

STATE OF LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF:

CITY OF PLAQUEMINE

AI # 26034

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

* **Settlement Tracking No.**
* **SA-AE-23-0059**
*
* **Enforcement Tracking No.**
* **AE-CN-19-00231**
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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The following Settlement Agreement is hereby agreed to between City of Plaquemine (“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 governmental entity that owned and/or operated an electric power generation plant located in Plaquemine, Iberville Parish, Louisiana (“the Facility”).

II

On July 13, 2021, the Department issued to Respondent a Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement Tracking No. AE-CN-19-00231 (Exhibit 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 NINE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$9,000.00), of which Seven Hundred Seventy and 50/100 Dollars (\$770.50) represents the Department's enforcement costs, in settlement of the claims set forth in this Settlement 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 Agreement 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 Settlement 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 Settlement Agreement in any action by the Department to enforce this Settlement Agreement.

VII

This Settlement Agreement 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 Agreement, 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 Iberville Parish, Louisiana. The advertisement, in form and wording approved by the Department, announced the availability of this Settlement Agreement 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 Agreement 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 Settlement 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 attached hereto.

XI

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

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.

CITY OF PLAQUEMINE

BY: _____
(Signature)

(Printed)

TITLE: _____

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____, at _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC (ID # _____)

(stamped or printed)

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Roger W. Gingles, Secretary

BY: _____
Celena J. Cage, Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Compliance

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

NOTARY PUBLIC (ID # _____)

(stamped or printed)

Approved:  _____
Celena J. Cage, Assistant Secretary



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

CHUCK CARR BROWN, PH.D.
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

JUL 13 2021

CERTIFIED MAIL (7020 1290 0001 0463 1668
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED



CITY OF PLAQUEMINE
c/o Honorable Edwin M. Reeves, Jr., Mayor
P. O. Box 675
Plaquemine, LA 70765

**RE: CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER
& NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY
ENFORCEMENT TRACKING NO. AE-CN-19-00231
AGENCY INTEREST NO. 26034**

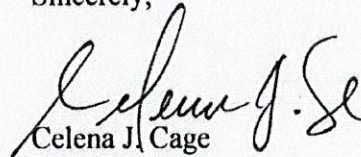
Dear Sir:

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 the **CITY OF PLAQUEMINE (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 Mark E. Brown at (225) 219-3782, or mark.brown@la.gov.

Sincerely,


Celena J. Cage
Administrator
Enforcement Division

CJC/MEB/meb
Alt ID No. 1280-00026
Attachment

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

IN THE MATTER OF	*	
	*	
CITY OF PLAQUEMINE	*	ENFORCEMENT TRACKING NO.
IBERVILLE PARISH	*	
ALT ID NO. 1280-00026	*	AE-CN-19-00231
	*	
PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE LOUISIANA	*	AGENCY INTEREST NO.
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT,	*	
La. R.S. 30:2001, ET SEQ.	*	26034

CONSOLIDATED
COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY

The following **CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY** is issued to the **CITY OF PLAQUEMINE (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 owned and/or operated the Plaquemine Steam Power Plant, an electric power generation plant, located at 59335 W.W. Harleaux Street in Plaquemine, Iberville Parish, Louisiana. The facility operated under Title V Permit No. 1280-00026-V2 issued to Louisiana Energy and Power Authority on May 9, 2012. The permit was transferred to the Respondent effective May 15, 2015. In correspondence dated February 9, 2018, the Respondent requested rescission of the facility's permit and stated that the facility had been closed since July 1, 2015. Title V Permit No. 1280-00026-V2 was rescinded on March 12, 2018.

II.

On or about August 8, 2017, and June 28, 2021, the Department conducted an inspection and a subsequent file review to determine the degree of compliance with the Act and the Air Quality

Regulations. While the investigation by the Department is not yet complete, the following violations were noted during the course of the inspection and subsequent file review:

The Respondent failed to timely submit the Title V Annual Compliance Certifications, the Title V Semiannual Monitoring and Deviation Reports, and the Annual Criteria Pollutant Emissions Certification Statements as shown below:

Report	Due Date	Submittal Date
2016 Annual Compliance Certification	March 31, 2017	April 25, 2019
2016 First Semiannual Monitoring Report	September 30, 2016	
2016 Second Semiannual Monitoring Report	March 31, 2017	Failed to submit
2017 Annual Compliance Certification	March 31, 2018	April 25, 2019
2017 First Semiannual Monitoring Report	September 30, 2017	
2017 Second Semiannual Monitoring Report	March 31, 2018	
2017 Annual Criteria Pollutant Emissions Certification Statement	May 18, 2018 (extended)	
2018 First Semiannual Monitoring Report	September 30, 2018	
2018 Annual Compliance Certification	March 31, 2019	April 25, 2019

Each failure to submit the Title V Annual Compliance Certification by the due date is a violation of Part 70 General Condition M, Specific Requirement (SR) 24 of Title V Permit No. 1280-00026-V2, LAC 33:III.501.C.4, and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(2). Each failure to submit the Semiannual Monitoring and Deviation Report by the due date is a violation of Part 70 General Condition K, SR 24 of Title V Permit No. 1280-00026-V2, LAC 33:III.501.C.4, and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(2). Each failure to submit the Annual Criteria Pollutant Emissions Certification Statement by the due date is a violation of SR 29 of Title V Permit No. 1280-00026-V2, LAC 33:III.919.F.1.d, LAC 33:III.501.C.4 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.

