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BURNING OF USED OIL

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

OCT 17 1989

Mr. James A. Stevens
1016 Brook Street
Kingsport, Tennessee 37660

Dear Mr. Stevens:

Thank you for your letter from August 1989 concerning used or waste oil.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not require a burner of used oil to obtain a permit for this activity. There are, however, some restrictions regarding the burning of used oil.

The federal regulations, specifically 40 CFR Part 266, Subpart E, state that off-specification used oil may be burned in industrial furnaces and boilers, including used oil-fired space heaters. If off-specification used oil is burned in space heaters, however, it must be from household do-it-yourself oil changers or be generated by the burner of used oil itself. Also, the space heater must be designated to have a maximum capacity of 0.5 million BTU per hour or less and the gases/emissions generated must be vented to the outside air. If an individual has a supply of on-specification used oil, there are no restrictions on the type of unit in which it is burned. However, the burner of on-specification used oil must analyze or use other information to show that the oil meets the specifications, and must comply with recordkeeping requirements.

The definitions of on-specification used oil and off-specification used oil are found in 40 CFR Section 266.40(e). Both "on-specification" and "off-specification" used oils can be burned in space heaters; however, you must follow the requirements for the design of the space heater when burning "off-specification" used oil.

For more information on federal regulations concerning used oil (under RCRA, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) you may contact the RCRA/Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9346.