



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

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

April 19, 2012

Re: Hocking County
Open Burning
Complaint 30002280

Ms. Donna Pinkstock
23086 State Route 327
Laurelville, Ohio 43135

Dear Ms. Pinkstock:

I am writing this letter in response to complaints received by this office March 27, 2012 and April 8, 2012. The complaint alleges that furniture, carpet and other waste materials are being burned on your property.

On February 2, 2012, I investigated a similar complaint at this address and spoke to your daughter, Mindy Brecken. She told me that the two of you had been cleaning up around the property and open burned some tree limbs and a table. At that time, I explained to her that furniture, plastics, garbage, etc. cannot be open burned anywhere in Ohio. I also provided her with a copy of Ohio's open burning rules in a letter dated February 9, 2012.

On April 12, 2012, I investigated the most recent complaint. A large pile of ash that had not been there during my first investigation was observed near the road. Evidence of the open burning of wood, trash, white plastic fiber of some type, household garbage and other solid waste materials was observed. I attempted to speak to you, but you were not home at the time of my investigation. I again spoke to your daughter.

I spoke to you by phone on April 12, 2012 and explained that this type of open burning is not permitted in Ohio. You told me that you did not like the burning either.

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 at least 1,000 feet from any inhabited building not on your property. If there is not a burn site location on your property that is at least 1,000 feet from any inhabited building not on your property, you cannot open burn residential waste at this location.

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. I am enclosing a pamphlet that explains this rule for you. All open burning in violation of the requirements specified in OAC rule 3745-19-04 must stop immediately. The burn site next to the road needs to be cleaned up and any remaining waste materials properly disposed of in a licensed landfill. If you, your daughter or anyone else open burn improper waste materials at this location, legal action will be taken against you as the property owner.