

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**  
**RECOMMENDATION TO REVOKE AIR PERMIT MEMORANDUM**

Date: 9/14/2020

To: Joanne Smiddie-Brush, Section Chief  
Permits Administration Support Section  
Permits Branch  
Office of Air Quality

Thru: Phil Perry, Branch Chief  
Compliance and Enforcement  
Branch  
Office of Air Quality

From: David A. Zier, Air Compliance Inspector  
Brooke A. Myer, Section Chief  
Compliance and Enforcement Branch  
Office of Air Quality

Source Name: Silberline Manufacturing Co.

Source ID: 001-00059

Source Location address: 2010 Guy Brown Drive, Decatur IN

Operating Permit # to be revoked: 001-38558-00059

Based upon reviewing 326 IAC 2-1.1-9 and [method(s) to verify closure (on the Air Permit Revocation Supporting Documentation Log below)], the source is permanently closed and the operating air permit for Silberline can be revoked. Please revoke the air permit and issue a Revocation and Notice of Decision.

☒ Revocation and Notice of Decision should be mailed to: (From Secretary of State)

Name: Joseph Sebia  
Title: HSE Manager  
Silberline Manufacturing Co., Inc.,  
Address: 130 Lincoln Drive  
PO Box B  
City: Tamaqua  
State: PA  
Zip Code: 18252-0420  
Phone – 1-570-668-6050

OR

☐ There is no person identified with the source to receive the Revocation. The Revocation should take the form of a Memo to File.

CC:

**Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Air Quality  
Air Permit Revocation Supporting Documentation Log**

<b>Source Name</b>	Silberline Manufacturing Company	<b>OAQ Inspector</b>	David Zier
<b>Source ID</b>	001-00059	<b>Date of Review</b>	9/9/2020

**Methods used to determine/verify source closure (Check all that apply.)**

	<b>Method (From Step 3 in SOP)</b>	<b>Verification</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) Inspection/Site visit	Inspection Date: 8/7/20	Closed, boarded up. See photo in inspection report.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(b) Corporate staff contact	Contact Date: Name: Title: Contact submitting information for Permit Revocation? Other Comments	<u>January 27, 2020</u> Joseph Sebia HSE Manager Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Last annual report submission indicating operations ceased September 30, 2019, and closed December 31, 2019.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(c) Internet search (attach any article found)	Date of Search: 9/10/20	Articles for closure from Indiana Business magazine and Fort Wayne Business gazette. (Articles copy/pasted at the end of this memo.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	(c) County Health Department	Contact & Date:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	(d) Secretary of State's website operating status	Operating?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <b>It has not caught up to current circumstances.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	(e) Commenced construction	Commenced within 18 months? Date of Issuance of Permit:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(f) Disconnected phone number?	Phone number: Date verified	260-728-2111 – message that the office is closed and to leave a message. 8/7/2020
<input type="checkbox"/>	(f) Returned U.S. Mail/Email	Document(s) type: Date(s) of returned mail:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	(g) Non-payment of permit fees	Year(s) not paid	
<input type="checkbox"/>	(h) Non-submittal of Emission Statements, Quarterly Report,	Year(s) not submitted	

	Annual Compliance Certifications, Annual Notifications		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Information		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Information		

#### Comments:

2 Articles showing closure

Article from Inside Indiana Business

#### **Silberline Closing Decatur Facility**

Friday, January 18th 2019, 11:28 AM EST

By **Alex Brown, Assistant Managing Editor**



The layoffs are expected to begin at the end of the month. (photo courtesy of Silberline Manufacturing Co.)

**DECATUR** - Pennsylvania-based Silberline Manufacturing Co. is detailing plans to close its facility in Adams County. In a notice to the state, the company says the closure will result in the layoffs of 50 employees. Silberline Manufacturing is a supplier of special effect and performance pigments used to enhance the visual appeal of coatings, paints, inks, plastics and textiles, according to its website. The company says the closure of the Decatur facility is part of its consolidation and restructuring strategy.

"The Company will permanently transfer all work from the Facility to other locations as part of its ongoing effort to shrink its geographic footprint and consolidate operations into a smaller number of locations," the company said. "This relocation of work will result in the closure of the entire Facility and the permanent layoff of the Facility employees."

Some of the affected employees are represented by a union and have bumping rights. The layoffs are expected to begin January 28 and continue in phases by July. Silberline Manufacturing did not state whether it was offering any sort of assistance to the affected employees.

Silberline to close Decatur plant  
*January 23rd, 2019*

By Doug LeDuc | [Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly](#)

A Tamaqua, Pa.-based maker of special-effect aluminum pigments plans to relocate the work currently taking place at its Decatur plant during the first half of this year to close the facility by July. Stephanie Klatka, vice president of human resources and organizational development for Silberline Manufacturing Co., wrote the Indiana Department of Workforce Development earlier this month about the closing plans to comply with notice requirements of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act. The company expects the closure of the plant at 2010 Guy Brown Drive in Decatur to be permanent and said in the letter it would affect 50 employees.

The facility used to employ more than twice that many union members, according to a Nov. 2 Facebook post on the closing by Local 116a of the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, AFL-CIO, CLC.

