

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



**IN THE MATTER OF AN  
ENFORCEMENT ACTION  
CONCERNING  
HIDALGO COUNTY  
RN105335459**

**§ BEFORE THE  
§  
§ TEXAS COMMISSION ON  
§  
§ ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

## **AGREED ORDER DOCKET NO. 2012-0841-AIR-E**

### **I. JURISDICTION AND STIPULATIONS**

On **NOV 09 2012**, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("the Commission" or "TCEQ") considered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement action regarding Hidalgo County ("Respondent") under the authority of TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ch. 382 and TEX. WATER CODE ch. 7. The Executive Director of the TCEQ, through the Enforcement Division, and the Respondent together stipulate that:

1. The Respondent owns and operates an air curtain incinerator located on Mile 1.5 West Road, 0.25 mile north of the Mile 11 North Road and Mile 1.5 West Road intersection near Mercedes, Hidalgo County, Texas (the "Site").
2. The Site consists of one or more sources as defined in TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 382.003(12).
3. The Executive Director and the Respondent agree that the Commission has jurisdiction to enter this Agreed Order, and that the Respondent is subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.
4. The Respondent received notice of the violations alleged in Section II ("Allegations") on or about April 4, 2012.
5. The occurrence of any violation is in dispute and the entry of this Agreed Order shall not constitute an admission by the Respondent of any violation alleged in Section II ("Allegations"), nor of any statute or rule.
6. An administrative penalty in the amount of Three Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$3,600) is assessed by the Commission in settlement of the violations alleged in Section II ("Allegations"). Seven Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$720) is deferred contingent upon

the Respondent's timely and satisfactory compliance with all the terms of this Agreed Order. The deferred amount will be waived upon full compliance with the terms of this Agreed Order. If the Respondent fails to timely and satisfactorily comply with all requirements of this Agreed Order, the Executive Director may require the Respondent to pay all or part of the deferred penalty. Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$2,880) shall be conditionally offset by the Respondent's completion of a Supplemental Environmental Project ("SEP").

7. Any notice and procedures, which might otherwise be authorized or required in this action, are waived in the interest of a more timely resolution of the matter.
8. The Executive Director and the Respondent agree on a settlement of the matters alleged in this enforcement action, subject to final approval in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.10(a).
9. The Executive Director recognizes that on March 16, 2012, the Respondent submitted the annual permit compliance certification ("PCC") for the certification period of March 26, 2010 through March 25, 2011 and deviation reports for the reporting periods of March 26, 2010 through September 25, 2010 and September 26, 2010 through March 25, 2011.
10. The Executive Director may, without further notice or hearing, refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas ("OAG") for further enforcement proceedings if the Executive Director determines that the Respondent has not complied with one or more of the terms or conditions in this Agreed Order.
11. This Agreed Order shall terminate five years from its effective date or upon compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreed Order, whichever is later.
12. The provisions of this Agreed Order are deemed severable and, if a court of competent jurisdiction or other appropriate authority deems any provision of this Agreed Order unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be valid and enforceable.

## II. ALLEGATIONS

As owner and operator of the Site, the Respondent is alleged to have failed to submit the PCC within 30 days after the end of the certification period. Also, failed to submit the semi-annual deviation reports within 30 days after the end of the reporting period, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 122.143(4), 122.145(2), and 122.146(2), TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 382.085(b), and Federal Operating Permit No. O3278/General Operating Permit No. 518, Site-Wide Requirements (b)(2), as documented during a record review conducted on February 14, 2012. Specifically, the PCC was not submitted within 30 days after the end of the certification period of March 26, 2010 through March 25, 2011. Also, the deviation reports were not submitted within 30 days after the end of the reporting periods of March 26, 2010 through September 25, 2010 and September 26, 2010 through March 25, 2011.

### III. DENIALS

The Respondent generally denies each allegation in Section II ("Allegations").

### IV. ORDERING PROVISIONS

1. It is, therefore, ordered by the TCEQ that the Respondent pay an administrative penalty as set forth in Section I, Paragraph 6 above. The payment of this administrative penalty and the Respondent's compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreed Order resolve only the allegations in Section II. The Commission shall not be constrained in any manner from requiring corrective action or penalties for violations which are not raised here. Administrative penalty payments shall be made payable to "TCEQ" and shall be sent with the notation "Re: Hidalgo County, Docket No. 2012-0841-AIR-E" to:

Financial Administration Division, Revenues Section  
Attention: Cashier's Office, MC 214  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13088  
Austin, Texas 78711-3088

2. The Respondent shall implement and complete a SEP in accordance with TEX. WATER CODE § 7.067. As set forth in Section I, Paragraph 6 above, Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$2,880) of the assessed administrative penalty shall be offset with the condition that the Respondent implement the SEP defined in Attachment A, incorporated herein by reference. The Respondent's obligation to pay the conditionally offset portion of the administrative penalty assessed shall be discharged upon final completion of all provisions of the SEP agreement.
3. It is further ordered that the Respondent shall undertake the following technical requirements:
  - a. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Agreed Order, implement procedures to ensure the timely submittal of annual PCCs and semi-annual deviation reports; and
  - b. Within 45 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, submit written certification as described below, and include detailed supporting documentation including photographs, receipts, and/or other records to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provision No. 3.a. The certification shall be notarized by a State of Texas Notary Public and include the following certification language:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted and all attached documents, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the submitted information is true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing violations."

