

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

In the matter of:

ACO-EP15-100

Date Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

Expired Permit(s)  
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)  
NPDES Storm Water  
Groundwater  
\_\_\_\_\_ /

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ORDER FOR EXPIRED PERMITS**

This document results from allegations by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Water Resources Division (WRD). The DEQ alleges that the owner or operator of the facility (Owner) entering into this General Administrative Consent Order for Expired Permits, ACO-EP15-100 (Consent Order), is in violation of Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA), MCL 324.3101 *et seq.* Owners that are eligible for this Consent Order are those who have a regulated discharge to waters of the state and have allowed a previously issued discharge permit to expire for that discharge and have no other significant unresolved compliance issues. Eligibility to enter into this Consent Order requires that the permit reissuance application be submitted to the DEQ within 180 days after the permit expiration date. The Owner and the DEQ agree to resolve the violations set forth in Section II, Findings, of this Consent Order through the Owner's submittal, and the DEQ's acceptance, of a Certificate-of-Entry (COE) for Expired Permits under this Consent Order. By submitting to the DEQ a COE signed by the Owner or the Owner's legally authorized representative, the Owner agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions contained within this Consent Order. Upon the DEQ's acceptance of the COE, this Consent Order shall consist of both this document and the associated COE.

**I. STIPULATIONS**

The Owner and the DEQ stipulate as follows:

- 1.1 The NREPA, MCL 324.101 *et seq.*, is an act that controls pollution to protect the environment and natural resources in the state.
- 1.2 Part 31 of the NREPA, MCL 324.3101 *et seq.*, and the rules promulgated pursuant

thereto, provide for the protection, conservation, and the control of pollution of the water resources of the state.

- 1.3 Section 3112(1) of Part 31, MCL 324.3121(1), states, "A person shall not discharge any waste or waste effluent into the waters of this state unless the person is in possession of a valid permit from the department." In addition, Rule 2161 of the Part 21 administrative rules, Wastewater Discharge Permits, 2003 AACS, R 323.2161, as amended, promulgated pursuant to Part 31, further provides that, "A person who discharges storm water that is subject to regulation pursuant to the provisions of section 402(p) of the federal act and the corresponding regulations promulgated in 40 C.F.R. 122.26 (2000) shall apply for or obtain a national permit..."
- 1.4 Further, the Legislature has provided a structure for the payment of permit fees in Sections 3118 to 3124 of Part 31, MCL 324.3118 to 324.3124.
- 1.5 The DEQ is authorized by Section 3112(4) of Part 31 to enter orders requiring persons to abate pollution. The director of the DEQ may delegate this authority to a designee under Section 301(b) of the NREPA, MCL 324.301(b).
- 1.6 The Owner stipulates that the resolution of this matter by entry of this Consent Order is appropriate and acceptable. The Owner further agrees not to contest this Consent Order or associated COE. This Consent Order, thus, shall be considered a final order of the DEQ and shall become effective with respect to a particular Owner on the date the COE is received by the DEQ.
- 1.7 The Owner and the DEQ agree that this Consent Order and associated COE is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by the Owner that the law has been violated.
- 1.8 The Owner shall achieve compliance with the aforementioned provisions of Part 31 in accordance with the requirements contained in Section III, Compliance Program, of this Consent Order.

- 1.9 The Owner, by submitting to the DEQ the COE, including the fine and fee amount identified in the COE, agrees and attests that the signatory to the COE is fully authorized to bind the Owner to the terms and conditions set forth herein and assure the compliance with all requirements under the Consent Order. The COE must contain an original signature by the Owner or a legally authorized agent of the Owner as follows:
- a. For a corporation, the form must be signed by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president, or his/her designated representative, if the representative is responsible for the overall operation of the facility (appropriate documentation must be provided to demonstrate the position and responsibility of the designated representative).
  - b. For a limited liability company, the form must be signed by a managing member.
  - c. For a limited liability partnership, the form must be signed by a managing partner.
  - d. For a partnership, the form must be signed by a general partner.
  - e. For a sole proprietorship, the form must be signed by the proprietor.
  - f. For municipal, state, or other public facility, the form must be signed by a principal executive officer, the mayor, village president, city or village manager, or other duly authorized employee.
- 1.10 This Consent Order is effective on the date the DEQ, WRD, Permits Section, receives the COE provided it is fully executed by a duly authorized representative of the Owner, meets all conditions and eligibility requirements under this Consent Order and associated COE, and has not been altered in any way, including adding or eliminating any language, striking terms or parts of terms, retyping in whole or in part, or using a different format. The DEQ reserves its right to vacate the COE at any time if it determines that any conditions, eligibility requirements, or any terms of this Consent Order are not satisfied.

