

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Imerys Carbonates USA, Inc.)
Sylacauga, Talladega County, Alabama)
ADEM Air Facility ID No. 309-0049)
)
)

CONSENT ORDER
No. 19- _____-CAP

PREAMBLE

This Special Order by Consent is made, without the adjudication of law or fact, and entered into by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (hereinafter, “the Department” or “ADEM”) and Imerys Carbonates USA, Inc., (hereinafter, “the Permittee”) and pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 through 22-22A-17, *as amended*, and the Alabama Air Pollution Control Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-28-1 through 22-28-23, *as amended*, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

STIPULATIONS

1. The Permittee owns and operates a marble processing facility (hereinafter, “the Facility”) located at 1301 Gene Stewart Boulevard, Sylacauga, Talladega County, Alabama. The Permittee operates the Facility under the authority of ADEM Major Source Operating Permit No. 309-0049 (hereinafter, the “Permit”), issued on March 27, 2015. This Permit authorizes the operation of marble crushing, screening, conveying, grinding, bagging, and loadout for transport processes with baghouses and storage silos to produce calcium carbonate products, subject to certain limitations and conditions.

2. The Department is a duly constituted department of the State of Alabama pursuant to Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 through 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 through 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 through 22-28-23, *as amended*.

4. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources (NSPS), 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subpart OOO – Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plants, is incorporated by reference in ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-10-.02(67).

5. 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subpart OOO, Table 2 – Stack Emission Limits for Affected Facilities With Capture Systems, requires that the owner or operator must meet the Stack Emission Limits for Affected Facilities With Capture Systems, as defined in Sections 60.670 and 60.671 that commenced construction, modification, or reconstruction after August 31, 1983 but before April 22, 2008: 7% opacity for dry control devices.

6. 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subpart OOO, Table 3 – Fugitive Emission Limits, requires that the owner or operator must meet the following fugitive emissions limit for grinding mills, screening operations, bucket elevators, transfer points on belt conveyors, bagging operations, storage bins, enclosed truck or railcar loading stations or from any other affected facility as defined in Sections 60.670 and 60.671 that commenced construction, modification or reconstruction after August 31, 1983 but before April 22, 2008: 10 percent opacity.

7. General Permit Proviso No. 16 of the Permit states:

All air pollution control devices and capture systems for which this permit is issued shall be maintained and operated at all times in a manner so as to minimize the emissions of air containments. Procedures for ensuring that the above equipment is properly operated and maintained so as to

minimize the emission of air containments shall be established.

8. Permit Proviso No. 1 - "Emission Standards" for Unit No. 2022 states: "For those sources subject to NSPS-OOO, the opacity of fugitive emissions from transfer points (i.e. loadouts, conveyors, screens, bins etc.) shall not exhibit greater than 10% opacity."

9. Permit Proviso No. 2 - "Emission Standards" for Unit No. 3031 states: "For those sources subject to NSPS-OOO, the opacity of visible emissions from a vent or control device stack shall not exhibit greater than 7% opacity."

DEPARTMENT'S CONTENTIONS

10. On January 31, 2019, ADEM conducted an announced inspection of the Facility and noted the following:

a) In Plant 2, Unit No. 2022, greater than expected emissions were being emitted from Emission Point No. P2-22G BL, a displaced air vent on a railcar, during loading operations. The Department conducted a Visible Emission Observation (hereinafter, "VEO") and documented a six minute average of 92% opacity from the air vent. The loading operation was not shut down during the VEO, and the Permittee's staff had reported the noncompliant situation to management during the VEO.

b) In Plant 3, Unit No. 3031, excessive emissions were emanating from Emission Point No. 3-3 31B, a baghouse stack, during silo filling operations. The Department conducted a VEO and documented a six minute average of 16% opacity from the baghouse stack. The Permittee's staff had reported the problem to maintenance, but the unit was not shut down until the Department had completed the VEO and was leaving the area.

11. On March 27, 2019, the Department held a meeting with the Permittee to discuss the issues documented during the inspection.

12. 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. In arriving at this civil penalty, the Department has considered the following:

A. **SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATION:** The Department considers these violations to be serious. The Department is not aware of any evidence of irreparable harm to human health or the environment due to these violations.

B. **THE STANDARD OF CARE:** By not maintaining and operating the Facility in such a manner as to comply with the Permit, the Permittee did not exhibit the requisite standard of care.

C. **ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED:** The Department is not aware of any significant economic benefit as a result of the violations referenced herein.

D. **EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT:** The Department is not aware of any efforts made by the Permittee to minimize or mitigate the effects upon the environment due to its non-compliance.

E. HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: The Department issued a Warning Letter to the Permittee dated April 20, 2017, for failure to properly notify the Department of nonfunctional pollution control devices, as well as the removal of a pollution control device.

F. THE ABILITY TO PAY: The Permittee 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 it believes is warranted in this matter in the spirit of cooperation and the desire to resolve this matter amicably, without incurring the unwarranted expense of litigation.

