

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Kala Wilks)
)
Demolition by Fire)
Henagar, Dekalb County, Alabama)

****Proposed****

ORDER NO: 21-__-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 (“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. Kala Wilks (“the Owner”), is the responsible party that conducted a demolition by fire on a structure located at 168 Gourage Road in Henagar, Dekalb County, Alabama (“the Site”).

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. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), found at 40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart M, is incorporated by reference in ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-11-.02(12).

5. 40 C.F.R. §61.141 defines Regulated asbestos-containing material (RACM) as (a) Friable asbestos material, (b) Category I nonfriable ACM that has become friable, (c) Category I nonfriable ACM that will be or has been subjected to sanding, grinding, cutting, or abrading, or (d) Category II nonfriable ACM that has a high probability of becoming or has become crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by the forces expected to act on the material in the course of demolition or renovation operations regulated by this subpart.

6. 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(a)(1) states that in a facility being demolished, all the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section apply, except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, if the combined amount of RACM is at least 260 linear feet on pipes, at least 160 square feet on other facility components, or at least 35 cubic feet off facility components where the length or area could not be measured previously.

7. 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(b)(3)(i) requires the owner or operator of a demolition or renovation activity for a subject facility to provide written Notice of Intention to Demolish or Renovate ("Notice") at least ten workdays before demolition, asbestos stripping or removal work, or any other activity which disturbs the asbestos.

8. 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(c)(1) requires the removal of all RACM from a facility being demolished or renovated before any activity begins that would break up, dislodge, or similarly disturb the material or preclude access to the material for subsequent removal.

9. 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(c)(B)(10) requires if a facility is demolished by intentional burning, all RACM including Category I and Category II nonfriable ACM must be removed in accordance with the NESHAP before burning.

10. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-11-.05(1) states that any person, firm, organization, or corporation who is the owner or operator of any asbestos removal project for which notification is required pursuant to the requirements of rule 335-3-11-.02(12) shall ensure that the parties executing the asbestos removal project are certified by the Department.

11. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(1)(e) states “No person shall ignite,...or maintain any open fire except as follows: Fires for training personnel in the methods of fighting fires, provided that all requirements of ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-11-.02(12) are met.

12. On March 3, 2021, the Department received a complaint that the Site had been demolished by fire without the Department having received the required notification, in violation of ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-11-.02(12). This is also considered to be unauthorized open burning, in violation of ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(1)(e).

13. On March 11, 2021, the Department conducted an inspection and verified that the Site had been demolished by fire.

14. On March 17, 2021, the Department issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the Owner based upon the complaint and the inspection, for violating: ADEM Admin. Code rs. 335-3-3-.01(1)(e), 335-3-11-.02(12), and 335-3-11-.05(1).

15. On March 29, 2021, the Department received a phone call in response to the NOV from the Owner. During the phone call with Department personnel the Owner stated that no written response to the NOV would be sent. The Owner stated that no asbestos inspection had been performed prior to the demolition by fire.

16. 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: The Owner failed to submit the required notification to the Department and failed to perform, or have performed, the required certified asbestos inspection of the Site before initiating the demolition. Also, the Owner conducted prohibited open burning at the Site and the Department considers these violations to be serious.

B. THE STANDARD OF CARE: There appeared to be no care taken by the Owner to comply with the applicable requirements of the ADEM Admin. Code.

C. ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED: The Owner likely derived economic benefit by not notifying the Department, not having performed the required asbestos inspection, and by open burning prohibited materials during the demolition by fire of the Site.

D. EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT: There were no efforts by the Owner to mitigate the possible effects of these violations upon the environment until after being notified by the Department.

E. HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: The Owner has no known prior history with the Department for violating demolition, asbestos, or open burning regulations.

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

G. OTHER FACTORS: The Owner by failing to have the required asbestos inspection of the Site performed prior to demolition by fire risked exposing its employees, contractors, and other individuals to asbestos.

17. 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 made a part of these Findings).

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, the Owner shall pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the violations cited herein. Said penalty shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environmental 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, the Owner shall ensure immediate and future compliance with 40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart M, as adopted in ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-11-.02, particularly as it applies to renovation and demolition operations. Additionally, the Owner shall ensure immediate and future compliance with ADEM Admin. Code rs. 335-3-3-.01(1)(e) and 335-3-11-.02(12) .

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 the Owner of her 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 the Owner for the violations 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 the Owner 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
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 Proposed Administrative Order upon the person(s) listed below by sending the same, postage paid, through the United States Mail **9489 0090 0027 6295 4232 16** with instructions to forward and return receipt, to:

Mrs. Kala Wilks
649 Liberty Road
Henagar, Alabama 35978

DONE this the 12th day of April, 2021.



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

ATTACHMENT A

Kala Wilks

**Demolition by fire
Henagar, Dekalb County**

Violation*	Number of Violations*	Seriousness of Violation*	Standard of Care*	History of Previous Violations*	
Failure to notify the Department	1	\$500	\$500	\$0	
Failure to have inspection	1	\$500	\$500		
Failure to abate	1	\$500	\$500		Total of Three Factors
Unauthorized open burning	1	\$500	\$500		
TOTAL PER FACTOR		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$4,000

Adjustments to Amount of Initial Penalty	
Mitigating Factors (-)	
Ability to Pay (-)	
Other Factors (+/-)	
Total Adjustments (+/-) Enter at Right	\$0

Economic Benefit (+)	\$1,000
Amount of Initial Penalty	\$5,000
Total Adjustments (+/-)	\$0
FINAL PENALTY	\$5,000

Footnotes

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