

October 15, 2008

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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

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Mr. John Therriault, Assistant Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
100 West Randolph, Suite 11-500  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-3218

AC09-9

ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. John Therriault

In regards to the most recent letter received in September, we (Ruben Valdez and Alvin Valdez) are to file an amended petition stating the grounds in which we contest this citation. We feel that this order has been reached unfairly and quite frankly we feel that we are being unfairly singled out. There are others in our surrounding areas that clearly have scrap metal collecting in their yards yet they never have any problems with the pollution board or any others. We have been relentlessly trying comply with your board without smearing others but it is clear that we need to look around and see the other residents that have the same problems with the only difference being they are not pointed out to your board and there for conveniently get overlooked.

Upon looking at the pictures you have supplied, we see that a lot of the problem was because tarps had blown off of the things that we had covered re-exposing areas that were already addressed. The sun itself rots these tarps and we have found that they do not even last a year under normal circumstances. Another issue we had was the fact that there were pictures of things that didn't even belong to us that you had placed in our file. This is not even fair.

You have stated in the original letter/citation that we have open litter and are operating an unlicensed dump but we don't see scrap metal as open litter or as being a dump. We see the situation as a way of saving our planet by recycling and reusing as much of our parts as we can, not only to save room in our dumpsites and disposal areas but to save money on our own parts that we would possibly need to fix our own vehicles. Much of the parts and scrap that we have out there have been used to make other things and as far as we are concerned, more people should take part in this practice instead of filling our dumpsites with things that do not decompose quickly and therefore killing our environment with their disposable lifestyles.

We are enclosing pictures recently taken at the property that we are working on to assure to you that we are trying to fix this problem so we hopefully never have to hear from your board again. In the future please consider looking at more than our little area and address others with the same problems. You will find that they may be just down the road and just maybe they are the same people that are so busy pointing fingers at us that they fail to see their own open litter accumulating right under their own noses. My mother once said to me and I believe this applies to this situation, "If you look at your hand while you are pointing at others you will see that you have three of your own fingers pointing back at you!"

Sincerely



Ruben Valdez and Alvin Valdez

Enclosure:

These pictures  
were taken

10/14/08

