

From: Michael C. Witmer [quikmcw@yahoo.com]
 Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 10:55 AM
 To: EP, RegComments
 Cc: MARK BRESSLER; Michael
 Subject: Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers

RECEIVED

2010 JAN -04 PM 4:35

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

I have read through the proposed rule making changes and would like to provide you with factual proof of the issues and problems surrounding these outdoor wood-fired boilers. I live in a small town and have the misfortune to live next to an individual that owns and operates a hacked up outdoor wood-fired boiler. Although over 20 neighbors have signed a petition to stop the use of this boiler in our small town, the township authorities continue to do nothing because they are afraid of being sued. This outdoor wood-fired burner provides for more than a nuisance, it provides a great health risk for my son and for myself because we both suffer from asthma. There are many days throughout the year that my son and I have to stay inside due to the excessive smoke and pollution that this furnace produces. Several times through out the spring, summer and fall, we have had to go inside and close all the windows because the smoke that was being dumped into the air. Many, many other people have had to contend with similar problems and many have posted a lot of research to support the hazards.

 "Wood smoke is classified as a carcinogen and widely proven to cause respiratory problems and trigger heart attacks. Even OWB mfrs. warn of the dangers of wood smoke- carbon monoxide, benzene, formaldehyde, combustion creates all sorts of chemicals."

"Outdoor Wood Boilers Are Big polluters. A study by Northeast States Coordinated Air Management (NESCAUM) in 2008 found the EPA test methods for OWBs may under represent real world emissions by a factor of 4. 1 OWB = 3000 - 8000 gas furnaces in pollution (Ct. DEP website). Wood smoke is filled w/dangerous fine particulates (PM 2.5). We all deserve to breath clean air. OWBs are not allowed in the State of Washington. In NYS Gov Paterson is doing nothing to stop this kind of pollution. NYS DEC staff estimate 40,000 owb's. It is estimated that by 2010 OWBs could contribute almost 900,000 tons of particulate matter."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqMJLjE7Iek>

 Granted this issue is a major issue for me because I live within 12 feet of this unit and I constantly have to contend with the wood smoke pollution and the risk that my lungs may shutdown in an instant. My own sister owns and operates an outdoor wood-fired boiler at her home that is outside of our small town, but in comparison, her outdoor wood-fired boiler produces far less smoke than my neighbors. From the videos that we have captured and provided, it is very clear to see what we are faced with on a daily basis.

We have contacted the governor who referred us to other departments, none of which have done nothing but give us false promises. Some have taken the expense of starting legal actions and the only thing that has resulted was promises to change or modify the outdoor wood-fired boiler, some of which we have no idea if they have been made. What we do know is this unit continues to dump a lot of smoke into the air, year round, making life a daily challenge if we want to go outside or open up the house to enjoy the spring and summer.

We strongly support your proposed changes and ask that you make the changes stronger so that town environments do not have to contend with these units because they cannot operate safely and in a healthy manor with the closeness of the homes. In rural areas, the situations are different because you don't have homes within 10-20 feet of each other.

See the links below for the some of the videos that we have captured to present the support for the changes that are long over due!

Thank you.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JisT vz67MjM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-gBpKw2YFM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TIreYux-c4>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k FnroRYOrU>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xD913f6GZwU>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ci9hm03QGo>