The certification shall be submitted to:

Order Compliance Team  
Enforcement Division, MC 149A  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

with a copy to:

Air Section, Manager  
Harlingen Regional Office  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
1804 West Jefferson Avenue  
Harlingen, Texas 78550-5247

4. The provisions of this Agreed Order shall apply to and be binding upon the Respondent. The Respondent is ordered to give notice of the Agreed Order to personnel who maintain day-to-day control over the Site operations referenced in this Agreed Order.
5. If the Respondent fails to comply with any of the Ordering Provisions in this Agreed Order within the prescribed schedules, and that failure is caused solely by an act of God, war, strike, riot, or other catastrophe, the Respondent's failure to comply is not a violation of this Agreed Order. The Respondent shall have the burden of establishing to the Executive Director's satisfaction that such an event has occurred. The Respondent shall notify the Executive Director within seven days after the Respondent becomes aware of a delaying event and shall take all reasonable measures to mitigate and minimize any delay.
6. The Executive Director may grant an extension of any deadline in this Agreed Order or in any plan, report, or other document submitted pursuant to this Agreed Order, upon a written and substantiated showing of good cause. All requests for extensions by the Respondent shall be made in writing to the Executive Director. Extensions are not effective until the Respondent receives written approval from the Executive Director. The determination of what constitutes good cause rests solely with the Executive Director.
7. This Agreed Order, issued by the Commission, shall not be admissible against the Respondent in a civil proceeding, unless the proceeding is brought by the OAG to: (1) enforce the terms of this Agreed Order; or (2) pursue violations of a statute within the Commission's jurisdiction, or of a rule adopted or an order or permit issued by the Commission under such a statute.
8. This Agreed Order may be executed in separate and multiple counterparts, which together shall constitute a single instrument. Any page of this Agreed Order may be copied, scanned, digitized, converted to electronic portable document format ("pdf"), or otherwise reproduced and may be transmitted by digital or electronic transmission, including but not limited to facsimile transmission and electronic mail. Any signature affixed to this Agreed Order shall constitute an original signature for all purposes and

may be used, filed, substituted, or issued for any purpose for which an original signature could be used. The term "signature" shall include manual signatures and true and accurate reproductions of manual signatures created, executed, endorsed, adopted, or authorized by the person or persons to whom the signatures are attributable. Signatures may be copied or reproduced digitally, electronically, by photocopying, engraving, imprinting, lithographing, electronic mail, facsimile transmission, stamping, or any other means or process which the Executive Director deems acceptable. In this paragraph exclusively, the terms "electronic transmission", "owner", "person", "writing", and "written" shall have the meanings assigned to them under TEX. BUS. ORG. CODE § 1.002.

9. Under 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.10(b), the effective date is the date of hand-delivery of the Order to the Respondent, or three days after the date on which the Commission mails notice of the Order to the Respondent, whichever is earlier.

## SIGNATURE PAGE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

For the Commission

  
For the Executive Director

11/9/12

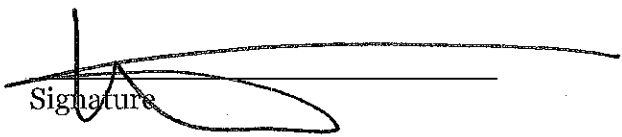
Date

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the attached Agreed Order. I am authorized to agree to the attached Agreed Order on behalf of the entity indicated below my signature, and I do agree to the terms and conditions specified therein. I further acknowledge that the TCEQ, in accepting payment for the penalty amount, is materially relying on such representation.

I also understand that failure to comply with the Ordering Provisions, if any, in this order and/or failure to timely pay the penalty amount, may result in:

- A negative impact on compliance history;
- Greater scrutiny of any permit applications submitted;
- Referral of this case to the Attorney General's Office for contempt, injunctive relief, additional penalties, and/or attorney fees, or to a collection agency;
- Increased penalties in any future enforcement actions;
- Automatic referral to the Attorney General's Office of any future enforcement actions; and
- TCEQ seeking other relief as authorized by law.

In addition, any falsification of any compliance documents may result in criminal prosecution.

  
Signature

7/5/12  
Date

Joel Quintanilla  
Name (Printed or typed)  
Authorized Representative of  
Hidalgo County

County Commissioner, Pct. 1  
Title

**Instructions:** Send the original, signed Agreed Order with penalty payment to the Financial Administration Division, Revenues Section at the address in Section IV, Paragraph 1 of this Agreed Order.

