated as satisfactory. The sampler for outfall 204 was observed during the inspection. The tubing on the sampler appeared to be clean.

Effluent Limits Compliance:

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

Comments:**IDEM REPRESENTATIVE**

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

IDEM MANAGER REVIEW

IDEM Manager:	Date:
Mark A. Amick	2/8/2024