



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Southeast District Office

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

April 17, 2007

Re: Washington County
Open Burning
Complaints #20070047

Certified: 70063450000190545461

Mr. and Mrs. Mark E. Shaffer
1185 Brown's Road
Marietta, Ohio 45750-9074

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Shaffer:

I am writing this letter in response to a complaint received by this office on February 26, 2007. The complaint alleges that you were open burning waste materials at 1185 Brown's Road, Marietta, Ohio. On April 9, 2007, I investigated the complaint. I observed the site and saw evidence of improper waste disposal by the burning of waste materials. I explained the open burning rules to you and gave you a brochure about the open burning rules.

The open burning of wastes containing plastics, rubber, grease, garbage, asphalt, plastic coated wires, or treated wood products is not permitted in Ohio. The burning of residential wastes (yard waste and clean papers) for homeowners is allowed if the homeowner can burn at a spot located more than a thousand feet from the nearest inhabited residence. The location of the waste pile in your yard is not a thousand feet from another inhabited residence; therefore, you are not permitted to open burn your residential wastes at this site. Continuing to open burn any improper waste materials by you at this site is in violation of Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 3745-19-04 and is punishable by a fine. All open burning in violation of the requirements specified in OAC Chapter 3745-19 must stop immediately. If you continue to open burn improper waste materials on your property, legal action will be taken against you.

Open burning is prohibited due to the location of your property and due to the adverse health impacts to people, especially children and the elderly, who may have breathing problems such as asthma, allergies or emphysema. By burning the plastic and treated wood waste materials, you are exposing yourself and anyone near the open burning to toxic chemicals. The toxic air pollutants from the open burning of waste materials can be deposited onto your lawn and garden where people and pets may come in contact with the pollutants. The ash and debris are washed into the waterways contaminating the streams. The burning causes the waste materials to be reduced to small particulates and toxic gases that are released at ground level where they are breathed into the lungs of anyone near the burning site.

