



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northwest District Office

347 North Dunbridge Road
Bowling Green, OH 43402-9398

TELE: (419) 352-8461 FAX: (419) 352-8468
www.epa.state.oh.us

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

Re: Open Burning Complaint
Putnam County
Notice of Violation

May 8, 2008

Certified Mail 7006 3450 0001 0661 2577

Mr. Jim Russel, Village Administrator
Village of Leipsic
142 East Main Street
Leipsic, Ohio 45856

Dear Mr. Russel:

This office has received a complaint concerning the Village of Leipsic burning a large brush pile. This complaint was substantiated upon my visit to the site on May 1, 2008. During this visit I noticed stumps, large trees, a pig carcass, carpet, plastics, railroad ties and scrap lumber being burned. By means of this letter we hope to inform you of the seriousness of open burning, and inform you that open burning is a strictly regulated activity in Ohio, regulated pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code 3745-19 (copy enclosed).

Mr. Russel, the Village of Leipsic has been found in violation of OAC 3745-19-03(B): **"No person or property owner shall cause or allow open burning in a restricted area except as provided in paragraphs (B) to (D) of this rule or in Section 3704.11 of the Revised Code."** Open burning as conducted by the Village of Leipsic is not provided for in these rules. Burning these types of materials releases many toxic compounds into the air, and the smoke was blowing directly toward town which could have caused adverse health effects to the residents.

At this time, we ask that you submit a written response to the Ohio EPA regarding this complaint, your understanding of the regulations and what measures will be taken to prevent any further violations. Your response should be received by this Agency by May 20, 2008.

Please be advised that the submission of information to respond to this letter does not constitute a waiver of Ohio EPA's authority to seek civil penalties pursuant to ORC Section 3704.06. The Ohio EPA will make a decision on whether to pursue or decline to pursue such penalties regarding this matter at a later date.

Keep in mind that penalties of up to \$25,000 could be assessed.

If you have any questions concerning this letter or the regulations, please call me at (419)373-3120.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Grob
Environmental Specialist 3
Division of Air Pollution Control

/cs

Enclosure

pc: Putnam County Health Department
Lisa Holscher, U.S. EPA, Region V
Tom Kalman, DAPC, CO
Tom Sattler, Supervisor, DAPC, NWDO
DAPC, NWDO File
ec: Joe Grob, DAPC, NWDO