



**Environmental  
Protection Agency**

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

Re: Hancock County  
Open Burning Complaint  
**Notice of Violation (NOV) &  
Return to Compliance (RTC)**

August 31, 2012

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

Mr. Steve Cramer  
Cramer Homestead Farm Inc.  
10054 Township Road 10  
Findlay, Ohio 45840

Dear Mr. Cramer:

This office received a complaint on August 29, 2012, concerning open burning being conducted on your property at 10457 Township Road 10 in Findlay, Ohio. My investigation, conducted that day, shows that an old residential structure on the property was demolished, pushed into a freshly excavated hole and burned for disposal purposes. This occurred within 1000' of adjacent inhabited structures in an unrestricted area.

Based on these findings, there is sufficient evidence to determine that illegal open burning did occur and the complaint is justified. This is a violation of both Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 3745-19-04(A) and Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3704.05.

A copy of the OAC rules pertaining to open burning has been enclosed for your review. Please provide a written response acknowledging your receipt of this letter and your understanding of the rules. If you do not understand the rules please contact this office for additional explanation before responding. Your response is requested no later than September 14, 2012.

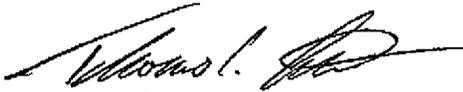
Because the fire has been extinguished, you are no longer in violation and the property is considered to have returned to compliance, regarding the open burning rules. However, because the material was covered in the excavated hole as a means of extinguishing the fire, this may also constitute burial of the material for disposal, which may be a violation of the rules overseen by the Ohio EPA's Division of Materials and Waste Management DMWM. Please note that this matter will be referred to DMWM for their evaluation.

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Please be advised that the submission of information to respond to this letter does not constitute waiver of the Ohio EPA's authority to seek civil penalties pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3704.06. The Ohio EPA will make a decision whether to pursue such penalties regarding this matter at a later date. The decision on whether to pursue or decline to pursue such penalties regarding this matter is dependent on several factors, one of which is your future compliance with applicable Ohio EPA requirements.

If you have any questions concerning this letter or the regulations, please feel free to call me at (419) 373-3137 or e-mail at [thomas.cikotte@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:thomas.cikotte@epa.state.oh.us).

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Cikotte  
Division of Air Pollution Control

/cg

Enclosure

pc: Hancock County Health Department  
Thomas C. Cikotte, DAPC – NWDO  
Certified Mail Receipt Number 7011350000082042593

ec: William MacDowell, U.S. EPA Region V  
Bruce Weinberg, DAPC - CO  
Tom Sattler, DAPC - NWDO  
Thomas C. Cikotte, DAPC – NWDO