## II. FINDINGS

- 2.1 The Owner operates a facility in the state of Michigan and has a regulated discharge of waste, waste effluent, or storm water to the waters of the state.
- 2.2 The Owner's discharge permit has expired. The Owner failed to timely apply for and obtain a permit renewal prior to the Owner's discharge permit expiring.
- 2.3 The Owner is discharging waste or waste effluent to the waters of the state without a valid permit, in violation of Section 3112(1) of Part 31.
- 2.4 The DEQ has received a discharge permit application from the Owner after the expiration date of the Owner's discharge permit.

## III. COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED AND ORDERED THAT the Owner shall take the following actions to prevent further violations of Section 3112(1) of Part 31:

- 3.1 If the DEQ requires additional information from or action by the Owner at any point during the permitting process to resolve deficiencies in the discharge permit application, the DEQ shall notify the Owner in writing of the deficiencies. The Owner shall resolve any deficiencies identified in the request within 30 days of being notified by the DEQ, unless the DEQ specifies another date in writing.
- 3.2 Within 30 days after the effective date of this Consent Order, the Owner shall pay any avoided annual discharge permit fees required by Part 31 and fines as set forth in the COE. The Owner shall submit the signed COE along with a check made payable to the State of Michigan for the full fee and fine amount identified in the COE (**paragraph 5.6**). The check shall be mailed to the address listed on the COE.
- 3.3 The Owner shall pay applicable annual discharge permit fees in accordance with future invoices issued by the DEQ.

#### IV. RIGHT OF ENTRY

- 4.1 The Owner shall allow any authorized representative or contractor of the DEQ, upon presentation of proper credentials, to enter upon the premises of the facility at all reasonable times for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the provisions of this Consent Order and Part 31. This paragraph in no way limits the authority of the DEQ to conduct tests and inspections pursuant to the NREPA and the rules promulgated thereunder, or any other applicable statutory provision.

#### V. PENALTIES

- 5.1 In resolution of past violations of Part 31 related to the Owner's failure to timely reapply for a discharge permit reissuance at the facility, the Owner agrees to the payment of a civil fine. Civil fines associated with expired permits shall be determined by the DEQ, WRD, Permits Section, and follow a tiered structure as follows:
- a. Permit reissuance application is received between 1 and 90 days after the permit expiration date. A civil fine of \$750 is required under this tier.
  - b. Permit reissuance application is received between 91 and 180 days after the permit expiration date. A civil fine of \$1,000 or twice the applicable application fee, whichever is greater, is required under this tier.
- 5.2 In resolution of past violations of Part 31 related to the Owner's failure to timely reapply for a discharge permit reissuance at the facility and in the event the Owner has missed payment of an annual discharge permit fee, the Owner agrees to the payment of the avoided annual discharge permit fee associated with the discharge permit's program area. Avoided annual discharge permit fees shall be determined by the DEQ, WRD, Permits Section.
- 5.3 For each failure to comply with the provisions of Section III, Compliance Program, of this Consent Order, the Owner shall pay stipulated penalties of \$100 per violation per day. Failure to perform any of the following requirements shall be considered separate

violations of this Consent Order and are subject to stipulated penalties under this paragraph:

- a. Failure to cure deficiencies in the discharge permit application within 30 days or the time period specified in the written notification by the DEQ in accordance with paragraph 3.1 of this Consent Order.
- b. Failure to pay the avoided annual discharge permit fee or fines, in full, pursuant to paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3, by the required date, as set forth in Part 31 and Section III, Compliance Program, of this Consent Order.

