

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

IN THE MATTER OF:

**Hocking International Laboratories, LLC
Sylacauga, Talladega County, Alabama
USEPA ID NUMBER ALR000047977**

Consent Order No. 19-XXX-CHW

PREAMBLE

This Special Order by Consent is made and entered into by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (hereinafter “the Department” or “ADEM”) and Hocking International Laboratories, LLC (hereinafter “Hocking”) pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-16, as amended, and the Alabama Hazardous Wastes Management and Minimization Act (hereinafter “AHWMMA”), Ala. Code §§ 22-30-1 to 22-30-24, as amended, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

STIPULATIONS

1. Hocking International Laboratories, LLC (hereinafter “Hocking”) , a foreign limited liability company, operates a liquid fertilizer manufacturing facility with EPA Identification Number ALR000047977, located at 171 B, Gene E. Stewart Court in Sylacauga, Talladega County, Alabama (hereinafter “the Site”). Hocking, as a result of its operations at the facility, was a large quantity generator, as that term is defined in ADEM Admin. Code Div. 14, at all times relevant to this action.

2. The Department is a duly constituted department of the State of Alabama pursuant to Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-16, as amended.

3. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-4(n), the Department is the state agency responsible for the promulgation and enforcement of solid and hazardous waste regulations in accordance with the federal Solid Waste Disposal Act §§ 1002 to 11012, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6901 to 6992k, as amended. In addition, the Department is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the AHWMMA, Ala. Code §§ 22-30-1 to 22-30-24, as amended.

DEPARTMENT'S CONTENTIONS

4. On October 2, 2018, a representative of the Department's Industrial Hazardous waste Branch conducted a compliance evaluation inspection (CEI) of Hocking to determine compliance with all applicable requirements of Division 14 of the ADEM Administrative Code. The CEI and a review of Hocking's compliance revealed the following:

- (a) Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-3-.01(2), a person who generates a solid waste, as defined in 335-14-2-.01(2), must make an accurate determination as to whether that waste is a hazardous waste in order to ensure wastes are properly managed according to applicable AHWMA regulations.

Hocking failed to make a hazardous waste determination for waste stored in approximately one hundred thirty-one (131) 275-gallon totes and five (5) 5000-gallon tanks at the facility.

- (b) Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-3-.01(2)(f)4., a small or large generator must maintain sufficient documentation to demonstrate the quantity of hazardous waste generated each calendar month. This documentation must be retained on-site for at least three years from the date the waste was generated.

Hocking failed to maintain documentation regarding the amount of hazardous waste generated each month at the facility.

5. On October 19, 2018, the Department issued a Notice of Violation (hereinafter "NOV") to Hocking, which cited violations of the hazardous waste regulations that were discovered during the CEI.

6. On November 20, 2018, the Department received Hocking's initial response to the aforementioned NOV.

7. On December 18, 2018, the Department received additional information, including analytical results from waste sampling, from Hocking.

8. Based on a review of the information submitted on December 18, 2018, the Department has determined the following:

- (a) Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-3-.01(7)(b), a large quantity generator who accumulates hazardous waste for more than 90 days is subject to the requirements of 335-14-5 through 9, unless it has been granted an extension to the 90-day period. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-8-.01(1)(c) requires a permit for the "treatment", "storage", and "disposal" of any "hazardous waste" as identified or listed in Chapter 335-14-2.

Hocking stored at least thirty-four 275-gallon containers and five 5,000-gallon tanks of hazardous waste on-site for more than 90 days and failed to obtain a permit for the storage of this hazardous waste.

9. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18), as amended, in determining the amount of any penalty, the Department must give consideration to the seriousness of the violation(s), including any irreparable harm to the environment and any threat to the health or safety of the public; the standard of care manifested by such person; the economic benefit which delayed compliance may confer upon such person; the nature, extent, and degree of success of such person's efforts to minimize or mitigate the effects of such violation(s) upon the environment; such person's history of previous violations; and the ability of such person to pay such penalty. Any civil penalty assessed pursuant to this authority shall not exceed \$25,000.00 for each violation, provided however, that the total penalty assessed in an order issued by the department shall not exceed \$250,000.00. Each day such a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation. In arriving at this civil penalty, the Department has considered the following:

(a) **SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATIONS:** In arriving at the civil penalty, the Department considered the general nature and magnitude of the violations along with the available evidence of irreparable harm to the environment and threat to the health or safety of the public.

(b) **THE STANDARD OF CARE:** In considering the standard of care manifested by Hocking, the Department noted that the violations described above were non-technical and

easily avoidable. Consequently, Hocking has failed to exhibit a standard of care commensurate with the applicable regulatory standards.

(c) ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED: The Department has determined that there was no significant economic benefit gained by Hocking as a result of the violations referenced herein.

(d) EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT: There are no known environmental effects to mitigate as a result of the violations referenced herein.

(e) HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: Based on a review of Department records, Hocking has no history of previous violations.

(f) THE ABILITY TO PAY: Hocking has not alleged an inability to pay the civil penalty.

(g) OTHER FACTORS: It should be noted that this Special Order by Consent is a negotiated settlement and, therefore, the Department has compromised the amount of the penalty that is warranted in the spirit of cooperation and the desire to resolve this matter amicably without incurring the unwarranted expense of litigation (see Attachment A, which is made a part of the Department's Contentions).

10. The Department neither admits nor denies Hocking's contentions, which are set forth below. The Department has agreed to the terms of this Special Order by Consent in an effort to resolve the alleged violations cited herein without the unwarranted expenditure of State resources in further prosecuting the alleged violations. The Department has determined that the terms contemplated in this Special Order by Consent are in the best interest of the citizens of Alabama.

FACILITY'S CONTENTIONS

11. Hocking neither admits nor denies the Department's contentions. Hocking consents to abide by the terms of this Special Order by Consent and to pay the civil penalty assessed herein.

ORDER

Therefore, without admitting that it has violated any statutes or regulations, Hocking, along with the Department, desires to resolve and settle the alleged violations cited above. The Department has carefully considered the facts available to it and has considered the six penalty factors enumerated in Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c. , as amended, as well as the need for timely and effective enforcement and the Department believes that the following conditions are appropriate to address the violations alleged herein. Therefore, the Department and Hocking agree to enter into this Special Order by Consent with the following terms and conditions:

A. Hocking agrees to pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$15,000 in settlement of the violations alleged herein within forty-five days of the effective date of this Special Order by Consent. Failure to pay the civil penalty within forty-five days from the effective date may result in the Department's filing a civil action in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County to recover the civil penalty.

B. Hocking agrees that all penalties due pursuant to this Special Order by Consent shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management by certified or cashier's check or other payment methods acceptable to the Department and shall be remitted to:

Office of General Counsel

Alabama Department of Environmental Management

P.O. Box 301463

Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

Any payment submitted to the Department pursuant to this Special Order by Consent shall reference Hocking's name and address, and the ADEM Administrative Order number of this action.

C. That, within 30 days of issuance of this Order, Hocking shall submit to the Department a complete hazardous waste determination on all wastes generated at the facility or wastes currently in storage.

D. That, within 30 days of issuance of this Order, Hocking shall remove and properly manage all hazardous wastes that have been stored on-site longer than ninety (90) days from their date of generation.

E. That, Hocking shall submit documentation of all waste removal activity, including copies of manifests, to the Department no later than 30 days following completion of waste removal.

