

A statement from Governor Doyle regarding the Watertown tire fire:

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"I know that this has been an extremely difficult experience for all of you. It has disrupted your lives and you have real concerns about the possible effects on your health and the environment.

The State was already pursuing a deliberate course of action in dealing with the excess tires on the Springer property in accordance with the stepped enforcement process under current law. But it's clear that Springer was not yet in compliance with the law at the time of the fire. We are currently assessing whether we need to seek additional authorities and enforcement tools to gain compliance in a faster time frame to prevent similar incidents in the future.

I have directed the Department of Natural Resources to move quickly to assure that the polluted wastewater and debris at the fire site are properly and safely disposed of. DNR is presently tapping additional resources from the U.S. EPA, and has secured the services of an EPA mobile treatment unit to address wastewater from the site. I have also directed the DNR to work to assess and address any other environmental concerns that may affect the health and safety of our citizens. The State will do everything it can to clean up the area and help return the community to normalcy."