

IPCB  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
60 E. Van Buren Street  
Suite 630  
Chicago, IL 60605

Thomas Fann d/b/a Fann Tree Service  
Leslie (Mandrell) Fann  
BOL # 1998625021

To Whom It May Concern,

Respondents have attempted to reach out to Mr. Gage Shepard on several occasions with no success. Respondents have requested for clarification on the citations respondents have received. Respondents also do not believe they are in any violation of the law based on the information that was advised to them by Mr. Shepard.

In spring 2023, all trees along respondents' property line were cut down due to overgrowth and advised that it would be a fire hazard, which was something that happened in the spring of 2022. Due to heating their home with firewood, respondents were asked if they wanted the logs for firewood. Since the trees were from their own property line, they said yes. Respondents had always been told they could have trees from their own property. Mr. Shepard came by respondent's house during the spring, specifically on March 13, 2023, and it was verified with him that it would be okay for respondents to have these logs. At this time, he advised that respondents could have the logs as they were from respondents' property, and that they could use them for their own personal use as firewood.

Months later respondents are now being notified they can't have mentioned logs, and cannot use them as firewood. The only additional burning that has occurred is when respondents are cutting the logs down to fit in their wood burning stove, and they are burning the larger waste. Again, things that cannot be used in their wood burning stove.

Respondents were advised by Mr. Shepard that they can keep logs and burn logs from their property. Respondents now question how they are in violation of any laws, as they are only following the instructions provided to them by this government agent. Respondents understand that they have to follow the rules and laws and have done so according to the information that Mr. Shepard provided to them. As a business owner, respondents make sure they do not do any dumping of their job sites at their home, dump material goes to Burkdells, this is a waste location located in Benton, IL that is a free dump site. Respondents may use some leftover woodchips for personal use as they have farm animals, but otherwise those are dumped as well at this location.

Respondents wish to request that this citation be reconsidered given the current circumstances. To best their knowledge, based on the information provided by Mr. Gage Shepard, respondents were following all rules and regulations and should not be punished for this. If respondents were advised incorrectly, please allow them time to correct this issue and allow them to comply with the necessary laws.

Leslie Fann is also known as Leslie Mandrell, legal name change due to marriage on October 23, 2021.

*Leslie Fann and Thomas Fann*

CC:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Attn: Sheila Williams  
Field Operations Section, Bureau of Land  
Suite 116  
2309 West Main Street  
Marion, IL 62959

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