

320 E 9th Suite B
Winfield, KS 67156
(620) 221-1430



115 E. Radio Lane
Arkansas City, KS 67005
(620) 442-3260

May 12, 2022

Robert M & Michael Crowley
707 E 8th Avenue
Winfield, KS 67156

RE: Nonconforming use of property
20628 US Highway 160 Burden, KS 67019

Dear Mr. Crowley,

It has been noticed that the above-identified property which is recorded in Cowley County tax records as owned by you is being used in a fashion that is neither agricultural nor farm based.

A recent visit to the site revealed several damaged vehicles on the property from which parts were being removed from the vehicles and fluids from the vehicles were being discharged onto surface soils with no collection or reclaiming systems in place.

These activities are a direct violation of the laws of the State of Kansas and United States. These activities will directly impact surface and ground water in Cowley County. You are being advised to immediately cease the salvage activities taking place on the property.

The Kansas Department of Transportation, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the appropriate federal agency, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), are being notified of the activities on the property with requests to visit the site and take enforcement action for state and federal regulatory violations.

If your actions are an oversight please cease activities until you can receive all the necessary permits from the State of Kansas and any approvals required by the local County government.

If you have any questions about this letter please contact me directly. I will be happy to arrange a hearing with the Board of County Commissioner's to discuss your property use.

Stay well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas Langer", is written in a cursive style.

Thomas Langer, MPA
Cowley County Public Health Officer
City-Cowley County Health Department
620-221-1430 Ext 5551

Kansas Junkyard and Salvage Control Act
Chapter 68.--ROADS AND BRIDGES
PART III.--MISCELLANEOUS
Article 22.--HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION

68-2201. Short title. This act may be cited as the "junkyard and salvage control act." History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 1; May 4.

68-2202. Purposes. For the purpose of promoting the public safety, health, welfare, convenience and enjoyment of public travel, to protect the public investment in public highways, and to preserve and enhance the scenic beauty of lands bordering public highways, it is hereby declared to be in the public interest, and necessary and appropriate to regulate and restrict the establishment, operation, and maintenance of junkyards in areas adjacent to highways, roads and streets within this state. History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 2; L. 1973, ch. 271, § 1; July 1.

68-2203. Definitions. (a) The term "junk" shall mean old or scrap copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber debris, waste, or junked, dismantled, or wrecked automobiles, or parts thereof, iron, steel, and other old or scrap ferrous or nonferrous material.

(b) "Automobile graveyard" shall mean any establishment which is maintained, used, or operated, for storing, keeping, buying, or selling 10 or more wrecked, scrapped, ruined, dismantled or inoperative motor vehicles, but such term shall not include any location where motor vehicle bodies are placed along stream banks for purposes of bank stabilization and soil erosion control, if such placement conforms with guidelines established by the chief engineer of the division of water resources of the Kansas department of agriculture.

(c) "Junkyard" shall mean an establishment which is maintained, operated, or used for storing, keeping, buying, or selling junk, or for the maintenance or operation of an automobile graveyard, and the term shall include garbage dumps.

(d) "Interstate system" means that portion of the national system of interstate and defense highways, including city connecting links and portions of the Kansas turnpikes, located within this state, as officially designated, or as may hereafter be so designated, by the secretary, and approved by the proper federal authority as provided by law.

(e) "Primary system" means that portion of connected main highways, including city connecting links, as officially designated, or as may hereafter be so designated, by the secretary, and approved by the proper federal authority as provided by law.

(f) "Person" means any individual, firm, agency, company, association, partnership, business trust, joint stock company or corporation, including municipal corporation.

(g) "Commission" means the secretary of transportation.

(h) "Board" means the secretary of transportation. History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 3; L. 1973, ch. 271, § 2; L. 1975, ch. 426, § 60; L. 1978, ch. 276, § 1; L. 2004, ch. 101, § 108; July 1.

