

Tate, Michele

From: Barbara Kovac [phenix147@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2009 2:11 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Outdoor Wood Boilers

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

This is the second (2nd) time I'm e-mailing you about Outdoor Wood Boilers and the concern I have about the health and safety of my wife and I, anyone visiting and my neighbors. That includes them being a nuisance because of the constant smell of wood in and around my home.

My neighbor has a OWB that is approximately 3 to 4 feet from my property line with a stack that looks to be about 8 feet tall. My property is about 10 feet higher than his so that makes his stack about 4 feet higher than my deck. Just today his OWB was spewing smoke so much that it was going past our sliding glass door in the rear of the house while we were eating breakfast. As you should be able to guess it was also entering my house causing the interior of my home to smell like a fire had just happened there. Something has to be and should be done so that people living near these OWB's are not subject to this type of pollution that is not only a nuisance but a health concern.

I can only speak for my wife and I but we have been having headaches, eye and throat irritation and I have been starting to cough. I believe that most of that is caused by the smoke emitted by my neighbors OWB. How are we suppose to live like that?

Doing some research on OWB's I found a site from the "American Lung Association" that explained what "Particulate Matter" was and how it effected those in the area of OWB's. One of their most concerns is that the "particulate matter" being emitted by the OWB are small enough to lodge deep enough in the lungs where they can do serious damage. There are numerous health effects that are caused by "particulate matter" that are documented.

Some of the pollutants being released by OWB's are:

Carbon Monoxide
 Ozone
 Nitrogen Dioxide
 1,3 Butadiene
 N-Hexane
 Polycyclic aromatic: (PAHs) 20+ e.g benzo(a) pyrene
 Monoaromatics: 28+, e.g, benzene, styrene
 Aldehydes: 20+ e.g, acrolein, formaldehyde
 Organic alcohols and acids: 25+, e.g, methanol, acetic acid
 Phenols: 33+, e.g, catechol, cresol (methylphenols)
 Quinones: hydroquinone, fluorenone, anthraquinone
 Chlorinated organics: methylene chloride, methyl chloride, dioxin and others that are a source of toxicity that cause health matters.

The American Lung Association also stated those at risk. They stated "Anyone may be affected by particle pollution, but several groups are at most risk": 1. Children under 18. 2. Adults 65 and older.
 3. Anyone with chronic lung diseases, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, or emphysema.
 4. Anyone with a cardiovascular disease.
 5. Anyone with diabetes.

I myself am over 65 and have type 2 diabetes so the operation of OWB's are a great concern to me and my health.

While doing this research I also found that just about every state in the union is either regulating OWB's or out right banning them. Some municipalities in these states have their own regulations that are even more stringent than the States regulations.

I've read over your PROPOSED RULE MAKING as of October 17, 2009 and somewhat agree with your stack requirement being 2 feet higher than the highest peak but 500 feet and not 150 feet from the nearest resident.

I agree that the OWB should be at least 150 feet from the nearest property line. This should include all OWB's new and old. All OWB's should be made to adhere to this regulation without exception. I understand that the owners of the already installed OWB's are concerned about the cost of moving them to comply with the new regulations but what about the cost to the individuals that live by these OWB's in health, safety and nuisance.

John S. Kovac
262 Young Road
Nazareth, PA 18064

610-759-4667