- 5.4 Stipulated penalties accruing under paragraph 5.3 of this Consent Order shall be paid within 30 days after written demand by the DEQ in accordance with paragraph 5.6 of this Consent Order.
- 5.5 To ensure timely payment of the stipulated penalties, the Owner shall pay an interest penalty to the state of Michigan each time it fails to make a complete or timely payment. This interest penalty shall be based on the rate set forth at MCL 600.6013(8), using the full increment of amount due as principal, and calculated from the due date for the payment until the delinquent payment is finally made in full.
- 5.6 The Owner agrees to pay the discharge permit fees and fines in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of this Consent Order any stipulated penalties and interest penalties assessed pursuant to paragraphs 5.3 and 5.5 above by check made payable to the State of Michigan and include **Payment Identification No. WRD50003**, delivered to the Accounting Services Division, Cashier's Office for DEQ, P.O. Box 30657, Lansing, Michigan 48909 8157, or hand delivered to the Accounting Services Division, Cashier's Office for DEQ, 425 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, Michigan 48933.
- 5.7 The Owner agrees not to contest the legality of any stipulated penalties or interest penalties assessed pursuant to paragraphs 5.3 and 5.5 above, but reserves the right to dispute the factual basis upon which a demand by the DEQ for stipulated penalties or interest penalties is made. The Owner further agrees not to contest the legality of any

permit fees and fines assessed pursuant to paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of this Consent Order.

## VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 6.1 Compliance with this Consent Order resolves the Owner's violations identified herein for discharging to waters of the state without a valid permit. If the DEQ is unable to issue a final decision on the Owner's discharge permit application because the Owner fails to cure any and all deficiencies in the Owner's discharge permit application required by paragraph 3.1 of this Consent Order, the DEQ reserves the right to pursue additional enforcement activities, including commencing a civil action pursuant to section 3115 of Part 31 (MCL 324.3115), for the Owner's violations of section 3112 of Part 31 (MCL 324.3112).
- 6.2 With respect to any violations not specifically addressed and resolved by this Consent Order, the DEQ reserves the right to pursue any other remedies to which it is entitled for any failure on the part of the Owner to comply with all applicable rules and statutes.
- 6.3 The DEQ reserves the right to vacate this Consent Order after its effective date in the event the DEQ discovers:
- a. The Owner misrepresented or omitted a fact that had a bearing on the DEQ's determination that this Consent Order is applicable.
  - b. The discharge caused contamination, erosion, or other problems for which the Owner may be liable.
  - c. The Owner fails to fulfill any requirement of this Consent Order.
  - d. A discharge cannot be authorized under a permit.
- 6.4 The DEQ and the Owner consent to enforcement of this Consent Order in the same manner and by the same procedures for all final orders entered pursuant to Part 31.
- 6.5 This Consent Order in no way affects the Owner's responsibility to comply with any other applicable state, federal, or local laws or regulations.

- 6.6 Nothing in this Consent Order is or shall be considered to affect any liability that the Owner may have for natural resource damages caused by the ownership and/or operation of the facility. The state of Michigan does not waive any rights to bring an appropriate action to recover such damages to the natural resources.
- 6.7 In the event the Owner sells or transfers the facility, he or she shall advise any purchaser or transferee of the existence of this Consent Order in connection with such sale or transfer. Within 30 calendar days of a proposed sale or transfer, the Owner shall also notify the appropriate DEQ, WRD, district supervisor, in writing, of such impending sale or transfer, provide the identity and address of the prospective purchaser or transferee, and confirm the fact that notice of this Consent Order has been given to the prospective purchaser and/or transferee. The purchaser and/or transferee of the facility must agree, in writing, to assume all of the obligations of this Consent Order. A copy of the purchase agreement or other documents verifying the conveyance, along with the purchaser and/or transferee's written acceptance of this Consent Order, shall be forwarded to the appropriate DEQ, WRD, district supervisor within 30 days of the purchaser and/or transferee assuming the obligations of the Consent Order.
- 6.8 The provisions of this Consent Order shall apply to and be binding upon the parties to this action, and their successors and assigns.
- 6.9 This Consent Order constitutes a civil settlement and satisfaction as to the resolution of the violations specifically addressed herein. This Consent Order does not resolve any criminal action that may result from these same violations.

## VII. TERMINATION

- 7.1 This Consent Order shall remain in full force and effect until the date the DEQ issues a final decision on the Owner's discharge permit application. The WRD shall not issue a decision on the discharge permit application until the Owner pays, in full, any annual discharge permit fees due in accordance with paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of this Consent Order.

Signatories

The undersigned CERTIFIES he is fully authorized by the DEQ to enter into this Consent Order and to EXECUTE and LEGALLY BIND the DEQ to it.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**



Peter Ostlund, Acting Chief  
Water Resources Division

February 29, 2016  
Date

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



By: Neil Gordon, Assistant Attorney General  
For: S. Peter Manning, Chief  
Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division  
Michigan Department of Attorney General

February 29, 2016  
Date