F. That, Hocking shall comply with all terms, conditions, and limitations of the AHWMMMA, Ala. Code §§ 22-30-1 to 22-30-24, as amended, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

G. Hocking agrees that, independent of this Special Order by Consent, Hocking shall comply with all terms, conditions, and limitations of the AHWMMMA, Ala. Code §§ 22-30-1 to 22-30-24, as amended, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

H. The Department and Hocking (hereinafter the “parties”) agree that this Special Order by Consent shall apply to and be binding upon both parties, their directors, officers, and all persons or entities acting under or for them. Each signatory to this Special Order by Consent certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party he or she represents to enter into the terms and conditions of this Special Order by Consent, to execute the Special Order by Consent on behalf of the party represented, and to legally bind such party.

I. The parties agree that, subject to the terms of these provisions and subject to provisions otherwise provided by statute, this Special Order by Consent is intended to operate as a full resolution of the alleged violations cited herein.

J. Hocking agrees that it is not relieved from any liability if it fails to comply with any provision of this Special Order by Consent.

K. For purposes of this Special Order by Consent only, Hocking agrees that the Department may properly bring an action to compel compliance with the terms and conditions contained herein in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County.

L. The parties agree that the sole purpose of this Special Order by Consent is to resolve and dispose of all allegations and contentions stated herein concerning the factual

circumstances referenced herein. Should additional facts and circumstances be discovered in the future which would constitute possible violations not addressed in this Special Order by Consent, then such future violations may be addressed in orders as may be issued by the Director, litigation initiated by the Department, or such other enforcement action as may be appropriate; Hocking agrees not to object to such future orders, litigation, or enforcement action based on the issuance of this Special Order by Consent if future orders, litigation, or other enforcement action address new matters not raised in this Special Order by Consent.

M. The parties agree that this Special Order by Consent shall be considered final and effective immediately upon signature of all parties. This Special Order by Consent shall not be appealable, and Hocking does hereby waive any hearing on the terms and conditions of this Special Order by Consent.

N. The parties agree that this Special Order by Consent shall not affect Hocking's obligation to comply with any Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

O. The parties agree that final approval and entry into this Special Order by Consent are subject to the requirements that the Department give notice of proposed orders to the public, and that the public have at least thirty days within which to comment on the order.

P. The parties agree that, should any provision of this Special Order by Consent be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction or the Environmental Management Commission to be inconsistent with Federal or State law and therefore unenforceable, the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.


Q. The parties agree that any modifications of this Special Order by Consent must be agreed to in writing signed by both parties.

R. The parties agree that, except as otherwise set forth herein, this Special Order by Consent is not and shall not be interpreted to be a permit or modification of an existing permit under Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to waive or relieve Hocking of its obligations to comply in the future with any permit.

Executed in duplicate, with each part being an original.

FACILITY

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**



(Signature of Authorized Representative)

CHRIS NASA

(Printed Name)

PLANT MANAGER

(Printed Title)

3/27/2019

(Date Signed)

Lance R. LeFleur
Director

(Date Executed)

Attachment A

Hocking International Laboratories
Sylacauga, Talladega County
Facility ID No. ALR000047977

Violation	Number of Violations*	Seriousness of Violation*	Standard of Care*	History of Previous Violation*	
Failure to make a hazardous waste determination	1	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$0	
Failure to document the amount of hazardous waste generated each month	1	\$100	\$100	\$0	
Failure to obtain a permit or an extension prior to storing hazardous waste on-site for greater than 90 days	1	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$0	Total of Three Factors
TOTAL PER FACTOR		\$12,600	\$6,100	\$0	\$18,700

Adjustments to Amount of Initial Penalty			
Mitigating Factors (-)	\$0	Economic Benefit (+)	
Ability to Pay (-)	\$0	Amount of Initial Penalty	\$18,700
Other Factors (+/-)	\$0	Total Adjustments (+/-)	(\$3,700)
Total Adjustments (+/-) Enter at Right	(\$3,700)	FINAL PENALTY	\$15,000

Footnotes

* See the "DEPARTMENT'S CONTENTIONS" portion of the Order for a detailed description of each violation and the penalty factors.