

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

IN THE MATTER OF:)
RENEGADES MEAT PROCESSING LLC)
Webb, Houston County, Alabama)
Facility ID No. 607-I019)

CONSENT ORDER

No. - _____ -CAP

PREAMBLE

This Special Order by Consent is made and entered into by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management ("Department" or "ADEM") and Renegades Meat Processing LLC ("Owner") 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 Owner owns and/or operates an incinerator located at 3571 Glen Lawrence Road in Webb, Houston County, Alabama (the "Site") and operates the incinerator under the authority ADEM Registration No. 607-I019 ("Registration"), issued on November 8, 2021.
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. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.02(3) states that “No person shall cause or permit to be emitted into the open air from any incinerator, particulate matter in the exhaust gases to exceed 0.20 pounds per 100 pounds of refuse charged; provided that: for incinerators of more than 50 tons per day charging rate, particulate matter in the exhaust gases may not exceed 0.10 pounds per 100 pounds of refuse charged.

5. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-4-.01(1)(a) states, in part, that “...No person shall discharge into the atmosphere from any source of emission, particulate of an opacity greater than that designed as twenty percent opacity (20%), as determined by a six (6) minute average.”

DEPARTMENT'S CONTENTIONS

6. On October 21, 2021, the Department received a complaint concerning the daily burning of animal remains that produced a very acidic smell from the direction of the Site.

7. On November 3, 2021, Department personnel followed up on the complaint by conducting an inspection of the Site and noted the following:

A. The inspector observed the incinerator emitting an excessive amount of smoke.

B. The inspector informed the Owner of the requirements of regulations concerning visible emissions and that the incinerator must be registered with the Department.

C. The Owner agreed to register the incinerator and control the emissions within the guidelines of the regulations immediately.

8. On November 8, 2021, the Owner submitted to the Department a completed ADEM Form 52 that registered the incinerator.

9. On November 12, 2021, the Department issued a warning letter due to the excessive smoke it observed emanating from the incinerator during the November 3, 2022, inspection. The warning letter also detailed the relevant ADEM regulations regarding the operation of the incinerator and the importance of compliance.

10. On July 27, 2022, the Department received a second complaint regarding the Site, stating that the Owner had been using a large grill to burn animal carcasses for over a year that produced offensive odors and smoke noticeable for miles from the Site.

11. On August 8, 2022, Department personnel conducted an inspection of the Site and noted the following

A. Upon arrival, the inspector immediately observed excessive emissions emanating from the incinerator stack.

B. The Owner was asked why the visible emissions were so high and responded that the afterburner was not functioning due to a shortage in the system.

C. The Owner further explained that it was actively working on the issue and would have it fixed as soon as possible.

12. On August 18, 2022, the Department issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the Owner for operating without an afterburner, in violation of ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-4-.01(a) and requested a response from the Owner detailing why the incinerator was being improperly operated.

13. On August 20, 2022, the Owner responded in writing to the NOV, reiterating the problem with the afterburner and stating that it was not aware the afterburner was malfunctioning until after the incinerator was loaded.

14. 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 Owner's prohibited excessive emissions and failure to operate the incinerator afterburner at the Site to be a serious violation.

B. **THE STANDARD OF CARE:** By continuing operations, with excess emissions and without an afterburner, in such a manner in noncompliance with the ADEM regulations, the Owner did not exhibit a standard of care consistent with the requirements of the ADEM Admin. Code R.

C. **ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED:** The Department is not aware of any economic benefits that the Owner received by operating without an afterburner in violation of the ADEM Admin. Code R.

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 Owner to minimize or mitigate the effects upon the environment due to its non-compliance.

E. HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: In 2021, the Department issued a warning letter to the Owner for operating an incinerator in a manner that produced excessive emissions.

F. THE ABILITY TO PAY: The Owner 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.

15. 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 and consistent with the historical penalty range imposed by the Department for similar violations (*See Attachment A, which is made a part of Department's Contentions*).

16. The Department neither admits nor denies the Owner'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.

THE OWNER'S CONTENTIONS

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

ORDER

THEREFORE, the Owner, 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 Owner agree to enter into this ORDER with the following terms and conditions:

A. The Owner agrees to pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$4,000.00 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 Owner 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 Owner agrees to comply with the terms, limitations, and conditions of the Registration, every day hereafter.

D. The Owner agrees to comply with the terms, limitations, and conditions of ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.02, and Admin Code r. 335-3-4-.01.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. The Owner agrees that it is not relieved from any liability if it fails to comply with any provision of this Consent Order.

H. For purposes of this Consent Order only, the Owner 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 Owner also agrees that in any action brought by the Department to compel compliance with the terms of this Agreement, the Owner 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 Owner, 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 Owner) 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 Owner, 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.

I. The Department and the Owner 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 Owner 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.

J. The Department and the Owner 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 Owner does hereby waive any hearing on the terms and conditions of same.

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

L. The Department and the Owner 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.

M. The Department and the Owner 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.

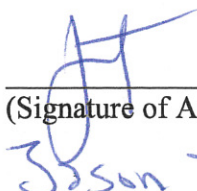
N. The Department and the Owner agree that any modifications of this Order must be agreed to in writing signed by both parties.

O. The Department and the Owner 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 Owner of its obligations to comply in the future with any permit.

Executed in duplicate, with each part being an original.

RENEGADES MEAT PROCESSING LLC

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



(Signature of Authorized Representative)

Lance R. LeFleur
Director

Jason Thomas

(Printed Name)

Managing Member

(Printed Title)

Date Signed: 11-17-22

Date Executed: _____

Attachment A

RENEGADES MEAT PROCESSING

Webb, Houston County

Facility ID No. 607-I019

Violation*	Number of Violations*	Seriousness of Violation*	Standard of Care*	History of Previous Violations*	
Not Operating Afterburner	1	\$2,000	\$2,000	-	
					Total of Three Factors
TOTAL PER FACTOR		\$2,000	\$2,000	-	\$4,000

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	\$4,000
Total Adjustments (+/-)	\$0
FINAL PENALTY	\$4,000

Footnotes

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