

STATE OF LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF:

HOUSE OF RAEFORD FARMS OF
LOUISIANA, L.L.C.

AI # 25163

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE LOUISIANA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
LA. R.S. 30:2001, ET SEQ.

* Settlement Tracking No.
* SA-AE-17-0027
*
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* Enforcement Tracking No.
* AE-CN-12-00653
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SETTLEMENT

The following Settlement is hereby agreed to between House of Raeford Farms of Louisiana, L.L.C. (“Respondent”) and the Department of Environmental Quality (“DEQ” or “the Department”), under authority granted by the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act, La. R.S. 30:2001, et seq. (“the Act”).

I

Respondent is a limited liability company that owns and/or operates a chicken processing plant located in Bienville Parish, Louisiana (“the Facility”).

II

On September 19, 2013, the Department issued to Respondent a Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement No. AE-CN-12-00653 (Attachment 1).

III

Respondent denies it committed any violations or that it is liable for any fines, forfeitures and/or penalties.

IV

Nonetheless, Respondent, without making any admission of liability under state or federal statute or regulation, agrees to pay, and the Department agrees to accept, a payment in the amount of NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$95,000.00), of which Four Hundred Fifty-Seven and 36/100 Dollars (\$457.36) represents the Department's enforcement costs, in settlement of the claims set forth in this agreement. The total amount of money expended by Respondent on cash payments to the Department as described above, shall be considered a civil penalty for tax purposes, as required by La. R.S. 30:2050.7(E)(1).

V

Respondent further agrees that the Department may consider the inspection report(s), permit record(s), the Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty and this Settlement for the purpose of determining compliance history in connection with any future enforcement or permitting action by the Department against Respondent, and in any such action Respondent shall be estopped from objecting to the above-referenced documents being considered as proving the violations alleged herein for the sole purpose of determining Respondent's compliance history.

VI

This agreement shall be considered a final order of the Secretary for all purposes, including, but not limited to, enforcement under La. R.S. 30:2025(G)(2), and Respondent hereby waives any right to administrative or judicial review of the terms of this agreement, except such review as may be required for interpretation of this agreement in any action by the Department to enforce this agreement.

VII

This settlement is being made in the interest of settling the state's claims and avoiding for

both parties the expense and effort involved in litigation or an adjudicatory hearing. In agreeing to the compromise and settlement, the Department considered the factors for issuing civil penalties set forth in La. R. S. 30:2025(E) of the Act.

VIII

As required by law, the Department has submitted this Settlement Agreement to the Louisiana Attorney General for approval or rejection. The Attorney General's concurrence is appended to this Settlement Agreement.

IX

The Respondent has caused a public notice advertisement to be placed in the official journal of the parish governing authority in Bienville Parish, Louisiana. The advertisement, in form and wording approved by the Department, announced the availability of this settlement for public view and comment and the opportunity for a public hearing. Respondent has submitted an original proof-of-publication affidavit and an original public notice to the Department and, as of the date this Settlement is executed on behalf of the Department, more than forty-five (45) days have elapsed since publication of the notice.

X

Payment is to be made within ten (10) days from notice of the Secretary's signature. If payment is not received within that time, this Agreement is voidable at the option of the Department. Payments are to be made by check, payable to the Department of Environmental Quality, and mailed or delivered to the attention of Accountant Administrator, Financial Services Division, Department of Environmental Quality, Post Office Box 4303, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70821-4303. Each payment shall be accompanied by a completed Settlement Payment Form (Exhibit A).

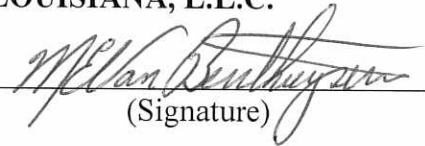
XI

In consideration of the above, any claims for penalties are hereby compromised and settled in accordance with the terms of this Settlement.

XII

Each undersigned representative of the parties certifies that he or she is fully authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of his or her respective party, and to legally bind such party to its terms and conditions.

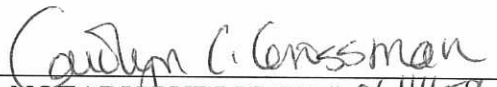
**HOUSE OF RAEFORD FARMS OF
LOUISIANA, L.L.C.**

BY: 
(Signature)

Mark Van Benthusen
(Printed)


TITLE: Complex Mgr., HOR

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this 10th day of November, 20 17, at Arcedia, LA.

