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Subject Fw: ADAIR COUNTY LANDFILL FIRE UNDER CONTROL

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From: Smith-Carroll, Eva (EEC)
To: Francis, Robert (EEC)
Sent: Thu Oct 23 15:13:34 2008
Subject: ADAIR COUNTY LANDFILL FIRE UNDER CONTROL



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET

Gov. Steven L. Beshear

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For Immediate Release

ADAIR COUNTY LANDFILL FIRE UNDER CONTROL ***Expert recommends clay soil cover***

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 23, 2008) – A clay soil covering has been applied to suppress a landfill fire at Pyles Demolition Recycling, a construction demolition and debris landfill in Columbia. The subsurface fire was discovered after odor complaints from area residents on Oct. 6 prompted an investigation by the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Waste Management's Columbia Regional Office. A notice of violation was issued to the company directing Pyles to take immediate action to extinguish the fire. The company began firefighting efforts on Oct. 9. Agencies giving oversight and assistance

were the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Kentucky Division of Emergency Management, and DEP's divisions of Waste Management and Air Quality and Environmental Response Team (ERT).

Robert Francis, manager of ERT, said, "As of Wednesday, Oct. 22, firefighting efforts prevailed at the landfill site. Under advice from a leading landfill fire expert, the company, with agreement from federal and state officials, began covering the landfill with clay soil to put out the fire.

"As of 4 p.m. Wednesday, the fire was covered and the release of smoke was non-existent at the landfill. The company agreed to monitor the site and watch for 'hot spots' and take action immediately when found."

On Tuesday, Oct. 21, Kentucky DEP asked EPA for air monitoring assistance to monitor the release of smoke from the firefighting efforts at the landfill.

The next day, EPA performed air monitoring of the smoke plume both at the landfill site and in off-site areas downwind of the landfill. At the landfill site, measurable concentrations of styrene were detected from samples collected in the smoke plume. Styrene is an organic chemical which is used to manufacture plastic pipe and Styrofoam.

However, the highest concentrations of styrene which were detected by EPA in the smoke plume are about 20 times below the occupational limits for exposure. No evidence of styrene or other volatile organic chemicals were discovered elsewhere on the landfill property or in residential areas west of Highway 55.

Based on these results, EPA does not consider that the smoke coming from the landfill is a threat to human health or the environment. Odors encountered by nearby businesses and residents may be a nuisance, but are not harmful to the public.

People with questions or concerns about the health effects can contact Corey Patterson with the Lake Cumberland District Health Department at 270-384-5564.