13. 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, based upon the foregoing and attached contentions, has concluded that the civil penalty herein is appropriate (*See* “Attachment A”, which is hereby made a part of the Department’s Contentions).

14. The Department neither admits nor denies the Permittee’s contentions, which are set forth below. The Department has agreed to the terms of this Consent Order in an effort to resolve the alleged violations cited herein without the unwarranted expenditure of State resources in further prosecuting the above violations. The Department has determined that the terms contemplated in this Consent Order are in the best interests of the citizens of Alabama.

PERMITTEE’S CONTENTIONS

15. The Permittee neither admits nor denies the Department’s Contentions. The Permittee consents to abide by the terms of this Consent Order and to pay the civil penalty assessed herein.

ORDER

THEREFORE, the Permittee, along with the Department, desires to resolve and settle the compliance issues 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 the Permittee agree to enter into this ORDER with the following terms and conditions:

A. The Permittee agrees to pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$30,000.00 in settlement of the violations alleged herein within forty-five days from the effective date of this Consent Order. 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. The Permittee agrees that all penalties due pursuant to this Consent Order shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management by certified or cashier's check and shall be remitted to:

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

C. The Permittee agrees to comply with the terms, limitations, and conditions of the Permit and NSPS-OOO every day hereafter.

D. The parties agree that this Consent Order 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 Consent Order certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party he or she represents

to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, to execute the Consent Order on behalf of the party represented, and to legally bind such party.

E. That, subject to the terms of these presents and subject to provisions otherwise provided by statute, this Consent Order is intended to operate as a full resolution of the violations which are cited in this Consent Order.

F. The Permittee agrees that they are not relieved from any liability if they fail to comply with any provision of this Consent Order.

G. For purposes of this Consent Order only, the Permittee 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. The Permittee also agrees that in any action brought by the Department to compel compliance with the terms of this Agreement, the Permittee shall be limited to the defenses of *Force Majeure*, compliance with this Agreement and physical impossibility. A *Force Majeure* is defined as any event arising from causes that are not foreseeable and are beyond the reasonable control of the Permittee, including its contractors and consultants, which could not be overcome by due diligence (i.e., causes which could have been overcome or avoided by the exercise of due diligence will not be considered to have been beyond the reasonable control of the Permittee) and which delays or prevents performance by a date required by the Consent Order. Events such as unanticipated or increased costs of performance, changed economic circumstances, normal precipitation events, or failure to obtain federal, state, or local permits shall not constitute *Force Majeure*. Any request for a modification of a deadline must be accompanied by the reasons (including documentation) for each extension and the proposed extension time. This information shall be submitted to the Department a minimum of ten working days prior to the original anticipated completion date. If the Department, after review of the

extension request, finds the work was delayed because of conditions beyond the control and without the fault of the Permittee, the Department may extend the time as justified by the circumstances. The Department may also grant any other additional time extension as justified by the circumstances, but it is not obligated to do so.

H. The Department and the Permittee agree that the sole purpose of this Consent Order 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 concerning the Facility which would constitute possible violations not addressed in this Consent Order, 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, and the Permittee shall not object to such future orders, litigation or enforcement action based on the issuance of this Consent Order if future orders, litigation or other enforcement action address new matters not raised in this Consent Order.

I. The Department and the Permittee agree that this Consent Order shall be considered final and effective immediately upon signature of all parties. This Consent Order shall not be appealable, and the Permittee does hereby waive any hearing on the terms and conditions of same.

J. The Department and the Permittee agree that this Order shall not affect the Permittee's obligation to comply with any Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

K. The Department and the Permittee agree that final approval and entry into this Order 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 Department and the Permittee agree 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.

M. The Department and the Permittee agree that any modifications of this Order must be agreed to in writing signed by all parties.

N. The Department and the Permittee agree that, 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 Permittee of its obligations to comply in the future with any permit.

Executed in duplicate, with each part being an original.

IMERYS CARBONATES USA, INC.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT


Vincent Willis (May 8, 2019)

(Signature of Authorized Representative)

Vincent Willis

(Printed Name)

Operations Manager

(Printed Title)

Date Signed: May 8, 2019

Lance R. LeFleur
Director

Date Executed: _____

Attachment A

**Imerys Carbonates USA, Inc.
Sylacauga, Talladega County
Facility ID No. 309-0049**

| Violation* | Number of Violations* | Seriousness of Violation* | Standard of Care* | History of Previous Violations* | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Documented VE exceedance P2-22G BL | 1 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | | |
| Documented VE exceedance P3-3 31B | 1 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | | |
| | | | | | Total of Three Factors |
| TOTAL PER FACTOR | | \$15,000 | \$15,000 | | \$30,000 |

| Adjustments to Amount of Initial Penalty | |
|---|--|
| Mitigating Factors (-) | |
| Ability to Pay (-) | |
| Other Factors (+/-) | |
| Total Adjustments (+/-) <i>Enter at Right</i> | |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Economic Benefit (+) | |
| Amount of Initial Penalty | \$30,000 |
| Total Adjustments (+/-) | \$0 |
| FINAL PENALTY | \$30,000 |

Footnotes

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