



May 16, 2025

Transmitted Electronically

Mr. Chris Rehklau, Owner
C & R Recyclers
19242 St. Rt. 576
Pioneer, Ohio 43554

**Re: C and R Recyclers
Notice of Violation (NOV)
NOV
RCRA C - Hazardous Waste
Williams County
OHR000218552**

Hazardous Waste Program - DERR

Subject: Complaint #250429125724_WEC, FCI, Notice of Violation

Dear Mr. Rehklau:

Thank you for allowing your employee who identified himself as “Doug” to accompany Casey Wilcher and myself during the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s (Ohio EPA’s) May 7, 2025, complaint investigation of C & R Recyclers located at 19242 State Route 576 in Pioneer, Ohio. The goal of this Focused Compliance Inspection (FCI) was to investigate the validity of complaint #250429125724_WEC that alleged C & R Recyclers received a truck trailer filled with old pesticides and out-of-date chemicals that were being mixed with concrete powder and were being buried. The investigation was also conducted to determine C & R Recyclers’ compliance with Ohio’s hazardous waste laws as found in Chapter 3734. of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and the rules adopted pursuant to ORC § 3734.12 found in Chapter 3745 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). The inspection included a review of the complaint allegation and C & R Recyclers’ operations associated with facility operations as they relate to the complaint.

Findings

Ohio EPA did not determine any violations related to the complaint, however observed the following violations of Ohio’s hazardous waste laws and rules. To bring C & R Recyclers into compliance, Ohio EPA recommends promptly addressing these violations within 14 days of your receipt of this letter.

- 1. OAC Rule 3745-52-11, Hazardous Waste Determination:** “Any person who generates a waste, must determine if that waste is a hazardous waste. The generator must determine if the waste is a listed hazardous waste defined in rules 3745-51-30 to 3745-51-35 of the Administrative Code, and the generator must determine whether the waste is a characteristic hazardous waste identified in rules 3745-51-20 to 3745-51-24 of the Administrative Code by either: (1) Testing the waste or (2) Applying knowledge of the hazardous characteristic of the waste.”

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- a. C & R Recyclers failed to determine if the waste inside a 55-gallon drum located in the southeast corner of the property is a hazardous waste (Image 1, labeled #1). During the inspection, the drum was unlabeled, the drum was lying sideways in brush vegetation, and C & R Recyclers were unable to identify the contents.
- b. C & R Recyclers failed to determine if the waste inside a 55-gallon blue poly drum located in the southeast corner of the property is a hazardous waste (Image 2, labeled #2). During the inspection, the drum was unlabeled, and C & R Recyclers were unable to identify the contents.
- c. C & R Recyclers failed to determine if the waste inside a 55-gallon drum located in the southeast corner of the property is a hazardous waste (Image 2, labeled #3). During the inspection, the drum was unlabeled, the condition of the drum was rusting and bulging, and C & R Recyclers were unable to identify the contents.
- d. C & R Recyclers failed to determine if the waste inside a 5-gallon bucket located in the southeast corner of the property is a hazardous waste (Image 3, labeled #4). During the inspection, the container was unlabeled, rusting and in poor condition, and C & R Recyclers was unable to identify the contents.
- e. C & R Recyclers failed to determine if the liquid flowing from the trash pile in the southwest corner of the property is a hazardous waste (Images 4 and 5). During the inspection, a dark liquid with a sheen was flowing from the trash pile in the southwest corner of the property. C & R Recyclers were unable to identify the liquid flowing from the trash pile.

In order to resolve the violations, Ohio EPA recommends that C & R Recyclers immediately evaluate these wastes to determine if they are hazardous waste as required by this rule and submit the evaluations to this office for review.

Conclusion

The Ohio EPA requests that C & R Recyclers promptly undertake the necessary measures to return to compliance with Ohio's environmental laws and rules. Within 14 days of receipt of this letter, please provide documentation to Ohio EPA of the actions taken to resolve the violations cited above. Documentation of steps taken to return to compliance includes written correspondence, updated policies, and photographs, as appropriate, may be submitted via the postal service or electronically to alison.konoff@epa.ohio.gov.

Please be advised that violations cited above will continue until the violations have been properly resolved. Failure to comply with Chapter 3734. of the ORC and rules promulgated thereunder may result in an administrative or civil penalty.

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The submission of any requested information in response to this letter does not constitute waiver of the Ohio EPA's authority to seek administrative or civil penalties as provided in Chapter 3734. of the ORC.

This Notice of Violation (NOV) is only associated with the areas of the operations that were inspected, or the documentation reviewed and does not constitute a waiver of potential violations not discovered. Additionally, on May 16, 2025, Ohio EPA requested, via phone call, the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the product soap used in C & R Recyclers' business process. Based upon receipt and review of this information, additional violations may be cited.

A copy of the inspection report including completed checklists will be sent with a separate letter. You can find Ohio's hazardous waste rules and other information on the division's web page at: <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-response-revitalization>.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 419.373.3015, or at alison.konoff@epa.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,



Alison Konoff
Hazardous Waste Program
Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization
/tkz

cc. Gary Deutschman, DERR
Jessica Susser, DERR
Casey Wilcher, DERR
Zak Kabelen, DERR
EPA.RCRAInfoData@epa.ohio.gov

Attachment A



Image 1. Gray drum full of unknown contents in the pile of propane tanks and drums



Image 2. Blue poly drum and bulging rusted drum in propane tank and drum pile



Image 3. Rusting 5-gallon bucket in propane tank and drum pile



Image 4. Dark liquid flowing from trash pile



Image 5. Sheen of the dark liquid flowing from the trash pile