68-2204. Junkyards prohibited, when. No person shall establish, operate, or maintain a junkyard, any portion of which is within one thousand (1,000) feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of any street or highway on the interstate system or the primary system, or any portion of which is within one thousand (1,000) feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of any other state, county, township highway, road, or city street, except the following:

(a) Those which are screened by natural objects, plantings, fences, or other appropriate means so as not to be visible from the main traveled way of the street or highway, or otherwise removed from sight.

(b) Those located within areas which are zoned for industrial use under authority of law.

(c) Those located within unzoned industrial areas, which areas shall be determined from actual land uses and defined by rules and regulations to be adopted by the secretary of transportation.

(d) Those which are not visible from the main traveled way of a street or highway on the interstate or the primary systems, or any other state, county, township highway, road, or city street. History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 4; L. 1973, ch. 271, § 3; L. 1975, ch. 427, § 214; L. 1976, ch. 296, § 1; July 1.

68-2205. Certificate of compliance; requirements; failure to make an original or renewal application; injunction. No person shall establish, operate, or maintain a junkyard, any portion of which is within 1,000 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of any street or highway on the interstate or the primary systems, or any other portion of which is within 1,000 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of any other state, county, township highway, road or city street, without obtaining a certificate of compliance from the secretary of transportation, which certificates shall be issued only for junkyards not prohibited by K.S.A. 68-2204, and amendments thereto. The secretary of transportation shall have the sole authority to issue certificates of compliance for the establishment, maintenance and operation of junkyards within the limits defined herein, except that an initial application for a certificate of compliance must show that such junkyards were approved by a local governing body if such approval is required by the local governing body. The secretary of transportation shall charge an annual fee of \$50 payable on or before January 1. Anyone establishing a junkyard after July 1 of any year shall pay a fee of \$25 for the remaining portion of the year. No city or county governing body shall be required to pay any fees provided for herein. All licenses issued under this section shall expire on January 1 following the date of issue. A certificate of compliance may be renewed from year to year upon paying to the secretary of transportation the sum of \$50 in advance for such renewal.

Any person who shall willfully or intentionally refuse to make an original application or renewal application, or to pay the annual certificate of compliance fee, as prescribed in this act, shall be deemed delinquent on and after February 16 of any year, or in cases where business is established after the first of the year such person shall be deemed delinquent on and after 45 days after establishment of the business and shall be assessed a penalty fee by the secretary of transportation of \$1 per day for each day such person continues to do business until the application is made and the fees have been paid. After such time it shall be unlawful for the owner, or any person, to operate the junkyard. Proceeds from such fees shall be deposited with the state treasurer in the state highway fund and be subject to disbursement as provided by law to defray the expenses of administering the provisions of this act. Whenever any person required to be certified under this act fails to make application with the secretary of transportation, or to pay the certificate of compliance fee when due, or continues to do business when the secretary of transportation has denied, suspended or revoked such application or certificate of compliance, the secretary of transportation may file an action to enjoin such person from operating in violation of this act. History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 5; L. 1968, ch. 154, § 1; L. 1972, ch. 250, § 1; L. 1973, ch. 271, § 4; L. 1976, ch. 296, § 2; L. 1987, ch. 263, § 1; Jan. 1, 1988.

68-2206. Requirements as to screening. The secretary of transportation shall have the authority to adopt rules or regulations governing the location, planting, construction and maintenance, including the materials used in screening or fencing required by this act. Any plantings, fencing or other screening facilities located on public land or easements shall be public property. History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 6; L. 1975, ch. 426, § 61; Aug. 15.

68-2207. Junkyards lawfully in existence. Any junkyard which was lawfully in existence on May 4, 1967, and duly certified in the subsequent year and which is within 1,000 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way and visible from the main traveled way of any street or highway on the interstate or the primary systems and any junkyard within 1,000 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way and visible from the main traveled way of any other state, county, township highway, road or city street, and which is not located as specified in subsection (b) or (c) of K.S.A. 68-2204, and amendments thereto, shall be screened, if feasible and if federal funds are available, by the secretary of transportation at locations on the highway right-of-way or in areas acquired for such purposes outside the right-of-way so as not to be visible from the main traveled way of such highway. History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 7; L. 1973, ch. 271, § 5; L. 1975, ch. 427, § 215; L. 1987, ch. 263, § 2; Jan. 1, 1988.

