

PPC 9497.1986(02)

LEAD-ACID BATTERY IMPROPER DISPOSAL

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

JUL 11 1986

Honorable David O'B. Martin
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for your June 16, 1986, letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Roland A. Clement. Mr. Clement expressed concern about the disposal of lead-acid batteries.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shares Mr. Clement's concerns regarding the improper disposal of spent lead-acid batteries. These batteries are a hazardous waste, therefore, their disposal is controlled under Federal law. The only exception to this is the direct disposal of batteries by an individual consumer. Federal law specifically exempts such household waste from hazardous waste regulations.

The Agency does regulate the storage of batteries prior to being reclaimed, i.e., battery crackers, smelting and/or refining operators. However, the Agency does not regulate the storage, generation or transportation of recycled batteries by any other persons. We have adopted this regulatory approach in order to provide a balance between protecting human health and the environment and encouraging the recycling of these batteries.

The EPA has not imposed a requirement that recycled or used batteries be collected at established points and a fee paid for their management. If this requirement has been imposed, it is either a State or local rule and you, therefore, should contact the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for details on this particular requirement.

We have developed a regulatory program to encourage the

recycling of lead-acid batteries by generators. Please feel free to write me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Original Document signed
"Jack W. McGraw for"

J. Winston Porter
Assistant Administrator