

Mr. Scott Buswell
9503 Beach Mill Rd.
Great Falls, Virginia 22066

Dear Mr. Buswell:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 25, 2002 to Administrator Whitman in which you suggest one way to help solve the problem with scrap tire piles is to reuse them to build reefs and dispose of some of the remainder in deep ocean canyons.

Scrap tires have been used for reef building by a few coastal states, including the state of New Jersey. Larger numbers of scrap tires are currently being recycled in asphalt paving, plastic and rubber products such as playground surfacing and traffic cones; and in erosion-control uses. Scrap tires are also being incinerated, under permitted and controlled conditions, by power plants, pulp and paper plants, and cement kilns, for their energy value. Many States have banned them from municipal landfills, however, other States still allow landfilling of tires. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not, however, condone dumping them either on the land or in deep ocean canyons.

I have enclosed a copy of "*Summary of Markets for Scrap Tires*". For more information, you may call the EPA call center at 1-800-424-9346. In addition, you may go to our website at www.epa.gov/msw and then look under topics for the subject tires.

I hope this information is helpful to you, and thank you for your concern.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Director
Office of Solid Waste

Enclosure

RO 14611