

SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT AND COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

1. LICENSEE/LOCATION INSPECTED: Empire Iron Mining Partnership - Empire Mine P.O. Box 38 Palmer, MI 49871-0038 REPORT NUMBER(S) 2018001	2. NRC/REGIONAL OFFICE Region III U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210 Lisle, IL 60532-4352
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3. DOCKET NUMBER(S) 030-04814	4. LICENSE NUMBER(S) 21-03076-01	5. DATE(S) OF INSPECTION August 22, 2018
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LICENSEE:
 The inspection was an examination of the activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) rules and regulations and the conditions of your license. The inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector. The inspection findings are as follows:

- 1. Based on the inspection findings, no violations were identified.
- 2. Previous violation(s) closed.
- 3. The violation(s), specifically described to you by the inspector as non-cited violations, are not being cited because they were self-identified, non-repetitive, and corrective action was or is being taken, and the remaining criteria in the NRC Enforcement Policy, to exercise discretion, were satisfied.

_____ Non-cited violation(s) were discussed involving the following requirement(s):

- 4. During this inspection, certain of your activities, as described below and/or attached, were in violation of NRC requirements and are being cited in accordance with NRC Enforcement Policy. This form is a NOTICE OF VIOLATION, which may be subject to posting in accordance with 10 CFR 19.11.
 (Violations and Corrective Actions)

Statement of Corrective Actions

I hereby state that, within 30 days, the actions described by me to the Inspector will be taken to correct the violations identified. This statement of corrective actions is made in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.201 (corrective steps already taken, corrective steps which will be taken, date when full compliance will be achieved). I understand that no further written response to NRC will be required, unless specifically requested.

TITLE	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
LICENSEE'S REPRESENTATIVE			
NRC INSPECTOR	Edward F. Harvey	<i>Edward Harvey</i>	8/24/2018
BRANCH CHIEF	Aaron T. McCraw	<i>AJM for ATM</i>	9/7/18

Docket File Information

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6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED 87124	7. INSPECTION FOCUS AREAS All
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SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM CODE(S) 03810	2. PRIORITY 3	3. LICENSEE CONTACT Larry Gray, RSO	4. TELEPHONE NUMBER (906) 475-3521
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Main Office Inspection Next Inspection Date: August 22, 2020

Field Office Inspection _____

Temporary Job Site Inspection _____

PROGRAM SCOPE

This was an unannounced routine inspection of an idled iron ore mining facility authorized to possess fixed gauges in standby until the licensee makes a decision on whether or not to resume operation of the mining facility. The licensee possessed 102 fixed gauges within a secure storage building located at the mine site. The RSO and approximately 11 authorized users continued to perform inventories of the gauges every six months. At the time of the inspection, the licensee had not made any decision on the future operation of the mine. As such, the RSO stated that he intends to file for a renewal of their current standby license, which will expire on October 31, 2018.

The inspector toured the storage building and evaluated the licensee's measures for material security, hazard communication, and exposure control. The inspector verified that all gauges listed on the licensee's most recent inventory were accounted for within the building. Independent surveys performed around the storage building revealed readings below regulatory limits. The inspector also reviewed records of previous gauge inventories and leak tests and verified that no gauges had exceeded the ten year leak test requirement for gauges in storage.

In addition, the inspector verified that corrective actions were implemented for a security-related violation identified during the previous inspection. No additional examples of this violation were identified. As a result, the previous violation was closed.

The inspection interval has been reduced to two years from the date of this inspection in order to evaluate the status of licensed activities prior to the expiration of the renewed standby license.

No violations of NRC requirements were identified during this inspection.

GW for
ATM
9/7/18