

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
City of Chickasaw)	PROPOSED
Chickasaw, Mobile County, Alabama)	ADMINISTRATIVE
)	ORDER NO: 24-XXX-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 (“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. The City of Chickasaw (Chickasaw) owns real property located at latitude/longitude (30.7704, -88.0713) on Lagoon Road in Chickasaw, Mobile 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 (AAPCA), Ala. Code §§ 22-28-1 to 22-28-23, *as amended*.

4. On February 5 and February 12, 2024, Department personnel received complaints of unauthorized open burning of regulated waste materials at the Site.

5. On February 15, 2024, Department personnel conducted an inspection and observed several piles of burned, partially burned, and unburned regulated waste, including tires, metals, appliances, electronics, construction and demolition waste, and municipal solid waste at the Site.

6. On April 1, 2024, a Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to Chickasaw.

7. On May 7, 2024, the Department received a response to the NOV, in which Chickasaw acknowledged conducting unauthorized open burning.

8. Chickasaw conducted unauthorized open burning at the Site, in violation of ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01 and the AAPCA.

9. 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 violations, 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 violations 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: Chickasaw conducted unauthorized open burning of regulated materials. The Department considers these violations to be serious.

B. THE STANDARD OF CARE: There appeared to be no care taken by Chickasaw to comply with the applicable requirements of the ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01 and the AAPCA.

C. ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED: Chickasaw derived economic benefit by not legally disposing of regulated materials.

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

E. HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: Chickasaw has no previous history with the Department for violating the open burning regulations.

F. THE ABILITY TO PAY: Chickasaw has not 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, Chickasaw 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, Chickasaw shall ensure immediate and future compliance with ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01 and the AAPCA.

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 Chickasaw of 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 Chickasaw 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 Chickasaw for recovery of additional civil penalties, criminal fines, or other appropriate sanctions or relief.

ORDERED and ISSUED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

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 6308 3032 14** with instructions to forward and return receipt, to:

The Honorable Barry Broadhead
City of Chickasaw
PO Box 11307
Chickasaw, Alabama 36671

DONE this the 22nd day of May, 2024.



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

ATTACHMENT A

City of Chickasaw Chickasaw, Mobile County, AL

Violation*	Number of Violations*	Seriousness of Violation*	Standard of Care*	History of Previous Violations*	
Unauthorized open burning	1	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$0	
					Total of Three Factors
TOTAL PER FACTOR		\$2,500	\$1,500	\$0	\$4,000

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

Economic Benefit (+)	\$1,000
Amount of Initial Penalty	\$5,000.00
Total Adjustments (+/-)	\$0
FINAL PENALTY	\$5,000.00

Footnotes

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