68-2208. Acquisition of land, when. When the secretary of transportation determines that the topography of the land adjoining the highway, road or street will not permit adequate screening of any junkyard lawfully in existence, or the screening of such a junkyard would not be economically feasible, the secretary shall have the authority to acquire by gift, purchase, exchange, or condemnation, such interests in lands as may be necessary to secure the relocation, removal or disposal of the junkyards; and to pay for the costs of relocation, removal, or disposal, thereof. When the secretary determines that it is in

the best interest of the state the secretary may acquire such lands, or interests in lands, as may be necessary to provide adequate screening of such junkyards. History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 8; L. 1973, ch. 271, § 6; L. 1975, ch. 427, § 216; Aug. 15.

68-2209. Nuisances. Any junkyard which comes into existence after the effective date of this act, or was being maintained in violation of law on the effective date of this act, or after said date is altered, changed or enlarged so as not to conform to this act, and which is not made to conform to the act by the owner or operator thereof or is operated or maintained in violation of this act is declared to be a public and private nuisance. History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 9; L. 1973, ch. 271, § 7; July 1.

68-2210. Interpretation. Nothing in this act shall be construed to abrogate or affect the provisions of any lawful ordinance, regulation or resolution, which are more restrictive than the provisions of this act. History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 10; May 4.

68-2211. Agreements with the United States authorized. The secretary of transportation is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with the United States secretary of commerce as provided by title 23, United States code, relating to the control of junkyards in areas adjacent to the interstate and the primary systems, and to take action in the name of the state to comply with the terms of any such agreement. History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 11; L. 1975, ch. 427, § 217; Aug. 15.

68-2212. State salvage board abolished; transfer of powers, duties and functions to secretary of transportation; provisions for transition and continuity. (a) The state salvage board is hereby abolished. All of the powers, duties and functions of the state salvage board are hereby transferred to and conferred and imposed upon the secretary of transportation. The secretary of transportation shall be the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the state salvage board in which the same were vested prior to August 15, 1975. The secretary of transportation shall be a continuation of the state salvage board, and every act performed under the authority of the secretary of transportation shall be deemed to have the same force and effect as if performed by the state salvage board in which such functions were vested prior to August 15, 1975.

(b) On and after August 15, 1975, whenever the state salvage board, or words of like effect, is referred to or designated by a statute, contract or other document, such reference or designation shall be deemed to apply to the secretary of transportation.

(c) All rules or regulations of the state salvage board in existence on August 15, 1975, shall continue to be effective and shall be deemed to be the rules or regulations of the secretary of transportation, until revised, amended, repealed or nullified pursuant to law. History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 12; L. 1974, ch. 348, § 35; L. 1974, ch. 277, § 1; L. 1975, ch. 426, § 62; Aug. 15.

68-2213. Denial, suspension or revocation of certificate of compliance; hearing; judicial review. The secretary of transportation may deny the application of any person for a certificate of compliance under this act and may suspend or revoke a certificate of compliance issued or refuse to issue a renewal thereof. Orders under this section, and proceedings thereon, are subject to the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act and are subject to review in accordance with the act for judicial review and civil enforcement of agency actions. History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 13; L. 1973, ch. 271, § 8; L. 1975, ch. 427, § 218; L. 1986, ch. 318, § 126; L. 1987, ch. 263, § 3; L. 1988, ch. 356, § 272; July 1, 1989.

68-2214. Severability. If any clause, paragraph, subsection or section of this act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional it shall be conclusively presumed that the legislature would have enacted the remainder of this act without such invalid or unconstitutional clause, paragraph, subsection or section. History: L. 1967, ch. 357, § 14; May 4.

68-2215. Unlawful junkyard maintenance; penalty. Unlawful junkyard maintenance is intentional operation or maintenance of a junkyard in violation of article 22 of chapter 68 of Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto. Unlawful junkyard maintenance is a class C misdemeanor. History: L. 1968, ch. 154, § 2; L. 1973, ch. 271, § 9; July 1.