**Practical Exercise #1**

A police officer who is part of an Environmental Task Force, has come to you with the following matter:

Initial Complaint

The officer received a complaint from a local farmer. The farmer stated that over the past few days he observed several large trucks traveling back and forth down a road near his farm. Usually come in the evening, just before dark. The trucks were loaded with drums and other materials that looked like old computers, television sets, refrigerators and other electronic equipment. A sign on the side of one of the trucks read “E-waste Recycling”. One day he followed the trucks and saw them go off road, into the forest. When the trucks returned to the road they appeared to be empty. There were no other businesses in the area, just a few other local farmers, so he didn’t understand where or what the trucks were doing in the forest.

Investigation

The police officer, with the assistance of other law enforcement officers from the Environmental Task Force, went to inspect the area of the forest where the farmer saw the trucks. The officers found a large pit full of drums, old car batteries, tires, broken computers, TVs and other electronic equipment. Some of the drums were labeled with the word “acid” and were leaking into the ground. Native trees had been cut and removed to create the pit. Photos taken of the site are below. Because of time constraints and available resources, the team only sampled the contents of one of the drums labeled as “acid.”

The investigative team researched public records and located a company named E-Waste Recycling Services, a recycling company. Mr. Bernard Lewis is listed as the owner of the company. The officers went to the address listed in the records and discovered a large industrial building. Three trucks parked outside the building fit the description provided by the complainant. The doors to the building were locked and no one appeared to be on-site at that time. The officers peered through the windows of the building and saw numerous items similar to the items dumped in the pit - drums, batteries, broken computers, monitors, TVs and other electronic equipment.

The owner of the business next door to E-Waste Recycling Service said that he has not seen Mr. Lewis for several weeks and that he might be on vacation at a beach-front home he owns in the United States. He saw the manager of the company, Mr. Moon, about two days ago.

Laboratory Analysis of Sample

A subsequent analysis of the sample taken from one of the drums found at the pit indicated that it consists of contaminated acid with a very acidic pH of 1.0 and very high levels of toxic chemicals including lead, cadmium and mercury.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What additional investigative steps would you want the investigative team to take to document any violations?

* Consider some of the difficulties you may encounter and how to overcome them.
* How do you get into the building? Do you need a warrant?

1. Explain what expert witness or scientific testimony you would need and what are some of the difficulties in presenting this evidence?

(3) What steps would you take to protect the environmental and cleanup the site?



