



**Environmental  
Protection Agency**

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

July 27, 2012

Re: Belmont County  
Open Burning  
Complaint 30002420

Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Clear  
55190 Poplar St.  
Bridgeport, Ohio 43934

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Clear:

I am writing this letter in response to a complaint received by this office July 3, 2012. The complaint alleges that materials are being burned in a barrel at your home. The Wolfhurst Central Volunteer Fire Department has also responded to reports of burning at your home and sent me pictures.

On July 18, 2012, I investigated this complaint and spoke to Frank, who told me that he was a relative. Evidence of the open burning of household trash, cardboard and other solid waste materials was observed. As I explained at that time, because your burn barrel is less than 1,000 feet from your neighbors you cannot burn any type of waste. Plastics and garbage cannot be burned anywhere in Ohio. I gave Frank my business card and a pamphlet that explains Ohio's open burning rules.

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. Because 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.

You are permitted to have a cookout or campfire using clean, seasoned firewood if the fire is not more than two feet in height and not more than three feet in diameter. The fire must be put out when the cookout/campfire is over and cannot be left unattended.

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. If you continue to open burn improper waste materials at this location or any other location in Ohio, legal action may be taken against you.

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

Sincerely,

Lisa Duvall  
Environmental Specialist  
Division of Air Pollution Control