

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

_____)
IN THE MATTER OF: _____)
_____)
Donna Rice _____)
Primitive Ridge Road UAD _____)
West Blocton, Bibb County, Alabama _____)
_____)

Order No. 21 -XXX -SW

FINDINGS

Pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-16, as amended; the Solid Wastes and Recyclable Materials Management Act (SWRMMA), Ala. Code §§ 22-27-1 to 22-27-18, as amended; and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's (hereinafter "ADEM" or "the Department") Administrative Code of Regulations (hereinafter "ADEM Admin. Code r.") promulgated pursuant thereto, the Department makes the following FINDINGS:

1. Donna Rice (hereinafter "Ms. Rice") is responsible for the unauthorized solid waste dump (hereinafter "UAD") located off Primitive Ridge Road in West Blocton, Bibb County, Alabama (parcel 07-05-07-26-0-000-023.000) (hereinafter "the Site"), which is the subject of this Administrative Order.

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

3. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-4(n), as amended, and Ala. Code 22-27-9(a), as amended, the Department is the state agency authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the SWRMMA, Ala. Code §§ 22-27-1 to 22-27-18, as amended.

4. On March 21, 2018, Department personnel conducted an initial site inspection and observed the presence of a UAD on the Site. A review of Bibb County property records revealed Ms. Rice as the owner of the aforementioned property. In addition, Ms. Rice was not residing on the property at the time of inspection. The inspection and a review of Ms. Rice's compliance with certain requirements of Division 13 of the ADEM Admin. Code revealed the following:

Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-13-11-.03(2), the person(s) responsible for the creation, contribution to, and/or operation of an unauthorized dump site is responsible for the remediation of the site. If the responsible person(s) is not determined, the landowner is responsible for remediation of the site, unless the landowner qualifies as an innocent landowner. Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-13-1-.13(1)(a) and (2), unauthorized dumps are prohibited and must be closed in a manner determined to be necessary by the Department.

As noted during the inspection, regulated solid waste was observed as being disposed on the Site without having a permit from the Department, thereby constituting an UAD. The UAD consisted of approximately 300 cubic yards of construction and demolition waste. The Department has determined that Ms. Rice is responsible for the UAD.

5. On March 28, 2018, the Department issued to Ms. Rice a Notice of Violation (hereinafter "NOV"), requiring the abatement and closure of the UAD.

6. On April 2, 2018, the Department received a telephone call from Ms. Rice in response to the NOV.

7. The Department has not received a written response to the NOV detailing any action taken to remove regulated waste materials and properly close the site.

8. 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 for each violation, provided however, that the total penalty assessed in an order issued by the Department shall not exceed \$250,000. 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 VIOLATION: The creation, contribution to, or operation of a UAD is a public nuisance per se and a menace to public health. With regards to the UAD located at the Site, the Department is unaware of any irreparable harm to the environment, any immediate threat to human health, or the safety of the public as a result of this violation.

B. THE STANDARD OF CARE: Ms. Rice failed to abide by requirements applicable to the disposal of solid wastes and failed to comply with directives from the Department regarding the proper abatement and closure of the UAD.

C. ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED: The Department has been unable to ascertain if Ms. Rice has realized a significant economic benefit as a result of the violation cited herein.

D. EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT: The Department is unaware of any efforts by Ms. Rice to mitigate any potential effects upon the environment and human health that may have been caused as a result of the UAD.

E. HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: Based on a review of Department records, Ms. Rice does not have a documented history of violations of the applicable requirements of Division 13 of the ADEM Admin. Code.

F. THE ABILITY TO PAY: The Department does not have any evidence indicating that Ms. Rice is unable to pay the civil penalty.

9. The Department has carefully considered the six statutory penalty factors enumerated in Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c, as amended, as well as other factors, and has concluded that a civil penalty is appropriate for the violation cited herein (see Attachment A, which is made a part of the Department's FINDINGS).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing FINDINGS and pursuant to Ala. Code, §§ 22-22A-5(1), 22-22A-5(10), 22-22A-5(18), 22-27-4(b), 22-27-7, and 22-27-11, as amended, it is hereby ORDERED:

A. That, not later than forty-five days of issuance of this Order, Ms. Rice shall pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$13,000 for the violation cited herein. The penalty shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management by certified or cashier's check or any other method of payment 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

All checks shall reference Ms. Rice's name and address and the ADEM Administrative Order number of this action.

B. That, immediately upon issuance of this Order and continuing each and every day thereafter, Ms. Rice shall cease and desist from operating a UAD.

C. That, within thirty days of issuance of this Order, Ms. Rice shall submit a site closure plan to the Department in accordance with ADEM Admin. Code div. 335-13-1-.13(2)(b)1. This plan shall include a schedule for site closure completion. Ms. Rice shall implement the site closure plan and remove the wastes onsite to an approved landfill unit.

D. That, within thirty days of completion of remediation activities, Ms. Rice shall document closure activities by submitting the following information to the Department:

1. Time period in which the remediation activities occurred.

2. Total volume of waste removed from the property.
3. Documentation that all regulated waste, to include both surface and subsurface waste, was removed from the property.
4. A copy of waste receipts documenting that all regulated waste was taken to a permitted landfill.
5. Photographs of the site, before and after remediation.
6. Documentation that the site was properly closed to prevent erosion.
7. Documentation that the site has been secured to prevent any future illegal dumping.

E. 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.

F. That the issuance of this Order does not preclude the Department from seeking criminal fines or other appropriate sanctions or relief against Ms. Rice for the violation cited herein.

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

ORDERED and ISSUED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Lance R. LeFleur
Director

Attachment A

Donna Rice
Unauthorized Solid Waste Dump (Primitive Ridge Road)
West Blocton, Bibb County, Alabama

Violation*	Number of Violations*	Seriousness of Violation*	Standard of Care*	History of Previous Violations*	
Creation of an Unauthorized Dump	1	\$11,000	\$2,000		Total of Three Factors
TOTAL PER FACTOR		\$11,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$13,000

Adjustments to Amount of Initial Penalty*	
Mitigating Factors (-)	\$0
Ability to Pay (-)	\$0
Other Factors (+/-)	\$0
	\$0

Economic Benefit (+)*	\$0
Amount of Initial Penalty	\$13,000
Total Adjustments (+/-)	\$0
FINAL PENALTY	\$13,000

Footnotes

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