



DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jim Doyle
Governor

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Department of Health and Family Services

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DATE

ADDRESS

Dear _____:

On _____ you were notified of a complaint filed with our Department regarding emissions from your outdoor wood-fired boiler (OWB) located at _____. Staff from the _____ Health Department and our agency investigated the complaint on _____. Our investigation has confirmed that smoke emissions from your OWB present an inhalation exposure risk to downwind residents.

Our investigation finds you in violation of Wisconsin's Environmental Health Statute, Chapter 254. At this time we request that you comply with the provisions of this statute and abate this health hazard within 30 days from the receipt of this letter, _____ (DATE) _____. Failure to address this health hazard within 30 days will result in this report being referred to the _____ County District Attorney's Office and the Wisconsin Department of Justice for enforcement action.

Background

Much scientific evidence associates exposure to chemicals and particles in smoke to problems with the hearth, lungs, immune system, and with premature death. If improperly located and operated, dense, continuous wood smoke emissions from OWBs present a health risk, is a nuisance, and over time can harm the health of people in the downwind plume. A major health concern is exposure to extremely small smoke particles, also known as fine particulates. Frequent exposure to fine particulates is a health concern because they are small enough to reach the deepest portions of the lungs and then enter the blood stream. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency indicates that symptoms of fine particulate exposure include irritation of eyes, nose, and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath. Several of these symptoms were experienced by residents downwind of your OWB. Other health effects include asthma, bronchitis, and in people with existing heart conditions, an increased risk of heart attack. In addition, wood smoke contains irritating gases and chemical compounds that contribute to other health impacts such as aggravation of asthma and allergies.

(Possible language. There may be more options)

Option 1 Your OWB does not meet the basic installation recommendations of the Outdoor Furnace Manufacturer's Caucus of the Hearth, Patio and Barbeque Association (HPBA). This

group serves in an advisory capacity to OWB manufacturers and dealers. The HPBA recommends that OWBs be located no closer than 100 feet to a neighboring house and if within 300 feet, the chimney of the OWB should be at least at least 2 feet higher than the neighbor's roof line. Neither of these conditions are being met by your OWB.

A copy of this report has also been mailed to the _____ Health Department. They will be contacting you at the end of 30 days to determine if you have taken appropriate corrective action.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the _____ Health Department at _____ or our office at _____.

Sincerely,

(Who should this letter come from? Maybe Chuck? Andy? Tom Sieger? Sheri? We should discuss.)

William H. Otto, Chief
Health Hazard Evaluation Section
Bureau of Environmental & Occupational Health
State Division of Public Health

c: Local Health Department
DNR Regional Director and Air Management Staff
DNR Central Office Bureau of Air Management