



**FOR RELEASE:** March 23, 2010  
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## **Ohio EPA Updates Incinerator Rules to Address Wood-Fired Boilers**

To address public concerns regarding emissions from burning non-traditional fuels in Outdoor Wood-fired Boilers (OWB), Ohio EPA has drafted changes to the agency's incinerator rules. The rules would define what qualifies as an OWB and require those burning non-traditional fuels to reduce pollution and odors just like incinerator owners.

OWBs (also known as outdoor wood-fired hydronic heaters) are devices used to heat water for home, commercial or industrial heating and for the generation of hot water for bathing and sanitation purposes.

OWBs are designed by their manufacturers to use clean firewood or a substitute that burns with similar or cleaner emissions. Some materials, when burned, can create dangerous emissions including excess toxic and particulate emissions that can be hazardous to human health. Therefore, Ohio EPA would require those who choose to burn the following materials to reduce emissions and odors from the OWB: garbage, tires, rubber or plastic coated wire, materials containing plastic, materials containing rubber, creosote-impregnated waste materials, waste petroleum products, paint and paint thinners, chemicals, wall board, manure, animal carcasses or asphalt products.

Under the draft rule, if those materials are burned in an OWB, the unit would be subject to incineration rules, which would require the unit's owner to obtain an operating permit from Ohio EPA and demonstrate the unit meets emissions limits through monitoring.

Ohio EPA has decided not to pursue a statewide "one-size-fits-all" rule regulating OWBs as was released in draft form in February 2008. That draft generated considerable public feedback. Upon further evaluation, Ohio EPA determined that the most efficient regulation of OWBs would be by individual communities affected by them, based on localized conditions such as population density, topography, amount of distance between homes. However, Ohio EPA also recognizes the most significant concern occurs when non-traditional and often toxic materials are burned in OWBs and a statewide requirement is warranted for those who choose to burn those items.

The draft incinerator rules are available online at [www.epa.ohio.gov/pic/outdoorwoodfiredboilers.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/pic/outdoorwoodfiredboilers.aspx) and from Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control, and can be requested by calling at (614) 644-2270. Written comments can be e-mailed to [carolina.prado@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:carolina.prado@epa.state.oh.us) or mailed to Ohio EPA, Division of Air Pollution Control, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, no later than April 22, 2010.

Ohio EPA will consider all comments before it formally proposes these rules. When rules are formally proposed, Ohio EPA will hold a public hearing and offer another public comment period before the rules are adopted.