



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: Allen County  
OmniSource - Lima - 03.02.02.0362  
Open Burning  
Notice of Violation

October 19, 2007

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. David Dray, Facility Manager  
OmniSource - Lima Division  
P.O. Box 5248  
Lima, Ohio 45802

Dear Mr. Dray:

On October 15, 2007, Mr. Joe Grob and I conducted an inspection of the OmniSource facility at 1610 East 4th St. in Lima, Ohio, in response to complaints received by this agency of open burning on that site. Upon our arrival, the following was observed:

1. From across the street, several plumes of orange and black smoke could be observed to the west side of the property and a significantly larger and thicker black plume could be observed to the southern edge of the facility. We entered the scale house, asked to speak with a company representative and were shortly greeted by Mr. Jeremy Lewis. Mr. Lewis proceeded to show us the torching operations on site. It was observed that torch operators at the west side torch field were cutting in at least four locations. In areas where torches were operating, multiple smaller fires from previously cut items were still burning and/or smoldering. While both water and fire extinguishers were readily available to the torch operators, the fires were allowed to continue to burn and/or smolder. These fires constitute "open burning" and in no way should be construed with what is acceptable in OAC Rule 3745-19-03(B)(1) for acetylene torches.
2. To the south side of the property fence lines, several large objects, believed to be decommissioned metal machining equipment and hydraulic presses, were smoldering and there was an open flame on one piece of equipment. It was observed that the flame was being fueled by excessive residual oil/grease which was observed dripping into and pooling near the flame. Also, at several locations near the machinery pieces, dark spots on the ground were smoldering and appeared to have similar fluids on them.

This area is believed to be the source of the large, dark plume observed upon arrival. However, the company ceased these operations by the time we arrived at that portion of the facility.

3. To the east side of the property, in the area where stainless steel is processed, an open fire was observed. Upon investigation, the cardboard center used to collect a long, thin strip of metal had ignited when the bail binding had been cut. Mr. Lewis asked the torch operator if they had planned to use a crane to extinguish the fire, the torch operator replied "It's just cardboard" in a questioning manner, as if asking if the fire needed extinguished. Mr. Lewis then stated that fire needed to be extinguished. A crane with a claw end was then used to smother the bail. It was stated by Mr. Grob and me that a fire extinguisher would have been a more appropriate means of extinguishing the fire since eliminating the fire and limiting smoke was the concern.

The above mentioned items constitute violations of OAC rules 3745-19 for open burning. It also appears that this violates the company's internal Prohibited Material Policy, as outlined in correspondence to this agency dated May 23, 2007 and August, 30, 2007. The facility has 21 days to respond in writing to Ohio EPA with a compliance plan to remedy the observed situation and prevent this, or any similar such situation, from occurring in the future.

Please be advised that the submission of information to respond to this letter does not constitute waiver of Ohio EPA's authority to seek civil penalties pursuant to ORC 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.

Should the company have any questions and/or comments, I may be reached at (419) 373-3137, or by e-mail at: [thomas.cikotte@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:thomas.cikotte@epa.state.oh.us)

Regards,



Thomas C. Cikotte  
Division of Air Pollution Control

//lr

pc: Lisa Holscher, US EPA Region 5  
Tom Kalman, DAPC-CO  
Don Waltermeyer, DAPC-NWDO  
Tom Sattler, DAPC-NWDO  
Jeff Skebba, DAPC-NWDO  
Thomas Cikotte, DAPC-NWDO  
Allen County Health Department  
DAPC-NWDO File

**OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION REPORT**

DISTRICT	COUNTY	DATE RECEIVED	DATE(S) INVESTIGATED
NWDO	Allen	6.09.08	6.10.08
<b><u>TYPE</u></b>	<b><u>AIR</u></b>		<b>COMPLAINANT: (NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE #)</b>
TELEPHONE <input type="checkbox"/>	INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/>	HPF	Wess Cook – Perry Twp FD 419.221.2345
VISIT <input type="checkbox"/>	PARTICULATE <input type="checkbox"/>		
LETTER <input type="checkbox"/>	ODOR <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>SUSPECTED SOURCE OF EMISSIONS:(INCLUDING PREMISE #)</b>
DCN <input type="checkbox"/>	FUGITIVE DUST <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>SOURCE OPERATOR: (NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE #)</b>
E-MAIL <input type="checkbox"/>	OPEN BURNING <input type="checkbox"/>		OmniSource 1016 East 4 <sup>th</sup> St. Lima, OH
OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>STATEMENT OF COMPLAINANT:</b> Message only stated there was a large tire fire. Later discussion stated that a company that removes the radials from tires failed to conduct their normal procedure which caused “spontaneous combustion”.			
<b>STATEMENT OF SOURCE OPERATOR:</b> The fire was an accident. A pile of swarf (shavings and grindings from metal processing, which is inherently prone to exothermic decomposition) was placed next to a pile of the radial wire. The swarf got hot enough to ignite some of the rubber pieces remaining in the pile. Omni tried to fight the fire for about 2.5 hours before calling the PTFD.			
<b>FINDINGS:</b> JUSTIFIED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT JUSTIFIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CANNOT BE DETERMINED <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b> no action at this time. Repeat incidents warrant further investigation/action. DATE OF WRITTEN FOLLOW UP <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
<b>CORRECTIVE ACTION AGREED TO BY SOURCE:</b> Not to store these materials in such proximity.			
<b>COMMENTS:</b> Info above from Frank Ring.			

INVESTIGATOR(S): Thomas C. Cikotte

DATE RESOLVED: 6.17.08