**United States Environmental Protection Agency**
Region 5
Air and Radiation Division
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

**DATE:** AUG 28 2014

**SUBJECT:** Unannounced Inspection of Reliable Asphalt Corporation, Chicago, Illinois

**FROM:** Katharina Bellairs, Environmental Engineer
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Section (MI/WI)

**THRU:** Sarah Marshall, Chief C.L. for
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Section (MI/WI)

**TO:** File

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| Facility: | Reliable Asphalt Corporation |
| Location: | 3741 S Pulaski Road<br>Chicago, IL 60623 |
| Inspection Date: | June 5, 2014 |
| Inspection Team: | Katharina Bellairs, EPA Region 5<br>Natalie Topinka, EPA Region 5 |
| Facility Attendees: | Paul Etter, Vice President<br>Tim Dillon, Asphalt Plant Manager |

**Purpose of Inspection:**

This unannounced inspection was to assess Reliable Asphalt Corporation's compliance with the Clean Air Act and the Illinois State Implementation Plan.

**Site Visit Overview:**

Reliable Asphalt Corporation (Reliable) is a hot mix asphalt and concrete recycling facility located at 3741 S Pulaski Road, Chicago, Illinois. We (Natalie Topinka and Katharina Bellairs of U.S. EPA) arrived at the facility at 1:22 p.m. on April 17, 2014.

Upon arrival at the facility, we met with Paul Etter, Vice President, in the facility office. We stated we were planning to do a Clean Air Act inspection and asked for an overview of the

facility.

Reliable has less than 100 employees. Reliable has been in operation at this location for 20 years. The site has been here for over 50 years. Reliable operates a hot mix asphalt facility on the east side of Pulaski Road and a concrete recycling facility on the west side of Pulaski Road. Reliable has additional offices in Lyons and Bartlett, Illinois. We asked if the facility had an air permit and were told it had a permit through the Illinois EPA. Additionally, the facility submits annual emission reports to IEPA.

On the concrete recycling side of the facility, trucks come into the facility and are weighed and dumped. Broken asphalt, milled asphalt, broken concrete, and sand are brought in as the waste material. Waste material is then crushed in one of five crushers and screened to size in the facility's five screens. The crushers and screens are stationary. Material is moved on site using 41 conveyors. Water spray is used weather permitting and when the temperature is above freezing. A water truck sprays water constantly when it is not raining, spraying specific site locations as needed. There are also roadway sprinklers on a portion of the facility driveway. There are 10 water spray points in the crushing plant. All piles at the facility cannot exceed 30 feet in height per a Chicago Department of Health requirement. Water spray is not used on the crushed concrete piles. This portion of the facility crushes 1,500 to 2,000 tons of concrete per day. We asked if any sources subject to the Standards of Performance for Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plants, 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subpart OOO, have been replaced. Screens were replaced in 1995 and 2001, and conveyors and crushers have also been replaced. The facility received permits for these replacements.

In the asphalt plant, raw materials include sand, stone and liquid asphalt. Fractionated Recycled Asphalt Pavement (FRAP) from the recycling area, is also used in the hot mix process. First, raw aggregate is sent through a dryer. After the dryer, aggregate is mixed with FRAP and then with liquid asphalt in a mixer. The product, hot mix asphalt, comes out of the mixer. Reliable can also make cold patch asphalt, which uses a different oil in the mixer than hot mix asphalt. The facility has one hot mix and one cold patch liquid asphalt tank. Finished cold patch is stored in storage piles. Liquid asphalt and hot mix silos vent to the atmosphere. There are three hot mix asphalt silos. The facility operates a natural gas boiler to heat the asphalt tanks. The boiler can also be used to heat the asphalt storage silos but the facility does not need to do this normally.

Reliable operates a baghouse to control the hot mix asphalt plant. Specifically, the baghouse pulls air off of the dryers that heat the raw aggregate. The baghouse is monitored through a magnehelic gauge, and is operated between 0.5 and 2 inches water, which is a manufacturer recommended range. The baghouse pulses at 0.1 inches. There is also cyclone connected to the dryer. We asked if any major replacements took place in the asphalt plant and were told a new baghouse and dryer were added to the hot mix plant two years ago. Reliable stack tested the baghouse upon startup. Additionally, Reliable preforms opacity readings annually.

During the hot mix asphalt season, which normally runs between June and November, the

facility produces 750 to 1000 tons per day of hot mix. However, this year, the hot mix plant planned to start up the week after our inspection.

After the facility overview we went on a facility tour. During the tour, we were met by Tim Dillon, Asphalt Plant Manager. We were told the storage yard was fairly full of product when we were onsite. Additionally, the asphalt tanks were calibrating and would begin operating a week after the inspection. We asked if the facility received odor or dust complaints and were told it does not. The Chicago Department of Health inspects the facility monthly. The tour was over at 2:20pm.

We stated we would be drafting an inspection report and possibly would send a Section 114 Information Request. We asked if any information was Confidential Business Information and was told it was not. We left the facility at approximately 2:45 p.m.

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