

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

IN THE MATTER OF:

**Clean Earth of Alabama, Inc.
Glencoe, Etowah County, Alabama
USEPA ID NUMBER ALD981020894**

Consent Order No. 20-XXX-CHW

PREAMBLE

This Special Order by Consent is made and entered into by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (“the Department” or “ADEM”) and Clean Earth of Alabama, Inc. (“Clean Earth”) 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 (“AHWMMA”), Ala. Code §§ 22-30-1 to 22-30-24, as amended, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

STIPULATIONS

1. Clean Earth operates a commercial hazardous waste treatment and storage facility under AHWMMA Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Number ALD981020894, located at 402 Webster Chapel Road in Glencoe, Etowah County, Alabama. Clean Earth, as a result of its operations at the facility, was a treatment and storage facility, as 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. July 25, 2019, ADEM Consent Order 19-096-CHW was executed requiring Clean Earth to comply with all terms, conditions, and limitations of its permit and the applicable parts of the AHWMMMA, Ala. Code §§ 22-30-1 to 22-30-24, as amended, the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. This Order addressed a violation for storage of hazardous waste in an unpermitted area.

5. On February 5, 2020, a representative of the Department's Industrial Hazardous Waste Branch conducted a compliance evaluation inspection ("CEI") of Clean Earth. The CEI and a review of Clean Earth's compliance showed the following:

- (a) Pursuant to Permit Condition III.A., the Permittee may operate the units and processes described in Table III.1. of this permit, subject to the terms of this permit. Operation of any process or unit not listed in Table III.1. of this permit is prohibited.

Clean Earth stored hazardous waste in units other than those described in Table III.1 of its Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. Clean Earth placed six tractor trailers, containing hazardous waste, outside of the waste management units described in Table III.1 of the permit. The trailers were not attached to a semi-trucks and were storing hazardous waste that had been accepted by Clean Earth.

- (b) In pertinent part, ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-5-.28, incorporating by reference 40 CFR Part 264, Subpart BB, applies to the owner or operator of all equipment and tanks that come in contact with hazardous waste that has an organic concentration of at least 10 percent by weight. Specifically, 40 CFR § 264.1057 of Subpart BB requires monthly monitoring of valves. And, 40 CFR §264.1050(d) requires that each piece of equipment to which this subpart applies shall be marked in such a manner that it can be distinguished readily from other pieces of equipment.

Clean Earth failed to mark and monitor certain connector valves connecting the Pump-Up Area to the Tank Farm.

6. On March 5, 2020, the Department issued a Notice of Violation to Clean Earth, which cited violations of the hazardous waste regulations that were discovered during the CEI.

7. On April 1, 2020, the Department received Clean Earth's response to the aforementioned Notice of Violation.

8. 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 violation(s) 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 Clean Earth, the Department noted that the violations described above were non-technical and easily avoidable. Consequently, Clean Earth 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 Clean Earth 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 alleged violations.

(e) **HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS:** Based on a review of Department records, Clean Earth has a history of violations of ADEM Admin. Code div. 14 regulations and the penalty reflects that history.

(f) **THE ABILITY TO PAY:** Clean Earth 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).

9. The Department neither admits nor denies Clean Earth'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

10. Clean Earth neither admits nor denies the Department's contentions. Clean Earth 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, Clean Earth, 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 Clean Earth agree to enter into this Special Order by Consent with the following terms and conditions:

A. Clean Earth agrees to pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$20,000 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. Clean Earth 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 Clean Earth's name and address, and the ADEM Administrative Order number of this action.

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

D. The Department and Clean Earth ("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.

E. 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.

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

G. For purposes of this Special Order by Consent only, Clean Earth 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.

H. 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; Clean Earth 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.

I. 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 Clean Earth does hereby waive any hearing on the terms and conditions of this Special Order by Consent.

J. The parties agree that this Special Order by Consent shall not affect Clean Earth's obligation to comply with any federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

K. 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.

L. 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.


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

N. 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 Clean Earth of its obligations to comply in the future with any permit.

Executed in duplicate, with each part being an original.

CLEAN EARTH OF ALABAMA, INC.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



(Signature of Authorized Representative)

Lance R. LeFleur
Director

CHRISTOPHER S. STUM

(Printed Name)

MANAGER & TREASURER

(Printed Title)

7/15/2020

(Date Signed)

(Date Executed)

Attachment A

Clean Earth of Alabama, Inc.
Glencoe, Etowah County
Facility ID No. ALD981020894

Violation	Number of Violations*	Seriousness of Violation*	Standard of Care*	History of Previous Violation*	
Storage of hazardous waste in an unpermitted area	1	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	
Failure to mark and monitor subject pieces of Subpart BB equipment	1	\$1,000	\$100	\$0	Total of Three Factors
TOTAL PER FACTOR		\$11,000	\$7,600	\$7,500	\$26,100

Adjustments to Amount of Initial Penalty

Mitigating Factors (-)	\$0	Economic Benefit (+)	\$0
Ability to Pay (-)	\$0	Amount of Initial Penalty	\$26,100
Other Factors (+/-)	(-\$6,100)	Total Adjustments (+/-)	(-\$6,100)
Total Adjustments (+/-) Enter at Right	(-\$6,100)	FINAL PENALTY	\$20,000

Footnotes

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