



Pennsylvania  
Department of Environmental Protection

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

February 9, 2026

**VIA EMAIL: DrLew5@hotmail.com**

Lewis Hunt  
Owner  
Lewis M. Hunt Irving Funeral Home  
2316 Providence Ave.  
Chester, PA 19013-5221

Re: General Permit 14-23-0134  
25 Pa. Code Section 121.7 and Permit Violations  
Chester City  
Delaware County

Dear Lewis Hunt:

Lewis M. Hunt Irving Funeral Home (LHIFH) is authorized to operate under General Permit (GP) 14-23-0134, issued May 12, 2025. At 3:29 PM on January 26, 2026, I spoke with you on the telephone in response to a citizen complaint, and on January 28, 2026, I performed an inspection at LHIFH in response to a citizen complaint. I noted the following violations:

1. GP14-23-034, Section A, Condition 9(a) and 25 Pa. Code Section 121.7 prohibit air pollution as defined in the Air Pollution Control Act and 25 Pa. Code Section 121.1. Air pollution is defined in 25 Pa. Code Section 121.1 as “[t]he presence in the outdoor atmosphere of any form of contaminant, including, but not limited to, the discharging from stacks...or any other source of any smoke...or other matter in a place, manner or concentration inimical or which may be inimical to public health, safety or welfare or which is or may be injurious to human, plant or animal life or to property or which unreasonably interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property.”

At 10:54 AM on January 26, 2026, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) received a public complaint regarding a smoking crematory at LHIFH. At 1:16 PM on January 26, 2026, DEP received a video from the complainant via email, which is described in the email as “Video#2 January 24 @8:51am.” The video is 13 seconds in duration. In the video, the camera moves along a street and particulate matter emissions (smoke) appear black/dark gray and nearly opaque against bare tree branches and an overcast sky. From approximately Second 6 to the end of the video, the Facultative Technologies FT III (FT) crematory stack becomes clearly visible with nearly opaque, black/dark gray smoke billowing

out of the stack. At times, the opacity of particulate matter emissions appears to be at or near 100%.

2. GP14-23-0134, Section A, Conditions 10(c)(i) states, “The owner or operator of a subject facility shall report malfunctions, emergencies, or incidents of excess emissions to [DEP].”

GP14-23-0134, Section A, Condition 10(c)(iv) states, “Any malfunction, emergency, or incident of excess emissions subject to [Section A, Condition 10(c)(i)(A) and/or (B)] shall be reported to [DEP]...in writing or by e-mail within five (5) business days of discovery.”

GP14-23-0134, Section A, Condition 10(c)(iii) states, “The report shall describe the following: (A) Name of the owner or operator; (B) Name, permit or authorization number, and location of the facility; (C) Nature and cause of the malfunction, emergency, or incident; (D) Date and time when the malfunction, emergency, or incident was first observed; (E) Expected duration of excess emissions; (F) Estimated rate of emissions; and (G) Corrective actions and preventive measures taken.”

On January 26 and 28, 2026, you stated that you observed visible emissions from the FT Crematory stack during a cremation in the morning on January 24, 2026, and took corrective actions. I saw that on-site records reflected your statements. The written report was due January 30, 2026. To date, DEP has not received a written report.

The facts described in Section 1 are a violation of 25 Pa. Code Sections 121.7 and 127.662(a). The facts described in Section 2 are violations of 25 Pa. Code Section 127.662(a).

I noted an area of concern. GP14-23-0134, Section A, Condition 10(c)(iv) states, “Any malfunction, emergency, or incident of excess emissions subject to [Section A, Condition 10(c)(i)(A) and/or (B)] shall be reported to [DEP] by telephone within 24 hours (or by 4:00 PM of the next business day, whichever is later) of discovery... .” LHIFH was required to report the January 24, 2026 smoking crematory event to DEP by 4:00 PM on January 26, 2026. At 3:29 PM on January 26, 2026, I spoke with you on the telephone regarding the smoking crematory event. LHIFH did not report the smoking crematory event to DEP prior to our telephone conversation on January 26, 2026.

You are requested to submit to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) a detailed corrective action plan electronically through the [PUBLIC SUBMISSION PAGE in Greenport](#) no later than 15 days from the date of this letter explaining why the above violations occurred and how you will prevent similar violations from occurring in the future.

The above violations constitute unlawful conduct and a public nuisance as defined by Sections 8 and 13 of the Air Pollution Control Act (APCA), 35 P.S. §§ 4008 and 4013, respectively. Violations of DEP’s Air Quality Regulations are subject to the penalties of Sections 9 and 9.1 of the APCA, 35 P.S. §§ 4009 and 4009. Each day the violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

This Notice of Violation is neither an order nor any other final action of DEP. It neither imposes nor waives any enforcement action available to DEP under any of its statutes. If DEP determines that an enforcement action is appropriate, you will be notified of the action.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at [collauer@pa.gov](mailto:collauer@pa.gov) or at 484.250.7514.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Lauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Colin Lauer  
Air Quality Specialist  
Air Quality

cc: Helen Morris (via email)  
Heather Henry (via email)  
[RA-EPAIRCOMPLIANCE@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPAIRCOMPLIANCE@pa.gov)  
Delaware County Health and Planning Depts. (via email)  
Enforcement File