

STATE OF LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF:

WAPITI OPERATING, LLC

AI # 166513

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

* **Settlement Tracking No.**
* **SA-WE-23-0075**
*
* **Enforcement Tracking No.**
* **WE-CN-22-00686**
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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The following Settlement Agreement is hereby agreed to between Wapiti Operating, LLC (“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 an oil and gas production facility located in Lafitte, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana (“the Facility”).

II

On March 9, 2023, the Department issued to Respondent a Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement Tracking No. WE-CN-22-00686 (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 ELEVEN THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$11,000.00), of which Two Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Five and 29/100 Dollars (\$2,735.29) 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 Jefferson 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 thirty (30) 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.

WAPITI OPERATING, LLC

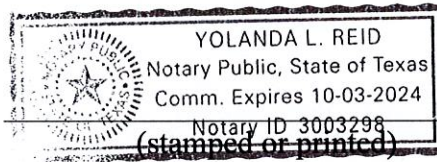
BY: Roger D. Britton
(Signature)

Roger D. Britton
(Printed)

TITLE: Vice President Production

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this 3 day of January, 20 24, at 11:03 a.m - Houston, TX.

Yolanda L. Reid
NOTARY PUBLIC (ID # _____)

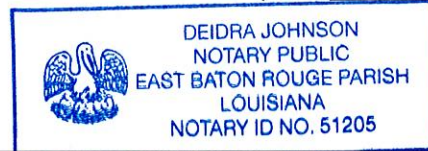


LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BY: Arreia S. Ercanometto
Arreia S. Ercanometto, Secretary


THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this 3rd day of April, 20 24, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Deidra Johnson
NOTARY PUBLIC (ID # 51205)



(stamped or printed)

