



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Southeast District Office

2195 Front Street
Logan, Ohio 43138

TELE: (740) 385-8501 FAX: (740) 385-6490
www.epa.state.oh.us

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

September 19, 2008

Re: Athens County
Open Burning
Complaint 30000471

Certified: 70063450000190563410

Mr. Steve Blake
717 State Route 124
Coolville, Ohio 45723-9012

Dear Mr. Blake:

I am writing this letter in response to a complaint received by this office on August 14, 2008. The complaint alleges that you are open burning wood and trash at your home.

On September 10, 2008, I investigated this complaint. You were not at home at the time of my investigation. Evidence of the open burning of plastic-coated copper wire was observed in a charcoal grill in your drive way and in a tire rim near the garage. Plastic-coated copper wire cannot be open burned anywhere in Ohio.

On June 17, 2008, I spoke to you at your home in regard to an open burning complaint that alleged that you were burning garbage and plastics. At that time, you were open burning wood in a tire rim on the ground. During that visit, I gave you a pamphlet that explains Ohio's open burning rules.

On September 12, 2008, I spoke to you by phone. You told me that you had been burning copper wire for extra money to pay bills. As I explained at that time, if you continue to open burn copper wire, you will be fined. You can strip the plastic off the wire or sell the wire with the plastic intact.

Open burning of improper waste materials at this location is in violation of Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 3745-19-04 and is punishable by a maximum fine of up to \$25,000 per day per violation. All open burning in violation of the requirements specified in OAC rule 3745-19-04 must stop immediately. If you continue to open burn improper waste materials, legal action will be taken against you.

I am requesting a written response from you, within 10 days of receipt of this letter, that includes a commitment from you to stop open burning in violation of OAC rule 3745-19-04, a plan and schedule for clean up of the burn area and any remaining solid wastes, and a copy

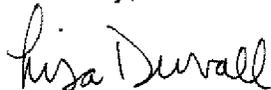
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of the landfill receipt as proof of proper disposal. Acceptance by Ohio EPA of a schedule for compliance does not constitute a waiver of Ohio EPA's authority to seek civil penalties as provided in section 3704.06 of the Ohio Revised Code. The determination to pursue or to decline to pursue such penalties in this case will be made by Ohio EPA at a later date.

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the local health department. The information within this letter can be evaluated by local health department and further investigation may be initiated if it appears violations within their jurisdiction have occurred.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 740-380-5217.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Duvall".

Lisa Duvall
Environmental Specialist
Division of Air Pollution Control

LD/mlm

cc: Athens County Health Dept., 278 W. Union St., Athens, Ohio 45701