



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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Mike Braun
Governor

Clint Woods
Commissioner

November 20, 2025

Via Certified Mail: 9589 0710 5270 1822 6844 82

Justin Kleist
9143 South 125 East
Hamlet, IN 46532

Dear Mr. Kleist:

Re: Violation Letter VL-2025-30965-S
Office of Land Quality
Justin Kleist
Hamlet, LaPorte County

Representatives of IDEM's Office of Land Quality are conducting inspections and record reviews of Sites to determine compliance with permit requirements, environmental statutes contained in the Indiana Code (IC), and environmental rules found in the Indiana Administrative Code (IAC).

On 3/17/25, 4/30/25, 6/2/25, IDEM conducted inspections of Justin Kleist's property located at 932 East 860 South, Hamlet, Indiana.

The following violations were noted at the time of the inspections:

1. Pursuant to IC 13-30-2-1(1), (3), (4), (5), a person may not do any of the following:
 - (1) Discharge, emit, cause, allow, or threaten to discharge, emit, cause, or allow any contaminant or waste, including any noxious odor, either alone or in combination with contaminants from other sources, into:
 - (A) the environment; or
 - (B) any publicly owned treatment works.
 - (3) Deposit any contaminants upon the land in a place and manner that creates or would create a pollution hazard that violates or would violate a rule adopted by the board.
 - (4) Deposit or cause or allow the deposit of any contaminants or solid waste upon the land, except through the use of sanitary landfills, incineration, composting, garbage grinding, or another method acceptable to the board.
 - (5) Dump or cause or allow the open dumping of garbage or of any other solid waste in violation of rules adopted by the board.

As noted during the inspections, Respondent caused and/or allowed the deposit of contaminants and solid waste upon the land, including but not limited to, wood

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pallets, tires, and miscellaneous household solid waste at the Site in violation of rules adopted by the board.

2. Pursuant to 329 IAC 10-4-2, no person shall cause or allow the storage, containment, processing, or disposal of solid waste in a manner which creates a threat to human health or the environment, including the creating of a fire hazard, vector attraction, air or water pollution, or other contamination.

Pursuant to 329 IAC 10-4-3, open dumping and open dumps, as those terms are defined in IC 13-11-2-146 and IC 13-11-2-147, are prohibited.

As noted during the inspections, Respondent caused and/or allowed solid waste, including but not limited to, wood pallets, tires, and miscellaneous household solid waste to be disposed of at the Site in manner which creates an open dump and a threat to human health or the environment.

3. Pursuant to 329 IAC 10-4-4(a), the owner of real estate upon which an open dump is located is responsible for the following:
 - (1) Correcting and controlling any nuisance conditions that occur as a result of the open dump. Correction and control of nuisance conditions must include:
 - (A) removal of all solid waste from the area of the open dump and disposal of such wastes in a solid waste land disposal facility permitted to accept the waste; or
 - (B) other methods as approved by the commissioner.
 - (2) Eliminating any threat to human health or the environment.

As noted during the inspections, Respondent is the owners of real estate upon which an open dump is located and have not complied with 329 IAC 10-4-4(a).

Justin Kleist shall achieve compliance with the following requirements:

1. Respondent shall comply with IC 13-30-2-1(1), (3), (4), (5), 329 IAC 10-4-2, 329 IAC 10-4-3, and 329 IAC 10-4-4(a). Specifically, Respondent shall remove all solid waste, including but not limited to, wood pallets, tires, and miscellaneous household solid waste to a permitted land disposal facility and/or recycling facility.
2. Respondent shall submit written documentation showing all solid waste has been taken to a permitted land disposal facility and/or recycling facility. The documentation shall include receipts, manifests, or other documentation.

Justin Kleist shall send to this office, within 35 days of issuance of this letter, a written detailed explanation of the steps taken to achieve compliance with each requirement. The letter shall state the date compliance was achieved. Failure to respond adequately to this Violation

Letter and verify a return to compliance at your facility may result in **escalated enforcement action and may include civil penalties** of up to \$25,000 a day for each violation, per IC 13-30-4-1.

Please direct your response to this letter and any questions to Lucas Kroening of the Enforcement Section at (317) 941-4551 or via email at LKroenin@idem.IN.gov.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Reno, Chief
Land Enforcement Section
Compliance Branch
Office of Land Quality

cc: LaPorte County Health Department
Michele Murday, Northwest Regional Director, mmurday@idem.in.gov
Charles Breitenfeldt, Northwest Deputy Regional Director, chbreite@idem.in.gov
Jason Shupryt, Solid Waste Compliance, jshupryt@idem.in.gov
Janet Cole, LaPorte County Building Department Administrative Specialist,
jcole@laporteco.in.gov
IDEM Virtual File Cabinet

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