



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

January 12, 2011

Re: Washington County
Open Burning
Complaint

Certified: 70101060000178960729

Mr. Tom Vandale
643 Goose Run Road
Marietta, Ohio 45750-7801

Dear Mr. Vandale:

I am writing this letter in response to a complaint received by Mr. Joe Holland of this office on November 22, 2010. The complaint alleges that you are burning and trash and furniture and burying debris on your property at 643 Goose Run Road, Marietta.

Mr. Joe Holland of the Ohio EPA' Southeast District Office met with you on a prior occasion, but you were unable to accompany him on an inspection of your property because you had another previously scheduled appointment.

On January 2, 2011, Mr. Holland and I met with your and investigated this complaint. Evidence of the open burning of wood, household trash, plastic, garbage, a mattress, and other solid waste materials was observed. As I explained at that time, plastic, garbage, furniture, or materials that contain rubber, grease, asphalt or liquid petroleum products cannot be open burned anywhere in Ohio. You told us that the household wastes are from your home and your son's home which are both located on the property, and that you are not hauling waste materials to this property to burn. You also indicated that you would clean up the area where the improper waste materials were burned.

To open burn residential waste such as paper, leaves, tree trimmings, cardboard, etc., the property must be located in an unrestricted area (as your property is) and the burn site must be a least 1,000 feet from any inhabited building not on your property. The burn site on your property meets both of these requirements. You may burn your residential waste at this site, but not the improper waste materials (plastic, garbage, furniture, etc.).

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 fine. 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 may be taken against you.

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Open burning of this type (such as plastic, garbage, furniture, etc.) is prohibited due to the adverse health impacts to people, especially children and the elderly, who may have breathing problems such as asthma, allergies or emphysema. Open burning adversely impacts the ambient air quality by emitting air pollution at ground level where people are immediately exposed to the pollutants.

In the future please separate out the plastic and garbage from your residential waste and do not open burn these items. The plastic, as well as other materials, can be recycled in Marietta. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 740-380-5217 or 1-800-686-7330.

Sincerely,



Lisa Duvall
Environmental Specialist
Division of Air Pollution Control

LD/mlm

Cc: Joe Holland-DSIWM