

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



**IN THE MATTER OF AN  
ENFORCEMENT ACTION  
CONCERNING  
WILLIAMSON COUNTY;  
RN108736927**

§  
§  
§  
§  
§

**BEFORE THE  
  
TEXAS COMMISSION ON  
  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

## **AGREED ORDER**

**DOCKET NO. 2017-1660-EAQ-E**

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

On \_\_\_\_\_, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("Commission" or "TCEQ") considered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement action regarding Williamson County ("Respondent") under the authority of TEX. WATER CODE chs. 7 and 26. The Executive Director of the TCEQ, represented by the Litigation Division, and Respondent, represented by Tad Cleaves of the law firm Sheets & Crossfield, P.C., together stipulate that:

1. Respondent owns and operates real property located at 3801 County Road 175 in Leander, Williamson County, Texas (the "Site"). The Site is near or adjacent to water in the state as defined in TEX. WATER CODE § 26.001(5).
2. The Executive Director and Respondent agree that TCEQ has jurisdiction to enter this Order pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE §§ 7.002, 7.051, and 7.073, and that 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. WATER CODE ch. 26 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 Respondent of any violation alleged in Section II ("Allegations"), nor of any statute or rule.
4. An administrative penalty in the amount of four thousand sixty-three dollars (\$4,063.00) is assessed by the Commission in settlement of the violations alleged in Section II. Respondent paid four thousand sixty-three dollars (\$4,063.00) of the penalty.
5. The Executive Director and Respondent agree on a settlement of the matters addressed in this Order, 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 Respondent has not complied with one or more of the terms or conditions contained 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 full compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Order, whichever is later.
9. The Executive Director recognizes that Respondent implemented the following corrective measures at the Site:
  - a. Ceased the dewatering operation on August 1, 2016; and
  - b. Obtained approval of a Water Pollution Abatement Plan ("WPAP") under Edwards Aquifer Protection Program ("EAPP") ID No. 11000215 on February 15, 2017.

## **II. ALLEGATIONS**

1. During an investigation conducted on August 1, 2016, an investigator documented that Respondent:
  - a. Failed to filter discharges from dewatering activities through appropriately selected best management practices, in violation of TEX. WATER CODE § 26.121(a)(2), 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 213.4(k), and EAPP ID No. 11-15082601, Standard Condition No. 12. Specifically, a dewatering operation was observed and sediment laden water was discharging without proper controls; and
  - b. Failed to obtain approval of a modification to an approved WPAP prior to initiating a regulated activity over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 213.4(a)(1) and (j)(3) and EAPP No. 11-15082601, Standard Conditions No. 6. Specifically, the wet basin pond under construction was larger than approved.

## **III. DENIALS**

Respondent generally denies each Allegation in Section II.

## **IV. ORDERING PROVISIONS**

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

1. Respondent is assessed an administrative penalty as set forth in Section I, Paragraph 4. The payment of this penalty and 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 actions or penalties for violations which are not raised here.
2. All relief not expressly granted in this Order is denied.

3. The duties and provisions imposed by this Order shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent. 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.
4. This Order, issued by the Commission, shall not be admissible against 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 TCEQ's jurisdiction or of a rule adopted or an order or permit issued by the TCEQ under such a statute.
5. 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.
6. 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 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;
- 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, I understand that any falsification of any compliance documents may result in criminal prosecution.

Valerie Covey  
Signature

10/9/18  
Date

Valerie Covey  
Name (Printed or typed)  
Authorized representative of  
Williamson County

Presiding Officer  
Title County Commissioner, Pct 3

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

\_\_\_\_\_