II.

To submit to the Enforcement Division, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this **COMPLIANCE ORDER**, a complete and accurate Semiannual Monitoring and Deviation Report for the Second Half of 2016.

III.

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: Mark E. Brown
Re: Enforcement Tracking No. AE-CN-19-00231
Agency Interest No. 26034

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-19-00231
Agency Interest No. 26034

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 Division of Administrative Law (DAL) Procedural Rules.

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 violations 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 violations, 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 violations 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 violations described herein. Written comments may be filed

regarding the violations 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 violations. If you would like to have such a meeting, please contact Mark E. Brown at (225) 219-3782 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 violations 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. If the Respondent chooses not to submit the requested most current annual gross revenues statement within ten (10) days, it will be viewed by the Department as an admission that the Respondent has the ability to pay the statutory maximum penalty as outlined in La. R.S. 30:2025.

IV.

The Department assesses civil penalties based on LAC 33:1.Subpart1.Chapter7. To expedite closure of this **NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY** portion, the Respondent may offer a settlement amount to resolve any claim for civil penalties for the violations described herein. The Respondent may offer a settlement amount, but the Department is under no obligation to enter into settlement negotiations. The decision to proceed with a settlement is at the discretion of the Department. The settlement offer amount may be entered on the attached "**CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY REQUEST TO CLOSE**" form. The Respondent must include a justification of the offer. **DO NOT** submit payment of the offer amount with the form. The Department will review the settlement offer and notify the Respondent as to whether the offer is or is not accepted.

v.

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

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 13th day of July, 2021.



Lourdes Iturralde
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: Mark E. Brown

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
 OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE
 ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
 POST OFFICE BOX 4312
 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70821-4312

CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER &
 NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY
 REQUEST TO CLOSE



Enforcement Tracking No.	AE-CN-19-00231	Contact Name	Mark E. Brown
Agency Interest (AI) No.	26034	Contact Phone No.	(225) 215-3782
Alternate ID No.	1280-00026		
Respondent:	City of Plaquemine	Facility Name:	Plaquemine Steam Power Plant
	c/o Honorable Edwin M. Reeves, Jr., Mayor	Physical Location:	59335 W.W. Harleaux Street
	Agent for Service of Process		
	P. O. Box 675	City, State, Zip:	Plaquemine, LA 70764
	Plaquemine, LA 70765	Parish:	Iberville

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE	Date Completed	Copy Attached?
A written report was submitted in accordance with Paragraph III of the "Order" portion of the COMPLIANCE ORDER.		
All necessary documents were submitted to the Department within 30 days of receipt of the COMPLIANCE ORDER in accordance with Paragraph II of the "Order" portion of the COMPLIANCE ORDER.		
All Items in the "Findings of Fact" portion of the COMPLIANCE ORDER were addressed and the facility is being operated to meet and maintain the requirements of the "Order" portion of the COMPLIANCE ORDER. Final compliance was achieved as of:		

SETTLEMENT OFFER (OPTIONAL)

(check the applicable option)

<input type="checkbox"/>	The Respondent is not interested in entering into settlement negotiations with the Department with the understanding that the Department has the right to assess civil penalties based on LAC 33:I.Subpart 1.Chapter 7.
<input type="checkbox"/>	In order to resolve any claim for civil penalties for the violations in CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY AE-CN-19-00231, the Respondent is interested in entering into settlement negotiations with the Department and would like to set up a meeting to discuss settlement procedures.
<input type="checkbox"/>	In order to resolve any claim for civil penalties for the violations in CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY AE-CN-19-00231, the Respondent is interested in entering into settlement negotiations with the Department and offers to pay \$ _____ which shall include LDEQ enforcement costs and any monetary benefit of non-compliance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monetary component = \$ _____ • Beneficial Environmental Project (BEP) component (optional)= \$ _____ • DO NOT SUBMIT PAYMENT OF THE OFFER WITH THIS FORM- the Department will review the settlement offer and notify the Respondent as to whether the offer is or is not accepted.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Respondent has reviewed the violations noted in CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY AE-CN-19-00231, and has attached a justification of its offer and a description of any BEPs if included in settlement offer.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

I certify, under provisions in Louisiana and United States law that provide criminal penalties for false statements, that based on information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the statements and information attached and the compliance statement above, are true, accurate, and complete. I also certify that I do not owe outstanding fees or penalties to the Department for this facility or any other facility I own or operate. I further certify that I am either the Respondent or an authorized representative of the Respondent.

Respondent's Signature	Respondent's Printed Name	Respondent's Title
Respondent's Physical Address	Respondent's Phone #	Date
MAIL COMPLETED DOCUMENT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:		
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Compliance Enforcement Division P.O. Box 4312 Baton Rouge, LA 70821 Attn: Mark Brown		