



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Southeast District Office

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Logan, Ohio 43138

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

August 24, 2007

Re: Ross County
Open Burning
Complaint 20070354

Certified: 70063450000190547342

Mr. Charles Ortman
Ross County Engineer
755 Fairgrounds Road
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-9702

Dear Mr. Ortman:

I am writing this letter in response to a complaint received by this office on July 27, 2007. The complaint alleges that the Ross County Engineers open burn two to three times per year in a large pit. The complainant observed black smoke from the open burning conducted on July 26, 2007.

When I investigated this complaint on August 1, 2007, you were not in the office. Personnel in your office told me that there is a burn pit where dead deer, trees, wood from bridge decking, and other wastes are burned by the Engineers' Office. They were not aware that this type of open burning is not permitted. I left my card and a pamphlet that explains Ohio's open burning rules. I later spoke to you by phone. You were also unaware that this type of open burning is not permitted and told me that the Engineers' Office would stop this practice.

Open burning of this type is in violation of Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 3745-19-04 and is punishable by a fine. A business or government office cannot open burn for waste disposal purposes unless specifically authorized by the regulations (i.e., provisions for storm debris, hazardous explosive materials, prevention or control of disease or pests, etc.)

The burn pit needs to be cleaned up and the solid wastes that remain must be disposed of in a licensed landfill.

If you have any questions, please contact me at this office at 740-380-5217.

Sincerely,

Lisa Duvall
Environmental Specialist
Division of Air Pollution Control

LD/mlm