

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

IN THE MATTER OF:)
Robert Kimble)
Vance, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama)
****Proposed****
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. Robert Kimble (hereinafter, "Kimble") operates a tree service in and around Vance, Tuscaloosa 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. On February 27, 2017, the Department personnel received a complaint of unauthorized open burning on property located at 21299 Washington Drive in Vance, Tuscaloosa County (hereinafter, the "Site").

6. On March 8, 2017, Department personnel observed burn piles that contained remnants of wire, glass, plastic, metal, and vegetation transported in from other locations.

7. On March 13, 2017, the Department issued a Notice of Violation to Kimble in regards to the unauthorized burning.

8. On April 13, 2017, the Department received a response to the Notice of Violation from Kimble. In the response Kimble stated that he will discontinue burning at the Site.

9. On November 22, 2019, the Department received another complaint of unauthorized open burning at the Site.

10. On November 27, 2019, Department personnel spoke with David Salter, Chief of the Lake View Fire District, in regards to the unauthorized burning at the Site. Mr. Salter stated that he was working to contain and, if possible, extinguish the fire at the Site.

11. 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: Kimble continued conducting unauthorized open burning of imported vegetation at the Site after being advised to cease such activities by the Department in 2017. The Department considers these violations to be serious.

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

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

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

E. HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: The Department has a history with Kimble of unauthorized open burning.

F. THE ABILITY TO PAY: Kimble has 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).

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, Kimble 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 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, Kimble shall ensure immediate and future compliance with ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1.

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 Kimble 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 Kimble 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 Kimble 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 Proposed Administrative Order upon the person(s) listed below by sending the same, postage paid, through the United States Mail **91 7199 9991 7034 1851 7299** with instructions to forward and return receipt, to:

Robert Kimble
P.O. Box 24
West Blocton, Alabama 35184

DONE this the 15th day of January 2020.



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

ATTACHMENT A

**Robert Kimble
Vance, Tuscaloosa County**

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

Adjustments to Amount of Initial Penalty	
Mitigating Factors (-)	
Ability to Pay (-)	\$4,000
Other Factors (+/-)	
Total Adjustments (+/-) <i>Enter at Right</i>	\$0

Economic Benefit (+)	\$1,000
Amount of Initial Penalty	\$5,000
Total Adjustments (+/-)	\$4,000
FINAL PENALTY	\$1,000.00

Footnotes

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