



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

August 15, 2013

Mr. Ron Detisch
Owner, Carthage Auto Parts Co.
433 North Bend Road
Cincinnati, OH 45216

RE: Notice of Violation, Industrial Stormwater Compliance Inspection, NPDES Permit # 1GR01408*AG

Dear Mr. Detisch:

On Wednesday, July 24, 2013, I inspected the Carthage Auto Parts Company to determine compliance with current industrial stormwater discharge regulations. Upon arrival I met briefly with you, but walked the site unaccompanied.

Based on my observations, the company continues to have major issues with respect to management of waste oil and other fluids removed from junked autos. Other than moving the outdoor rack(s) on which junked vehicles are set while being dismantled, and covering the area with blue plastic tarps, the site looks no different than it did during my first inspection in October 2012. As mentioned in my letter from October 25, 2012, Ohio EPA does not expect vehicle salvagers to capture every last drop of engine oil, gasoline, coolant, and brake or transmission fluid that comes from a wrecked car. However, salvagers are expected to take steps to minimize the potential for fluids to be washed off site by storm water. As long as Carthage Auto continues dismantling vehicles and storing engines and transmissions outdoors where they're exposed to rainfall, it will have significant room for improvement.

Dye testing of drains done by Hamilton County Public Health confirms that runoff from Carthage Auto is discharged to the east on to property that is owned by the city of Cincinnati, and eventually reaches Mill Creek. The intent of the permit you received is to minimize the off-site discharge of contaminants into public waterways. How this intent is met is entirely up to you.

While the company did obtain coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) industrial general permit in the winter of 2013, it appears to have done little to comply. **Carthage Auto Parts is therefore in violation of the following portions of this permit:**

- 1. Section 4 – Inspections (see page 17 of the permit)**
- 2. Section 4.2 Quarterly Visual Assessments of Stormwater (page 19)**

3. Section 5 – Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWP3) (pages 22-25)

Content of a site's SWP3 is listed right in the table of contents of the permit itself, in Section 5, starting on page 22. Most of the individual points found in section 5.1.2 (Site Description) are pretty straightforward. Several can be adequately addressed by including them on a map that is of large enough scale to be easily read. If you have an existing map of your property, you may be able to make a copy of it and simply draw in the needed features required by the industrial stormwater permit. The map must be large enough to be easily read, and it must show nearby water courses that receive stormwater runoff from your property. In this case, Mill Creek is the "receiving" stream.

For the "activities at the facility" section, simply explain that the company salvages vehicles, which involves bringing them to the site, removing fluids (unless engines and transmissions may be salable), stripping off other parts that can be sold, then putting the hulks out back until it's time to send them away for shredding. The SWP3 should discuss how and where oils and other fluids are removed, how and where fluids are stored, and what sorts of measures are taken to address spills. Are containers of floor dry kept nearby and thrown on spills of any size? How is contaminated floor-dry then handled? Is gasoline from incoming vehicles removed and used in the loader, or perhaps given to company employees? Is used oil kept and burned on site in a used oil furnace to reduce utility costs during the winter months? If not, then how is it managed prior to off-site shipment for recycling? What becomes of brake fluids, transmission fluids, or windshield wiper solvents removed from incoming vehicles? Areas where these materials are stored should be shown on the site map, while the plan describes how the fluids are removed and ultimately disposed.

A complete list of specific activities that are exposed to rainfall is found at the bottom of page 23 and the very top of page 24 of the permit. Not all activities in this list apply to any given business; permittees are expected to address the ones that clearly apply to their respective companies.

For "locations of all receiving waters" in the vicinity of the business, this would be Mill Creek, which is located at the bottom of the hill to the east of the property.

For locations of potential pollution sources, you'd include the dismantling area, areas where engines are stored, areas where transmissions are stored, the car crusher, and any areas where used oils and other spent auto fluids are kept. Since most of the key activities occur outdoors where exposure to rainfall is simply a given, this list could be fairly long. It would obviously make things much simpler for the company if it moved as much of its activities under roof as possible.

The location of stormwater monitoring points would most likely be in the woods on city property immediately east of the site, where Hamilton County Public Health collected samples from its dye testing.

In 2003, Ohio EPA's Small Business Assistance Office provided to every vehicle salvager in the state educational materials designed to assist with understanding and complying with relevant environmental regulations. These materials consisted of a short video featuring the successful efforts of 3 Ohio vehicle salvagers, along with a copy of the same compliance manual provided to you last fall by Brad Johnson from Hamilton County Public Health. I've included another copy of the video with this letter. While it's now 10 years old, information in the video is still relevant. Another source of detailed and relevant compliance assistance information is the Ohio Auto and Truck Recycling Association (OATRA), with whom Ohio EPA collaborated in the making of the compliance assistance video.

The following permit requirements also apply to Carthage Auto Parts, and were previously pointed out in the violation notice sent in October 2012:

1. Quarterly Visual Assessment of Storm Water Discharges (pp19-20)

All companies covered under this "multi-sector" general industrial permit are required to assess samples of stormwater runoff collected from their property on a quarterly basis. Samples are to be collected at points where runoff leaves the property. Details of what to look for in collected samples can be found on page 19 of the permit. Information obtained from these assessments must be documented and kept at the site, and must be made available to Ohio EPA upon request.

2. Benchmark Monitoring of Storm Water Runoff (pp 29-30)

Industrial sites are required to perform "benchmark" monitoring of storm water runoff that is discharged from their property. The types of pollutants to be monitored will depend on the industrial sector in question. Information about benchmark monitoring begins on page 30 of the permit, and details about the pollutants auto salvagers (Sector M facilities) are required to look for (total suspended solids, total aluminum, and total lead) are found on pages 66-67.

Benchmark monitoring requirements call for 4 samples to be obtained during the first 3 years in which the permit is in place, beginning January 1, 2012. Sampling can be done at any time within this 3 year period, so long as each of the 4 seasons is represented. Once all sampling has been completed, the results are to be averaged and then compared to the benchmark concentrations established by USEPA for particular pollutants. If results are higher than USEPA's levels, then regulated companies must find ways to reduce the amount of pollutants that are carried from their sites in stormwater runoff.

Benchmark monitoring data must be submitted to Ohio EPA, preferably through its "eDMR" (electronic discharge monitoring report) system. To set up an eDMR account, contact Jamie Roberts in Ohio EPA's Central Office. His direct line is (614) 644-2054, or you can email him at james.roberts@epa.ohio.gov. Data also can be submitted in

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hardcopy form, and can be mailed to me at the address shown at the top of the first page.

Within 14 days of receipt of this letter, please provide the following information to this office:

1. A schedule for preparing an SWP3 for your site;
2. How monitoring requirements will be addressed.

A completed stormwater plan that the company will implement and follow must be submitted to this office within 60 days of receipt of this letter. Failure to do so will result in a recommendation for an enforcement action.

If you have questions about anything in this letter, I can be contacted at (937) 285-6442, or via email at chris.cotton@epa.state.oh.us.

Sincerely,



Chris Cotton
Environmental Specialist II
Division of Surface Water

CC/kb

cc: Ohio EPA/SWDO/DSW Files

ec: Matt Mullin, City of Cincinnati Office of Environmental Quality
Brad Johnson, Division of Water Quality, Hamilton County Health Department
Larry Reeder, DSW Enforcement Coordinator, OEPA/CO