"At one time we were about 110 Union members strong, only to be whittled down to 44 today — 30 employees with seniority ranging from 42 to 20 years and 14 with just a little over 2 years or less," the post said.

"It breaks my heart to think of the effect on all these families. We all know each other very well. Close friendships.... I know that it will hurt for a while ... but also believe that change will be good for most of us," it said.

"Our International sub director called me last night to express his concern for us and promised to obtain a list of employers within a close range of our members that are hiring. I will be distributing that information ASAP."

Union negotiations on the closing and related matters, including the severance package members would receive, began in mid-November.

The first workforce reduction leading to the closing was scheduled to take place sometime during a two-week period starting on Jan. 28, and the remainder were to occur before July, [according to the WARN Act notice](#).

"The company will permanently transfer all work from the facility to other locations as part of its ongoing effort to shrink its geographic footprint and consolidate operations into a smaller number of locations," it said. Klatka did not respond to an email or phone calls seeking elaboration on information shared in the WARN Act notice. However, an employee familiar with the consolidation plans who requested anonymity said the work in Decatur would relocate to Pennsylvania.

"Silberline is closing the Decatur plant and keeping the Hometown and Tidewood plants near Tamaqua, Pa. open," the employee said. "They are planning an expansion on Hometown."

The company broke ground on the multi-million-dollar, 22,000-square-foot expansion in October with plans to have it completed within nine to 12 months.

Silberline expects to increase the Hometown plant's workforce by eight employees within the next three years, according to a statement by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The expansion and new equipment going into it will give Silberline the ability to make pigments compatible with water-borne coating systems, which regulators prefer because they consider them to be more environmentally friendly.

The company expects to be among North America's largest water-borne compatible aluminum pigment makers after the new manufacturing capabilities come online.

"Silberline is proud to announce the investment in our North American operations to create more environmentally preferred products for our customers," Gary Karnish, its chief executive officer, said in the statement.

"Our enhanced global footprint will allow us to offer more solutions to our customers' needs for sustainable methods such as water-borne technology while also doing what's best for our community and the planet," he said.

A Silberline website showed its Decatur plant was the only manufacturing facility it was operating in the United States outside of Pennsylvania.

Among its international operations, the company has plants in China. And the employee familiar with its consolidation plans said "the China tariffs played a small role in the decision to close Decatur; the (cost of) raw material used in many grades went up 25 percent."

A Business Insider roundup of industry testimony on the potential impact of an escalating U.S.-China trade dispute included a paragraph from Lisa Jane Scheller, Silberline's chair.

"Any additional tariff would result in significant financial strain on our US-based business, threaten jobs and call into question future investment," it said.

While acknowledging the trade war's impact on the company's business, the employee commenting on its consolidation plans said many co-workers questioned management decisions unrelated to trade that they believe contributed to the closing plans.

**OFFICE OF AIR QUALITY  
FIELD INSPECTION REPORT**

SOURCE: Silberline Manufacturing  
LOCATION: 2010 Guy Brown Drive  
CITY: Decatur  
COUNTY: Adams

PLANT ID NUMBER: 001-00059  
INSPECTED BY: David Zier  
TIME IN: NA TIME OUT: NA  
INSPECTION DATE: 8/7/2020  
REPORTED BY: David A. Zier  
REPORT DATE: 8/7/2020  
ACES NUMBER: 250045  
TEMPO NUMBER: NA

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION: YES ☐ NO ☒  
COMPLAINT NUMBER: NA

ATTAINMENT: ☒

NONATTAINMENT: ☐ SO<sub>2</sub> ☐ CO ☐ O<sub>3</sub> ☐ NO<sub>2</sub> ☐ Pb ☐ PM<sub>10</sub> ☐ PM<sub>2.5</sub> ☐

PERMIT TYPE: MSOP  
PERMIT NO: 001-38558-00059

CHECK IF APPLICABLE: NSPS ☐ NESHAP ☐ PSD ☐ OTHER (explain):

PERSONS/TITLE INTERVIEWED:

Name	Title	Phone Number	Email
NA			

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**OBJECTIVES:**

Complaint	<input type="checkbox"/>	Surveillance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multimedia Screening	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Commitment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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**DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE:**

Aluminum pigment manufacturer.

**BACKGROUND:**

The source was last inspected in 2013. No violations were noted.

**PROCESS DESCRIPTIONS/FINDINGS/OBSERVATIONS:**

The source is now closed. Articles attached to the Recommendation to revoke air permit memorandum from Indiana Business and Fort Wayne Business Weekly confirm the information.

The annual compliance report for 2019 noted that the plant stopped operations in September of 2019 and closed permanently at the end of 2019.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

NA

**CONCLUSION(S):**

The source is closed.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Close source in ACES. Memorandum to revoke air permit has been completed and is attached.

**EXIT INTERVIEW:**

NA

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**PHOTO: 1 and 2**



SITE DESCRIPTION: Silberline Manufacturing gated, locked and for sale

PHOTOGRAPHER: David A. Zier, IDEM OAQ

DATE AND TIME: 8/7/2020; 3:30pm

OTHERS PRESENT: N/A

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: 2010 Guy Brown Drive, Decatur IN