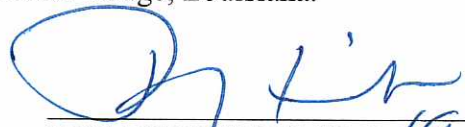

NOTARY PUBLIC (ID # 064459)

Carolyn C. Grossman
(stamped or printed)


**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**
Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D., Secretary

BY: 
Lourdes Iturralde, Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Compliance

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this 29th day of Oct, 20 18, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.


NOTARY PUBLIC (ID # 19181)

Perry Theriot
(stamped or printed)

Approved: 
Lourdes Iturralde, Assistant Secretary

Attachment 1

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR



PEGGY M. HATCH
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

September 19, 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL (7004 2510 0006 3852 9585)
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

HOUSE OF RAEFORD FARMS OF LOUISIANA, L.L.C.
c/o Randall L. Wilmore
Agent for Service of Process
2001 MacArthur Dr.
Alexandria, LA 71301

**RE: CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER
& NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY
ENFORCEMENT TRACKING NO. AE-CN-12-00653
AGENCY INTEREST NO. 25163**


Dear Sir(s):

Pursuant to the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act (La. R.S. 30:2001, et seq.), the attached **CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY** is hereby served on **HOUSE OF RAEFORD FARMS OF LOUISIANA, L.L.C. (RESPONDENT)** for the violations described therein.

Compliance is expected within the maximum time period established by each part of the **COMPLIANCE ORDER**. The violations cited in the **CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY** could result in the issuance of a civil penalty or other appropriate legal actions.

Any questions concerning this action should be directed to Richard LeBlanc at (225) 219-3165.

Sincerely,


Celena J. Cage
Administrator
Enforcement Division

CJC/RDL/rdl
Alt ID No. 0360-00008
Attachment

c: House of Raeford Farms
P.O. Box 707
Arcadia, LA 71001

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

IN THE MATTER OF	*	
	*	
HOUSE OF RAEFORD FARMS	*	ENFORCEMENT TRACKING NO.
OF LOUISIANA, L.L.C.	*	
BIENVILLE PARISH	*	AE-CN-12-00653
ALT ID NO. 0360-00008	*	
	*	
	*	AGENCY INTEREST NO.
PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE LOUISIANA	*	
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT,	*	25163
La. R.S. 30:2001, ET SEQ.	*	

CONSOLIDATED
COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY

The following **CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY** is issued to **HOUSE OF RAEFORD FARMS OF LOUISIANA, L.L.C. (RESPONDENT)** by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (the Department), under the authority granted by the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act (the Act), La. R.S. 30:2001, et seq., and particularly by La. R.S. 30:2025(C), 30:2050.2 and 30:2050.3(B).

FINDINGS OF FACT

I.

The Respondent owns and/or operates House of Raeford Farms (facility), a chicken processing plant located at 3867 Second Street near Arcadia in Bienville Parish, Louisiana. The facility currently operates under Minor Source Air Permit No. 0360-00008-04 issued on September 14, 2004.

II.

On or about May 15, 2012, through May 16, 2012, the Department conducted a full compliance audit for the Chemical Accident Prevention Program provisions set forth in LAC 33:III.5901. Additionally, the Department conducted a file review for the facility on or about April 3, 2013.

While the Department's investigation is not yet complete, the following violations were noted during the inspection and file review:

- A. The Respondent failed to register with the Office of Environmental Compliance within sixty (60) days of becoming subject to LAC Title 33 Part III Chapter 59. Specifically, the facility failed to register since becoming subject to Chapter 59 on or about September 2000 until a registration was submitted on or about May 21, 2012. The failure to submit a timely registration is a violation of LAC 33:III.5911.A and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(2).
- B. The Respondent failed to pay the Accident Prevention Program Annual Maintenance Fees. Specifically, the Respondent has not paid the Accident Prevention Program Annual Maintenance Fees since becoming subject to Chapter 59 on or about September 2000. The failure to pay annual maintenance fees is a violation of LAC 33:III.209.A and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(2).
- C. The Respondent failed to conduct a process hazard analysis as soon as possible. Specifically, the Respondent conducted an adequate process hazard analysis in 2010; however, the 2010 analysis was the first conducted at the facility since becoming subject to Chapter 59 on or about September 2000. The failure to conduct a process hazard analysis as soon as possible is a violation of LAC 33:III.5901.A, which incorporates by reference 40 CFR 68.67(a), and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(2).

COMPLIANCE ORDER

Based on the foregoing, the Respondent is hereby ordered:

I.

To take, immediately upon receipt of this **COMPLIANCE ORDER**, any and all steps necessary to meet and maintain compliance with the Air Quality Regulations, including, but not limited to, the Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions.

II.

