

9441.1987(64)

USED CRANKCASE OIL DISPOSED OF BY DO-IT-YOURSELFERS

AUG 13 1987

Mr. Lawrence H. Harmon  
10804 Longmeadow Drive  
Damascus, Maryland 20872

Dear Mr. Harmon:

This letter is in response to your July 24, 1987 inquiry regarding the regulation and management of used crankcase oil. The EPA does not regulate disposal of used oil by "do-it-yourselfers". In fact, in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Congress exempted all household wastes from the hazardous waste regulations. We do, however, have minimal regulations in place, and are considering others, that will regulate the waste oil industry. We believe these regulations will encourage recycling options. We are keenly aware of the problem of disposal by the do-it-yourself community, and are developing a program to address these problems. An important component of this program will be public education. Some States already have regulatory and informational programs in place.

In the meantime, do-it-yourselfers do have alternatives to throwing their waste oil in the trash. Many service stations do accept waste oil from the public (sometimes charging a small fee), while others do not. We believe this situation is the result of market forces, and not the result of EPA regulation of the industry. The Agency strongly encourages service stations to provide collection facilities, and for do-it-yourselfers to use those facilities (enclosures).

In response to your specific regulatory questions, we are also enclosing copies of our current oil regulations. These regulations provide for controls on used oil fuel and hazardous waste fuel (including contaminated waste oil) burned for energy recovery. There are different regulatory requirements for different categories of used oil. For example, "clean" used oil meeting specifications would be relatively free from regulation, while off-specification used oil and hazardous waste fuels (including used oil that has

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been mixed with a hazardous waste) would be subject to increasingly greater degrees of regulation. No federal permits are presently required for used oil collection, transportation, recycling, or disposal activities.

If we can be of any further assistance, please contact David Tomten of my staff at (202) 382-3298.

Sincerely,

Original Document signed

Marcia E. Williams  
Director, Office of Solid Waste

Enclosures