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. 2016-1986-MLM-E

I. JURISDICTION AND STIPULATIONS

On _____, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("the Commission" or "TCEQ") considered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement action regarding Hidalgo County (the "Respondent") under the authority of TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE chs. 361 and 382 and TEX. WATER CODE chs. 5 and 7. The Executive Director of the TCEQ, through the Enforcement Division, and the Respondent together stipulate that:

1. The Respondent owns and operates a brush disposal site with an air curtain incinerator located on Farm-to-Market Road 88, west on Mile 20 Road and seven tenths of a mile north on Mile 5 ½ Road in Monte Alto, Hidalgo County, Texas (the "Site"). The Site involves or involved the management of municipal solid waste ("MSW"), as defined in TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ch. 361. The Site consists or consisted of one or more sources as defined in TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 382.003(12).

2. The Executive Director and the Respondent agree that the TCEQ has jurisdiction to enter this Order pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE §§ 7.002, 7.051, and 7.073, and that the Respondent is subject to TCEQ's jurisdiction. The TCEQ has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE § 5.013 because it alleges violations of TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE chs. 361 and 382 and the rules of the TCEQ.

3. The occurrence of any violation is in dispute and the entry of this Order shall not constitute an admission by the Respondent of any violation alleged in Section II ("Allegations"), nor of any statute or rule.

4. An administrative penalty in the amount of $8,050 is assessed by the Commission in settlement of the violations alleged in Section II ("Allegations"). The amount of $1,610 is deferred contingent upon the Respondent's timely and satisfactory compliance with all the terms of this Order and shall be waived only upon full compliance with all the terms and conditions contained in this Order. If the Respondent fails to timely and satisfactorily comply with any of the terms or requirements contained in this Order, the Executive Director may demand payment of all or part of the deferred penalty amount.

   Pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE § 7.067, $6,440 of the penalty shall be conditionally offset by the Respondent's timely and satisfactory completion of a Supplemental

Environmental Project ("SEP") as defined in the attached SEP Agreement ("Attachment A", incorporated herein by reference). The Respondent's obligation to pay the conditionally offset portion of the penalty shall be discharged upon full compliance with all the terms and conditions of this Order, which includes the timely and satisfactory completion of all provisions of the SEP Agreement, as determined by the Executive Director.

5. 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). 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.

6. 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 Order.

7. This Order represents the complete and fully-integrated agreement of the parties. The provisions of this Order are deemed severable and, if a court of competent jurisdiction or other appropriate authority deems any provision of this Order unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be valid and enforceable.

8. This Order shall terminate five years from its effective date or upon compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Order, whichever is later.

9. The Executive Director recognizes that on June 4, 2014, the Respondent ceased operating the air curtain incinerator.

II. ALLEGATIONS

During an investigation conducted on February 12, 2016, an investigator documented that the Respondent:

1. Failed to conduct an annual opacity test no more than 12 months following the date of the previous test, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 122.143(4), TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 382.085(b), and Federal Operating Permit No. O3278/Air Curtain Incinerator General Operating Permit No. 518, Terms and Conditions (b)(16)(B)(iii). Specifically, an annual opacity test for the air curtain incinerator was due by January 17, 2014 but was not conducted.

2. Caused, suffered, allowed, or permitted outdoor burning within the State of Texas, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 111.201 and TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 382.085(b). Specifically, the Respondent burned approximately 150 cubic yards of MSW consisting of brush debris at the Site.

3. Caused, suffered, allowed, or permitted the unauthorized disposal of MSW, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 330.15(c). Specifically, the Respondent disposed of approximately 150 cubic yards of brush debris at the Site.

4. Failed to pay all solid waste disposal and air emission fees for TCEQ Financial Administration Account Nos. 0708529 and 21009541 for Fiscal Year 2017, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 101.27 and 330.673(a)(4) and TEX. WATER CODE § 5.702.

III. DENIALS

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

IV. ORDERING PROVISIONS

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ORDERS that:

1. The Respondent is assessed a penalty as set forth in Section I, Paragraph 4. The payment of this penalty and the Respondent's compliance with all of the requirements set forth in this 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. Penalty payments shall be made payable to "TCEQ" and shall be sent with the notation "Re: Hidalgo County, Docket No. 2016-1986-MLM-E" to:

   Financial Administration Division, Revenue Operations 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 an SEP as set forth in Section I, Paragraph 4. The amount of $6,440 of the assessed penalty is conditionally offset based on the Respondent's implementation and completion of the SEP pursuant to the terms of the SEP Agreement, as defined in Attachment A. Penalty payments for any portion of the SEP deemed by the Executive Director as not complete shall be paid within 30 days after the date the Executive Director demands payment.

3. The Respondent shall undertake the following technical requirements:

   a. Immediately after the effective date of this Order, cease allowing the burning of any additional MSW at the Site.

   b. Within 30 days after the effective date of this Order:

      i. Remove all MSW from the Site and dispose of it at an authorized facility; and

      ii. Submit payment for all outstanding fees, interest, and penalties for TCEQ Account Nos. 0708529 and 21009541, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 101.27 and 330.673. The payment shall be sent with the notation "Hidalgo County" to:

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

c. Within 45 days after the effective date of this Order, submit written certification, and include detailed supporting documentation including photographs, receipts, and/or other records to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provision Nos. 3.a through 3.b.ii. The certification shall be signed by the Respondent and shall 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:

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

4. All relief not expressly granted in this Order is denied.

5. The duties and provisions imposed by this Order shall apply to and be binding upon the Respondent. The Respondent is ordered to give notice of this Order to personnel who maintain day-to-day control over the Site operations referenced in this Order.

6. If the Respondent fails to comply with any of the Ordering Provisions in this 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 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.

7. The Executive Director may grant an extension of any deadline in this Order or in any plan, report, or other document submitted pursuant to this 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. Extension requests shall be sent to the Order Compliance Team at the address listed above.

8. This 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 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.

9. This Order may be executed in separate and multiple counterparts, which together shall constitute a single instrument. Any page of this 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 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.

10. The effective date of this Order is the date it is signed by the Commission. A copy of this fully executed Order shall be provided to each of the parties.

SIGNATURE PAGE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

_____ _____
For the Commission Date

_____ _____
For the Executive Director Date

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the attached Order. I am authorized to agree to the attached Order, 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 Date

_____ _____
Name (Printed or typed) Title
Authorized Representative of
Hidalgo County

☐ *If mailing address has changed, please check this box and provide the new address below:*

Instructions: Send the original, signed Order with penalty payment to the Financial Administration Division, Revenue Operations Section at the address in Ordering Provision 1 of this Order.