Approved: Celena J. Cage
Celena J. Cage, Assistant Secretary

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		
Enforcement Tracking No.	WE-CN-22-00686	Certified Mail No.	7021 1970 0000 3978 9036	
Agency Interest (A) No.	166513	Contact Name	Scott B. Pierce	
Alternate ID No.	LAG33A968	Contact Phone No.	(225) 219-3723	
Respondent:	Wapiti Operating, LLC	Facility Name:	Manila Village Commingling Facility #1	
	c/o Capitol Corporate Services, Inc.	Physical Location:	14.2 miles southeast of Lafitte	
	Agent for Service of Process			
	8550 United Plaza Building II, Ste. 305 Baton Rouge, LA 70809	City, State, Zip: Parish:	Lafitte, LA Jefferson	
This CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY is issued 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				
An authorized representative of the Department inspected the abovementioned facility or conducted a file review of the facility to determine the degree of compliance with regulations promulgated in the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 33. The State regulatory citations for the violation(s) identified during the inspection and/or file review are indicated below.				
I.	The Respondent owns and/or operates an oil and gas production facility located 14.2 miles southeast of Lafitte, in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. The Respondent was granted authorization under Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) General Permit LAG33A968 effective on August 1, 2016, with an expiration date of January 31, 2021. LPDES General Permit LAG33A968 was administratively continued until it was reissued on June 8, 2021. LPDES General Permit LAG33A968 will expire on May 4, 2026. Under the terms and conditions of LPDES General Permit LAG33A968, the Respondent is permitted to discharge wastewater associated with oil and gas exploration, development, and production facilities located within Coastal Waters of Louisiana into Spoonbill Bay, thence into the Barataria Bay Waterway, all waters of the state.			
	Date of Violation	Description of Violation		
II.	Inspection(s) & File Review 8/16/2021 5/2/2022 1/5/2023	The Respondent failed to comply with LPDES Permit LAG33A968. Specifically, the Respondent failed to notify the Department, in writing, of any change at the facility which result in the addition or elimination/change of a permitted outfall. The written notification is also required to be accompanied by a site diagram that clearly illustrates and identifies current outfalls at the site. The inspections revealed that an additional tank battery was installed at some point between October 2012 and January 2015. A review of the files at the facility during the inspection as well as those files received by the Department revealed that no written notification had been submitted by the Respondent, or received by the Department as of the issuance of LPDES Permit LAG33A968 on August 1, 2016, to account for the resulting additional deck drainage discharges and/or deck drainage wastewater volumes generated by the additional tank battery. (LPDES Permit LAG33A968 (Part I, Section A and Part III, Section A.2), La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(3), and LAC 33:IX.2701.A)		
III.	Inspection(s) 8/16/2021 5/2/2022	The Respondent failed to comply with LPDES Permit LAG33A968. Specifically, the Respondent failed to provide information requested by the Department during the inspections to determine compliance with the permit. Various records and documentation were requested by the Department that the Respondent did not or could not provide. The requested records and documentation pertained to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deck drainage observations during March through May 2019, • Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) preparation and implementation following the June 29, 2021 spill incident. • The January 2021 Spill Prevention and Control (SPC) Plan review session. • Annual spill prevention briefing records from February 2019 to August 2021. • Inspections and/or tests conducted since Hurricane Ida. (LPDES Permit LAG33A968 (Part III, Sections A.2 and 8), La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(3), and LAC 33:IX.2701.H)		
IV.	Inspection(s) 8/16/2021 5/2/2022	The Respondent failed to comply with LPDES Permit LAG33A968. Specifically, upon a review of deck drainage monitoring records for February 2019, and April 2019 through August 2021, provided by the Respondent, it was revealed that the Respondent failed to include an exact place and time the monitoring occurred. (LPDES Permit LAG33A968 (Part III, Sections A.2 and C.4.a), La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(3), and LAC 33:IX.2701.J.3.a)		
V.	Inspection(s) & File Review 8/16/2021 1/5/2023	The Respondent caused and/or allowed the discharge of crude oil to the ground and waters of the state. Specifically, the Respondent released 25 barrels (bbls) of crude oil to ground and waters of the state. Per the initial and follow-up reports dated July 4, 2021, and February 28, 2022, respectively, the release of the crude oil was a result of an overflow of a 1000-bbl produced water tank which was caused by an unplanned shutdown of the saltwater disposal (SWD) pump. The release was to the canal adjacent to the facility. (La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(1)(a), LAC 33:IX.1701.B and LAC 33:IX.501.D)		
VI.	Inspection(s) & File Review 8/16/2021 5/2/2022 1/5/2023	The Respondent failed to submit a complete written report. Specifically, the Respondent failed to provide details of the circumstances and events leading to the unauthorized discharge of crude oil that occurred on June 29, 2021. The Respondent's initial and follow-up reports dated July 4, 2021, and February 28, 2022, failed to clearly explained how the SWD pump shut-down affected the overfilling of the produced water tank, or what caused the Respondent to have an unplanned shut-down of the SWD pump, or why did the level safety system present on the produced water tank not shut-in the facility to prevent further filling of the tank, or why the spilled material was not contained within the secondary containment walls of the tank battery barge. (La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(3) and LAC 33:IX.3925.B.4)		



