



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

November 19, 2009

Re: Pike County  
Open Burning  
Complaint 30001165

Certified: 70073020000178847947

Mr. Gil Willis  
1873 Big Run Road  
Piketon, Ohio 45661-9520

Dear Mr. Willis:

I am writing this letter in response to a complaint received by this office on November 6, 2009. The complaint alleges that you are burning trees and tree trimmings at 1873 Big Run Road, Piketon.

On November 12, 2009, I investigated this complaint and spoke to you. A large pile of trees were being burned at the time of my investigation. You told me that you had taken down trees on the farm, dug a pit and were burning the tree and wood chips. As I explained at that time, the open burning of land clearing waste requires prior written permission from the Ohio EPA and there are several conditions associated with the permission. The property must be located in an unrestricted area (your property is), the burning must be contained in a burn pit, an air curtain destructor must be used to ensure that proper combustion of the material in the pit occurs and the burn site must be at least 1,000 feet from the nearest neighbor. I gave you the proper application and a copy of Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-19. I also requested that you put the fire out.

Open burning of trees and tree trimmings at this location without applying for and obtaining permission from the Ohio EPA 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 either (1) a written response from you, within 14 days of receipt of this letter, that includes a commitment form 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 of the landfill receipt as proof of proper disposal; or (2) the submittal of an application to open burn land clearing waste. If you choose to submit an application to open burn, please ensure that the information required in OAC rule 3745-19-05(A)(2) is provided.

Mr. Gil Willis  
November 19, 2009  
Page 2

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: Pike County Health District