



Environmental
Protection Agency

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

May 15, 2012

Mr. Terry Stapleton
Spring Hills Auto Wrecking
6308 State Route 245
West Liberty, Ohio 43357

RE: Complaint Investigation

Dear Mr. Stapleton:

On Thursday, May 10, 2012, I inspected Spring Hills Auto Wrecking in response to a complaint called in to this office which alleged that oil was being mismanaged by your salvage yard. The complainant also alleged that your site was causing problems with drainage in areas adjacent to your property. The company was represented by your son and you.

Based on my observations and our discussions, the complainant's allegations appeared to be without merit. Drainage issues are not within Ohio EPA's area of authority, and it appears that lots of things have been done in the immediate area of your facility over the years that have disrupted natural drainage patterns, possibly leading to the problems experienced by the complainant.

Your company now removes fluids from wrecked vehicles within the large building it constructed and then occupied a couple of years ago. Used oils collected from vehicles are stored in a tank that feeds a waste oil-fired furnace which heats the building during the winter months.

It's possible that small amounts of oil or transmission fluid are still present within scrapped vehicles when they are moved outdoors for storage prior to crushing. I observed no evidence of spilled oil on the ground, or of sheen on a small area of ponded water that collects in a low spot on the property located to the north of the new building.

We discussed the new industrial permit that your company has applied for, but has yet to be issued coverage. Sampling requirements are different than the previous version of the general industrial permit, and if questions arise when it comes time to sample, let me know and I'll attempt to answer them.

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If you have questions about anything else in this letter, I can be reached at 937.285.6442 or via email at chris.cotton@epa.state.oh.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Cotton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a distinct "Cotton" following.

Chris Cotton
Environmental Specialist
Division of Surface Water

cc: Ohio EPA/SWDO/DSW Files

CC\bp