

PPC 9441.1996(10)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE Of  
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

November 7, 1996

Mr. Bob Breeze, Director  
Waste Reduction Branch  
Ministry of Energy and Environment  
135 St. Clair Ave. West  
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Dear Mr. Breeze:

Thank you for your letter of October 9, 1996 requesting clarification of the regulatory status of chopline residue. This residue is generated from the processing of scrap wire and is sold commercially for recovery. The residue consists primarily of plastics, some paper, and up to five percent copper.

Under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, chopline residue would be considered a spent material that is being reclaimed or recycled. (40 CFR 261.2(c)(3)). The chopline residue would be considered a spent material because it can no longer be used for its original purpose without some reprocessing or reclaiming operation being performed on the material. Processing the scrap material to recover PVC and copper places it clearly in this category.

As a spent material, it would be considered to be a solid waste. If the chopline residue were to fail the toxicity characteristic; (TC) test (or one of the other characteristics tests), it would be considered a hazardous waste. There are TC levels for vinyl chloride, lead and cadmium, although not for copper. Other TC constituents are listed at 40 CFR 261.24. If the material is a TC hazardous waste being recycled or reclaimed, hazardous waste management requirements would apply up to the point of its resale as a product. These include the hazardous waste requirements for manifesting, hazardous waste transport, and

RO 14098

storage while the material awaits reclamation. Any residue from the recycling process would also need to be checked for its TC status.

I hope this answers your questions about the regulatory status of chopline residue under U.S. EPA regulations. If you have additional questions, please contact my office, or call Gregory Helms, at 703-308-8845.

Sincerely,

Michael Shapiro, Director  
Office of Solid Waste