

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
Ridgeline Construction HSV, Inc.)	****Proposed****
Athens, Limestone County, Alabama)	ADMINISTRATIVE
)	ORDER NO: 20- -AP

FINDINGS

Pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22- 22A-17, *as amended*, the Alabama Air Pollution Control Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-28-1 to 22-28-23, *as amended*, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (hereinafter, the “Department” or “ADEM”) Administrative Code of Regulations (hereinafter, “ADEM Admin. Code R.”) promulgated pursuant thereto, and the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401 to 7671q, *as amended*, the Department makes the following FINDINGS:

1. Ridgeline Construction HSV, Inc. (hereinafter, “Ridgeline”) is a construction company operating in Athens, Limestone County, Alabama.
2. The Department is a duly constituted department of the State of Alabama pursuant to Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-17, *as amended*.
3. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-4(n), *as amended*, the Department is the state air pollution control agency for the purposes of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401 to 7671q, *as amended*. In addition, the Department is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the Alabama Air Pollution Control Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-28-1 to 22-28-23, *as amended*.
4. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1 states that “...open burning must take place on the property on which the combustible fuel originates.”

5. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)4 states that “Only vegetation and untreated wood may be burned. It is unauthorized to open burn heavy oils, asphalt products, plastics, vinyl materials, insulation, paper, cardboard, natural or synthetic rubber, salvage or scrap materials, chemicals, garbage, treated or painted wood, or any trash.”

6. During June and July 2019, Department personnel conducted complaint investigations of property located at 13800 Mooresville Road in Athens, Limestone County (hereinafter, the “Site”). During the investigations, Department personnel made Ridgeline aware of the Open Burning Regulations.

7. On October 25, 2019, the Department received a complaint of unauthorized open burning being conducted at the Site.

8. During the October 25, 2019 complaint investigation, the Department Inspector observed unauthorized open burning of wood pallets by Ridgeline. Contact was made with a Ridgeline employee, and he was informed of the Open Burning Regulations and given a Warning Notice.

9. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., *as amended*, in determining the amount of any penalty, the Department must give consideration to the seriousness of the violation, 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 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 violation continues shall constitute

a separate violation. In arriving at this civil penalty, the Department has considered the following:

A. SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATION: Ridgeline conducted unauthorized open burning after being made aware of the Open Burning Regulations. The Department considers this violation to be serious.

B. THE STANDARD OF CARE: There appeared to be no care taken by Ridgeline to comply with the applicable requirements of the ADEM Admin. Code rs. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1 and 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)4.

C. ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED: Ridgeline likely derived economic benefit by not legally disposing of materials.

D. EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT: At the time of the violation, there were no efforts by Ridgeline to mitigate possible effects of this violation upon the environment.

E. HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: Ridgeline has no previous history of violations with the Department for illegal open burning.

F. THE ABILITY TO PAY: Ridgeline has not alleged an inability to pay the civil penalty.

G. OTHER FACTORS: The Department has carefully considered the six statutory penalty factors enumerated in Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., *as amended*, as well as the need for timely and effective enforcement, and has concluded that a civil penalty herein is appropriate (*See* "Attachment A", which is hereby incorporated into these Findings). Based on information submitted by Ridgeline the Department has determined a reduction in penalty is warranted.

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing FINDINGS and pursuant to Ala. Code §§22-22A-5(10), 22-22A-5(12), 22-22-5(18), and 22-28-18, as amended, it is hereby ORDERED:

A. That, not later than forty-five days after the issuance of this Order, Ridgeline shall pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the violation cited herein. Said penalty shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environment Management by certified or cashier's check and shall be submitted to:

Office of General Counsel
Alabama Department of
Environmental Management
P.O. Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

B. That, immediately upon receipt of this Order and continuing thereafter, Ridgeline shall ensure immediate and future compliance with ADEM Admin. Codes rs. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1 and 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)4.

C. That, should any provision of this Order 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.

D. Except as otherwise set forth herein, this Order 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 Ridgeline of its obligations to comply in the future with any permit or other written direction from the Department.

E. That, issuance of this Administrative Order does not preclude the Department from seeking criminal fines or other appropriate sanctions or relief against Ridgeline for the violation cited herein.

F. That, failure to comply with the provisions of this Administrative Order shall constitute cause for commencement of legal action by the Department against Ridgeline for recovery of additional civil penalties, criminal fines, or other appropriate sanctions or relief.

ORDERED and ISSUED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

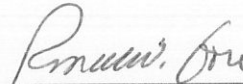
Lance R. LeFleur, Director
Alabama Department of Environmental
Management
1400 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2059
(334) 271-7700

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Ronald W. Gore, do hereby certify that I have served this Administrative Order upon the person(s) listed below by sending the same, postage paid, through the United States Mail **91 7199 9991 7039 2980 5588** with instructions to forward and return receipt, to:

Ridgeline Construction HSV, Inc.
Attention: Terry Marsh
13800 Mooresville Road
Athens, Alabama 35613

DONE this the 24th day of February, 2020.



Ronald W. Gore
Chief - Air Division
Alabama Department of
Environmental Management

ATTACHMENT A

**Ridgeline Construction HSV, Inc.
Athens, Limestone County, AL**

Violation*	Number of Violations*	Seriousness of Violation*	Standard of Care*	History of Previous Violations*	
Illegal open burning	1	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	
					Total of Three Factors
TOTAL PER FACTOR		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$4,000

Adjustments to Amount of Initial Penalty	
Mitigating Factors (-)	
Ability to Pay (-)	
Other Factors (+/-)	-\$2,500
Total Adjustments (+/-) <i>Enter at Right</i>	-\$2,500

Economic Benefit (+)	\$1,000
Amount of Initial Penalty	\$5,000
Total Adjustments (+/-)	-\$2,500
FINAL PENALTY	\$2,500.00

Footnotes

* See the "Department's Findings" portion of the Order for a detailed description of each violation and the penalty factors.