



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

**Southeast District Office**

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Ted Strickland, Governor  
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor  
Chris Korleski, Director

October 27, 2008

**RE: LAWRENCE COUNTY  
RIVER VALLEY HOSPITAL**

Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital  
Attention: Kevin Halter, CEO  
Saint Christopher Drive  
Ashland, Kentucky 41101

Dear Mr. Halter:

I conducted inspections of the River Valley Hospital on September 9, 2008, and again on September 25, 2008. I was accompanied by Scott Bergreen with Ohio EPA's Division of Hazardous Waste Management. River Valley Hospital closed on January 31, 2001, and was purchased by Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital on September 2, 2002.

My first inspection of the closed facility was on February 5, 2008. During that inspection I observed infectious waste in numerous rooms. The waste was not disposed of nor stored in accordance with Ohio's infectious waste rules. I sent a letter to Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital detailing my observations and the violations in a letter dated February 20, 2008.

The purpose of the September 2008, inspections was to investigate the proper removal and disposal of the infectious waste and to discuss the upcoming demolition of the River Valley Hospital and requirements associated with proper disposal of solid wastes, demolition debris and any other wastes that may be present.

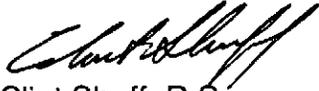
During the September 9, 2008, inspection, I observed that the infectious wastes, had been relocated to a storage room in the building. The infectious wastes were placed in red biohazard bags. These wastes had been in various locations throughout the building since the hospital's closure in January of 2001. Infectious wastes remained in this facility and were not stored or disposed of in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 3745-27-30, 3745-27-34 and 3745-27-35 for approximately seven years.

During the September 25, 2008, inspection I observed that the infectious wastes had been removed. I was shown waste receipts by the general contractor Dennis Johnson where Stericycle, a registered infectious waste transporter, had removed the infectious wastes for disposal.

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Should you have questions, please contact me at (740) 380-5246.

Sincerely,



Clint Shuff, R.S.  
Environmental Specialist  
Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management

CAS/cb

cc: Tiffani Kavalec, DERR, CO  
Louis Boerger, Portsmouth Local Air Authority  
Lawrence County Commissioners  
Burgess & Niple, 312 Plum St. 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202,  
Attn: Michael Garrett  
Bill Dickens, Ironton Port Authority, City Building 301 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Ironton, Ohio