To submit to the Enforcement Division, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this **COMPLIANCE ORDER**, a written report that includes a detailed description of the circumstances surrounding the cited violations and actions taken or to be taken to achieve compliance with the Order Portion of this **COMPLIANCE ORDER**. This report and all other reports or information required to be submitted to the Enforcement Division by this **COMPLIANCE ORDER** shall be submitted to:

Office of Environmental Compliance
Post Office Box 4312
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4312
Attn: **Richard LeBlanc**
Re: **Enforcement Tracking No. AE-CN-12-00653**
Agency Interest No. 25163

THE RESPONDENT SHALL FURTHER BE ON NOTICE THAT:

I.

The Respondent has a right to an adjudicatory hearing on a disputed issue of material fact or of law arising from this **COMPLIANCE ORDER**. This right may be exercised by filing a written request with the Secretary no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of this **COMPLIANCE ORDER**.

II.

The request for an adjudicatory hearing shall specify the provisions of the **COMPLIANCE ORDER** on which the hearing is requested and shall briefly describe the basis for the request. This request should reference the Enforcement Tracking Number and Agency Interest Number, which are located in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of this document and should be directed to the following:

Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary
Post Office Box 4302
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4302
Attn: Hearings Clerk, Legal Division
Re: Enforcement Tracking No. AE-CN-12-00653
Agency Interest No. 25163

III.

Upon the Respondent's timely filing a request for a hearing, a hearing on the disputed issue of material fact or of law regarding this **COMPLIANCE ORDER** may be scheduled by the Secretary of the Department. The hearing shall be governed by the Act, the Administrative Procedure Act (La. R.S. 49:950, et seq.), and the Department's Rules of Procedure. The Department may amend or supplement this **COMPLIANCE ORDER** prior to the hearing, after providing sufficient notice and an opportunity for the preparation of a defense for the hearing.

IV.

This **COMPLIANCE ORDER** shall become a final enforcement action unless the request for hearing is timely filed. Failure to timely request a hearing constitutes a waiver of the Respondent's right to a hearing on a disputed issue of material fact or of law under Section 2050.4 of the Act for the violation(s) described herein.

V.

The Respondent's failure to request a hearing or to file an appeal or the Respondent's withdrawal of a request for hearing on this **COMPLIANCE ORDER** shall not preclude the Respondent from contesting the findings of facts in any subsequent penalty action addressing the same violation(s), although the Respondent is estopped from objecting to this **COMPLIANCE ORDER** becoming a permanent part of its compliance history.

VI.

Civil penalties of not more than twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$27,500) for each day of violation for the violation(s) described herein may be assessed. For violations which occurred on August 15, 2004, or after, civil penalties of not more than thirty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$32,500) may be assessed for each day of violation. The Respondent's failure or refusal to comply with this **COMPLIANCE ORDER** and the provisions herein will subject the Respondent to possible enforcement procedures under La. R.S. 30:2025, which could result in the assessment of a civil penalty in an amount of not more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for each day of continued violation or noncompliance.

VII.

For each violation described herein, the Department reserves the right to seek civil penalties in any manner allowed by law, and nothing herein shall be construed to preclude the right to seek such penalties.

NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY

I.

Pursuant to La. R.S. 30:2050.3(B), you are hereby notified that the issuance of a penalty assessment is being considered for the violation(s) described herein. Written comments may be filed regarding the violation(s) and the contemplated penalty. If you elect to submit comments, it is requested that they be submitted within ten (10) days of receipt of this notice.

II.

Prior to the issuance of additional appropriate enforcement action(s), you may request a meeting with the Department to present any mitigating circumstances concerning the violation(s). If you would like to have such a meeting, please contact Richard LeBlanc at (225) 219-3165 within ten (10) days of receipt of this **NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY**.

III.

The Department is required by La. R.S. 30:2025(E)(3)(a) to consider the gross revenues of the Respondent and the monetary benefits of noncompliance to determine whether a penalty will be assessed and the amount of such penalty. Please forward the Respondent's most current annual gross revenue statement along with a statement of the monetary benefits of noncompliance for the cited violation(s) to the above named contact person within ten (10) days of receipt of this **NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY**. Include with your statement of monetary benefits the method(s) you utilized to arrive at the sum. If you assert that no monetary benefits have been gained, you are to fully justify that statement.

IV.

This **CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY** is effective upon receipt.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 19 day of September, 2013.

CSN

Cheryl Sonnier Nolan
Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Compliance

Copies of a request for a hearing and/or related correspondence should be sent to:

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Compliance
Enforcement Division
P.O. Box 4312
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312
Attention: Richard LeBlanc