



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604**

SUBJECT: CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION REPORT
Metal Management Midwest, Inc., Chicago, Illinois

FROM: Karina Kuc, Environmental Engineer
AECAB (IL/IN)

THRU: Nathan Frank, Section Supervisor
AECAB (IL/IN)

TO: File

BASIC INFORMATION

Facility Name: Metal Management Midwest, Inc. doing business as Sims

Facility Location: 2500 S Paulina St, Chicago, IL 60608

Date of Inspection: February 6, 2023

EPA Inspector(s):

1. Karina Kuc, Environmental Engineer

Other Attendees:

1. Deborah Hays, EHS Partner, Sims
2. Chris Daniels, EHS Specialist, Sims
3. Sam Flores, Shredder Manager, Sims

Contact Email Address: Debbie.Hays@simsmm.com

Purpose of Inspection: to follow up on a scrap pile fire that occurred on February 4, 2023

Facility Type: metal shredding, recycling and shipping

Arrival Time: 1:00 PM

Departure Time: 1:30 PM

Inspection Type:

- Unannounced Inspection
- Announced Inspection

OPENING CONFERENCE

- Presented Credentials
- Stated authority and purpose of inspection
- Provided Small Business Resource Information Sheet
- Small Business Resource Information Sheet not provided. Reason: previously provided
- Provided CBI warning to facility

The following information was obtained verbally from Sims representatives unless otherwise noted.

Process Description: Metal Management Midwest, Inc., doing business as Sims (Sims), purchases and shreds scrap metal, then sorts and ships the final product. Most scrap, purchased from industrial suppliers, comes in by truck, is weighed and inspected. Sims also accepts scrap metal from peddlers. Non-conforming objects such as gas cylinders, are pulled out.

Staff Interview: On Saturday, February 4, 2023, Sims opened and accepted material until noon. Later, maintenance employees were doing regular maintenance and noticed the light iron scrap pile was smoking. They called the fire department and started pouring water on the pile. The fire department arrived within four minutes and poured water on the pile for about 20 minutes. Once it was safe to do so, Sims started pulling the scrap pile apart into smaller piles to make sure the fire was out. The fire department left by 6:20 PM.

The fire department returned on Sunday to make sure the fire was put out. On Monday, February 6, a Sims employee came in at 3:30 AM and, unrelated to the shredder or operations, his car somehow caught fire. The fire department arrived, and it was put out.

Sims sorts light iron scrap into a separate pile from vehicles, as such no vehicles were involved in the fire. Sims suspects that the fire was caused by a lithium-ion battery, as is often the case at scrapyards, but doubts they will be able to confirm it. Sims previously installed three thermal cameras that can detect heat in the scrap pile. The thermal cameras are not yet operational. Unrelated to the fire, the shredder has been down since Friday, February 3.

TOUR INFORMATION

EPA Tour of the Facility: Yes

Data Collected and Observations: EPA observed the scrap pile that burned. Some charred metal was observed in the pile. No smoke or odors were observed. As a part of monitoring required by the EPA, Sims was monitoring particulate matter at five monitors during the fire,

however, no volatile organic compound (VOC) or metal filter samples were scheduled during that time.

The east air monitoring station was placed on an elevated platform as EPA had previously requested.

Photos and/or Videos: were taken during the inspection.

Field Measurements: were not taken during this inspection.

CLOSING CONFERENCE

Provided U.S. EPA point of contact to the facility

Requested documents:

- Particulate matter monitoring results February 4, 5, and 6

DIGITAL SIGNATURES

Report Author: **KARINA KUC**  Digitally signed by KARINA KUC
Date: 2023.02.10 16:17:47 -06'00'

Section Supervisor: **Frank, Nathan**  Digitally signed by Frank, Nathan
Date: 2023.02.10 16:38:53 -06'00'

Facility Name: Metal Management Midwest, Inc.

Facility Location: 2500 South Paulina Street, Chicago, Illinois 60608

Date of Inspection: February 6, 2023

APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – Digital Image Log

Facility Name: Metal Management Midwest, Inc.

Facility Location: 2500 South Paulina Street, Chicago, Illinois 60608

Date of Inspection: February 6, 2023

APPENDIX A: DIGITAL IMAGE LOG

1. Inspector Name: Karina Kuc	2. Archival Record Location: Region 5 Electronic Records Center
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Image Number	File Name	*Date and Time (Central Time)	Description of Image
1	IMG_2470.JPG	2023:02:06 13:08	Scrap pile from the west
2	IMG_2471.JPG	2023:02:06 13:16	East air monitoring station on elevated platform
3	IMG_2472.JPG	2023:02:06 13:17	Scrap pile from the east
4	IMG_2473.JPG	2023:02:06 13:19	Scrap pile from the north
5	IMG_2474.JPG	2023:02:06 13:20	Scrap pile from the north
6	IMG_2475.JPG	2023:02:06 13:22	Scrap pile from the northwest
7	IMG_2476.JPG	2023:02:06 13:22	Scrap pile from the northwest
8	IMG_2477.JPG	2023:02:06 13:23	Scrap pile from the west