



As a result of one joint EEU/EPA investigation in Newark, the operator of an illegal dump site was given a four-year prison term, a \$5,000 fine, and an order to pay \$71,000 in restitution.



Environmental Enforcement Unit



**Ohio Attorney General
Environmental Enforcement Unit
30 E. Broad St., 25th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
800-348-3248**

**U.S. EPA
Criminal Investigation Division
440-202-4440**

For **24-hour** emergency response, complaints, or assistance with illegal activity call the Ohio EPA hotline at **800-282-9378**



MIKE DEWINE
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

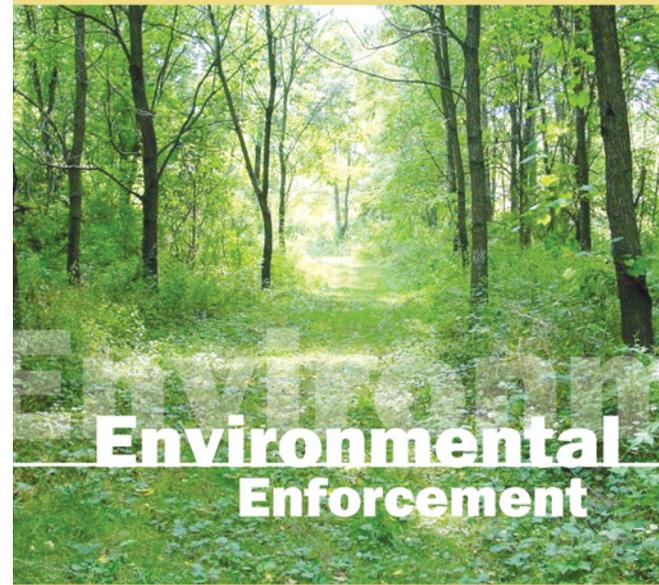
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov

Printed in-house

Protecting Ohio's Families

Keeping the Environment Safe

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Environmental Enforcement Unit investigates criminal environmental activity in Ohio.



Environmental Enforcement



MIKE DEWINE
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



OUR WORK

The Environmental Enforcement Unit (EEU) investigates criminal environmental activity in Ohio. The unit, composed of agents from the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), assists the Ohio and U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies. Agents also work with local, state, and federal agencies to investigate criminal environmental activity involving hazardous waste, solid waste, infectious waste, and water and air pollution.

AGENT QUALIFICATION AND TRAINING

All EEU agents receive basic peace officer training and additional instruction in conducting environmental crime investigations. This specialized training includes identification and evaluation of potential environmental crimes, analytical investigative methods, and several advanced interviewing courses with an emphasis on environmental crimes. All EEU agents are trained in hazardous materials incident response operations as well as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's courses required for individuals working in potentially toxic environments.

TASK FORCE COLLABORATION

The EEU participates in five environmental crime task forces throughout the state. Task forces are primarily directed by one of Ohio's two U.S. Attorney offices (Northern and Southern Districts); however, their purpose is to maximize cooperation between multiple jurisdictions.

The lead investigative law enforcement agency on a given case typically is determined by the task force's members, based on the best federal, state, or local law enforcement agency or prosecutorial resources available.



INVESTIGATING ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

Because of the highly technical and complex nature of environmental crimes, Ohio has adopted a three-pronged approach for conducting environmental investigations and prosecutions.

- 1 Most investigations begin when investigators in the Ohio EPA's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) receive leads or complaints. After evaluating the information, they contact the Environmental Enforcement Unit (EEU) for assistance with potential criminal activity. The two agencies conduct the investigation together.
- 2 OSI is responsible for collecting environmental samples and the regulatory aspects of an investigation, while EEU agents are involved in conducting interviews, crime scene analysis, surveillance, document analysis, and law enforcement functions related to the investigation.
- 3 EEU attorneys help develop cases for enforcement action. They prepare search warrants or provide opinions on search and seizure. Upon request from the appropriate state agency or a local board of health, an EEU attorney may prosecute the case. If necessary, an EEU attorney may be cross-designated as a special assistant prosecutor in the city or county in which the case is being prosecuted. That attorney then personally handles the prosecution or works as co-counsel with the local prosecutor.



PROCESS FOR CONDUCTING ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS

Complaint registered with Ohio EPA



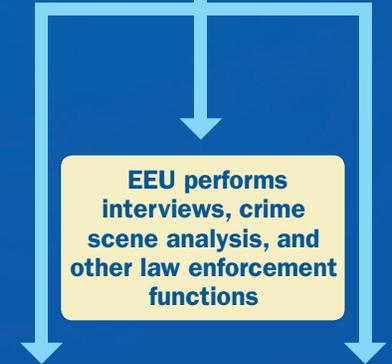
The EPA Office of Special Investigations (OSI) contacts the Ohio Attorney General's Environmental Enforcement Unit (EEU) if potential criminal activity is suspected.



OSI and EEU conduct a joint investigation



EEU performs interviews, crime scene analysis, and other law enforcement functions



OSI collects environmental samples and handles regulatory aspects

Environmental Enforcement attorneys provide legal advice, search warrants, and prosecution