



Continental's Corner

September 2003

Continental is Committed to Environmental Monitoring

Since I have been president at Continental Aluminum, I have made it a priority to meet with local citizens. I am constantly surprised by the misinformation in the community. One of the most common questions I am asked came up during a plant tour with neighbors:

Q: Why doesn't the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) monitor the emissions from Continental 24/7?

A: Continental Aluminum does monitor 24/7.

Continental Aluminum uses two types of continuous monitors at the plant in New Hudson:



1) All three baghouse stacks are equipped with a bag leak detector. The EPA considers bag leak detectors as the maximum achievable control technology for monitoring emissions of baghouse particulate matter.



2) The baghouse stack of reverberatory Furnace #2 is also equipped with a continuous opacity monitoring system (COMS). This provides a continuous record of the opacity of the exhaust gas. Opacity, or visible emissions, is limited by the MDEQ's regulations and is a measure of the amount of light, which is blocked out by the emission plume.

The use of COMS is uncommon for a plant the size of Continental and is generally required only at very large facilities such as coal-fired power plants.

These systems provide for 24-hour observation and a continuous record of emissions from all three furnaces.

Sincerely,

Bill Altgilbers
President
Continental Aluminum

A public tour will be available at Continental Aluminum on September 15, at 6 p.m.
To attend, please email to baltgilbers@contalum.com or call 248.437.2664.
(Limited to eight (8) people)

24 hour hotline number
248-437-2664

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