**Attachment A**  
**Docket Number: 2012-0841-AIR-E**

**SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT**

<b>Respondent:</b>	<b>Hidalgo County</b>
<b>Payable Penalty Amount:</b>	<b>Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$2,880)</b>
<b>SEP Amount:</b>	<b>Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$2,880)</b>
<b>Type of SEP:</b>	<b>Pre-approved</b>
<b>Third-Party Recipient:</b>	<b>Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc. ("RC&amp;D") - Abandoned Tire Clean-Up</b>
<b>Location of SEP:</b>	<b>Hidalgo County</b>

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ") agrees to offset a portion of the administrative penalty amount assessed in this Agreed Order for Respondent to contribute to a Supplemental Environmental Project ("SEP"). The offset is equal to the SEP amount set forth above and is conditioned upon completion of the project in accordance with the terms of this Attachment A.

**1. Project Description**

A. Project

Respondent shall contribute the SEP Offset Amount to the Third-Party Recipient named above. The contribution will be to **Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc. ("RC&D")** to be used for the *Abandoned Tire Cleanups Program* as set forth in an agreement between the Third-Party Recipient and TCEQ. The Third-Party Recipient shall coordinate with local city and county government officials and private entities to clean up sites where tires have been disposed of illegally, or to conduct tire collection events where residents will be able to drop off tires for proper disposal or recycling. Eligible tire cleanup sites will be limited to areas where a responsible party cannot be identified or where there is no preexisting obligation to clean up the site by the owner or government and where reasonable efforts have been made to prevent the dumping. The SEP Offset Amount will be used for the direct cost of collection and disposal of tires and debris. If RC&D is unable to spend the total SEP Offset Amount on this project, upon approval of the Executive Director, the remaining SEP Offset Amount may be applied to another approved RC&D project. The

Hidalgo County  
Agreed Order – Attachment A

SEP will be administered in accordance with federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations.

Respondent certifies that there is no prior commitment to make this contribution and that it is being performed solely in an effort to settle this enforcement action.

**B. Environmental Benefit**

This SEP will provide a discernible environmental benefit by providing for the proper disposal of tires and by reducing health threats associated with illegally dumped tires. Illegal tire dumpsites can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and rodents which carry disease. The potential for tire fires is also reduced by removing illegally dumped tires. Tire fires can result in the contamination of surface water, ground water, and soil.

**C. Minimum Expenditure**

Respondent shall contribute at least the SEP Offset Amount to the Third-Party Recipient named above and comply with all other provisions of this SEP.

**2. Performance Schedule**

Within 30 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, Respondent must contribute the SEP amount to the Third-Party Recipient. Respondent shall mail the contribution, with a copy of the Agreed Order, to:

Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc.  
Attention: Ken Awtrey  
P.O. Box 635067  
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

**3. Records and Reporting**

Concurrent with the payment of the SEP amount, Respondent shall provide the Enforcement Division SEP Coordinator with a copy of the check and transmittal letter indicating full payment of the SEP amount to the Third-Party Recipient. Respondent shall mail a copy of the check and transmittal letter to:

Enforcement Division  
Attention: SEP Coordinator, MC 219  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

**4. Failure to Fully Perform**

If Respondent does not perform its obligations under this SEP in any way, including full payment of the SEP amount and submittal of the required reporting described in Section 3 above, the Executive Director may require immediate payment of all or part of the SEP amount.

The check for any amount due shall be made out to "Texas Commission on Environmental Quality" and mailed to:

Litigation Division  
Attention: SEP Coordinator, MC 175  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13088  
Austin, Texas 78711-3088

Respondent shall also mail a copy of the check to the Enforcement Division SEP Coordinator at the address in Section 3 above.

**5. Publicity**

Any public statements concerning this SEP made by or on behalf of Respondent must include a clear statement that the project was performed as part of the settlement of an enforcement action brought by the TCEQ. Such statements include advertising, public relations, and press releases.

**6. Clean Texas Program**

Respondent shall not include this SEP in any application made to TCEQ under the "Clean Texas" (or any successor) program(s). Similarly, Respondent may not seek recognition for this contribution in any other state or federal regulatory program.

**7. Other SEPs by TCEQ or Other Agencies**

The SEP identified in this Agreed Order has not been, and shall not be, included as an SEP for Respondent under any other Agreed Order negotiated with the TCEQ or any other agency of the state or federal government.

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., *Chairman*  
Carlos Rubinstein, *Commissioner*  
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*  
Zak Covar, *Executive Director*



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

November 19, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Joel Quintanilla, County Commissioner, Pct. 1  
Hidalgo County  
1902 Joe Stephens Avenue  
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Re: TCEQ Enforcement Action  
Hidalgo County  
Docket No. 2012-0841-AIR-E

Dear Mr. Quintanilla:

Enclosed for your records is a fully-executed copy of the Agreed Order for the above-referenced matter.

Should you have any questions, please contact Amancio R. Gutierrez, the Enforcement Coordinator assigned to this matter, at (512) 239-3921.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Barber".

Debra Barber  
Enforcement Division

Enclosure

cc: Amancio R. Gutierrez, Enforcement Division  
Air Section Manager, Region 15