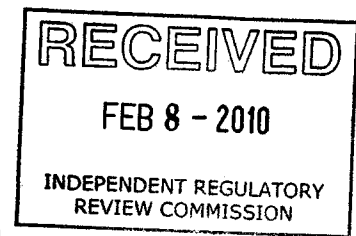


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## Our Nightmare with Outdoor Wood Boilers

RECEIVED

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

The most heart-breaking part of all this was how hard it was on our German Shepherd to breathe in smoldering chemicals 24/7 these past months. She gradually grew more and more listless, until her organs shut down. Sadly, we lost her just before Christmas. Our neighbor is not always burning the proper fuels; we are getting weird chemical smells, like plastics, acrid chemicals and something that smells like chlorine that cause pounding headaches, coughing spasms, burning of the sinuses, nose and throat, extreme drowsiness and inability to focus. One of us works out of our home, and is experiencing severely reduced productivity. In addition, our neighbor is not releasing the smoke via a chimney or regulation flue, but at ground level, where the smoke lays along the ground for hours before slowly rising above our house.

We have invested all of our money into building a lovely house and yard, and have enjoyed living in our neighborhood for twelve years. However, since last June, we have not been able to open our windows, or sit on our deck. It is even unbearable to sit on our screened-in porch. Our outdoor furniture has been ruined by soot stains and burn marks, and the finish on the furniture has turned a permanent gray color. Everything inside our camper is covered with soot. There is soot on our deck, our front walk and porch. We have soot on our vehicles, and contamination of the vehicle ventilation systems. Working in our garden or landscaping our yard is impossible unless we wear gas-masks.

A smoldering chemical smell has contaminated our furnace and A/C system. The back of our house had to be wrapped in plastic, and our windows covered in plastic, to try and keep some of the chemical smell out of our home. We are constantly running five large exterior fans to push the foul, smoldering chemical air away from our house. We are constantly running two air cleaners to try and keep the air inside our home somewhat breathable. Our unfinished third floor is soot-laden, with the furniture, clothing and memorabilia stored there damaged from the smoke and soot. Half of our Christmas decorations were unusable, the other half had to be thoroughly washed to remove the stench.

Our walls, carpets and furniture are losing their color from the soot constantly being deposited inside the house. Anytime we dust or clean, we are wiping up black soot from everything inside the house. We are in our late 50's and have our share of health issues. In the short term, we are suffering from headaches, drowsiness, coughing, sneezing and fighting off respiratory infections. We are afraid to think about the long-term health effects.

*Thomas Benish Jr.*

*Donalee Benish*