<p>VII.</p>	<p>Inspection(s) 8/16/2021 5/2/2022</p>	<p>The Respondent failed to comply with LPDES Permit LAG33A968. Specifically, the Respondent failed to implement Other Best Management Practices (BMPs) (Additional SPC Measures) required by LPDES Permit LAG33A968, Section K.</p> <p>The August 16, 2021 inspection revealed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piping valves routing deck drainage to the sump were closed, instead open valves were configured to route deck drainage directly to surface waters. • Ambient water was free-flowing around the plug installed within the drainage hole of the containment wall, thus entering the containment area of the barge and accumulating to the point where ambient water levels were higher than the effluent piping exiting the containment area. • A silver sheen was present on the surface waters surrounding the facility near the sump. <p>The May 2, 2022 inspection revealed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deck drainage drain hole was not connected to any piping or to the sump, and the plug was not installed. • Piping which directs deck drainage to the sump located at the northeast corner of the barge was disconnected, albeit the valve on the disconnected piping was oriented in the closed position. • A drain hole located near the northwest corner of the barge, leading to a portion of decking outside of the containment area directly above surface waters was open. The associated plug for this drain hole was present at the location of that outside decking, with an accumulation of water, and a light silver sheen on the surface of the surrounding waters below this location. • Drainage from the diked areas of both the production and tank battery storage and the produced water storage tank battery barges, was not routed to the sump system, and the existing drain hole outlets from within the diked areas were not sealed. • An accumulation of oily material was present along the drainage area within the production and tank battery storage barge as well as an accumulation of oily equipment and sorbent material on the decking outside of containment. <p>(LPDES Permit LAG33A968 (Part II, Section K, and Part III, Sections A.2), La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(3), and LAC 33.IX.708.C.1.b)</p>
<p>VIII.</p>	<p>Inspection(s) 8/16/2021 5/2/2022</p>	<p>The Respondent failed to implement the SPC plan. Specifically, a review of the Respondent's SPC plan during the inspections revealed that the following measures were not implemented by the Respondent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan states an amendment will be conducted prior to, or concurrent with applicable storage capacity facility design modifications. The Respondent removed 3 storage tanks, an oil storage barge, a SWD pump, and a compressor unit, which was not reflected in Section 3.1 of the plan, • The plan did not designate a person accountable for spill prevention within Appendix C, as specified in Section 10.2 of the plan, • The plan did not include a spill prevention briefing documentaion form within Appendix A, as specified in Section 10.3 of the plan, • High-level liquid protection was not provided as stated in Section 14.2 and Appendix B of the plan. According to the plan, protective measure were to include a high-level liquid sensor that when activated, would close the appropriate safety valve, thus shutting down production flow to the tank. The above spill event was evidence that the installed sensors were not implemented as described in the plan, and • Secondary containment measures for bulk storage tanks were not provided as described in Section 7.0 and Appendix B of the plan. Specifically, the Respondent bypassed the sump system and allowed the presence of open drain holes in communication with surrounding surface waters, thus rendering the secondary containment designs ineffective, and the given described capacities to be inaccurate. <p>(La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(1)(a) and LAC 33:IX.905.B)</p>
<p>Based on the foregoing, the Respondent is hereby ordered to comply with the requirements that are indicated below:</p>		
<p>I.</p>	<p>To take, Immediately upon receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER, any and all steps necessary to meet and maintain compliance with the Water Quality Regulations. This shall include, but not be limited to; correcting <u>all</u> of the violations described in the "Findings of Fact" portion.</p>	
<p>II.</p>	<p>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 violation(s) 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 the Department at the address specified in this document.</p>	
<p>III.</p>	<p>To prepare and implement, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER, a SPC Plan that adequately addresses and/or corrects the violations described in Paragraphs VII and VIII of the "Findings of Fact" portion, and submit a copy to the Enforcement Division within forty-five (45) days after receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER.</p>	
<p>IV.</p>	<p>To develop and implement, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER, an adequate and complete SWPPP as outlined in Section R of LPDES Permit LAG33A968, and submit a copy to the Enforcement Division within forty-five (45) days after receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER.</p>	
<p>V.</p>	<p>To submit written notification to the Water Permits Division, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER, a written notification detailing the facility changes described in Paragraph II of the "Findings of Fact" portion, or any additional facility changes since the issuance of LPDES Permit LAG33A968, accompanied by a site diagram that clearly illustrates and identifies current outfalls at the site. A copy of this notification shall also be submitted to the Enforcement Division, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER.</p>	

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 left-hand corner of the first page of this document and should be directed to the address specified in this document.
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's (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 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 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 Scott B. Pierce at (225) 219-3723 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. 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 violation(s) 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 may submit the settlement offer within one hundred and eighty (180) days of receipt of this NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY portion but no later than ninety (90) days of achieving compliance with the COMPLIANCE ORDER portion. 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.
CONTACTS AND DELIVERY INFORMATION	
Enforcement Division: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Compliance Water Enforcement Division Post Office Box 4312 Baton Rouge, LA 70821 Attn: Scott B. Pierce	Hearing Requests: 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. WE-CN-22-00686 Agency Interest No. 166513
Water Permits Division (if necessary): Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Services Post Office Box 4313 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313 Attn: Water Permits Division	Physical Address (if hand delivered): Department of Environmental Quality 602 N Fifth Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802

- To appeal the **CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY**, the Respondent must follow the guidelines set forth in the "Right to Appeal" portion of this **CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY**.
- To request closure of the **COMPLIANCE ORDER** portion, the Respondent must demonstrate compliance with the "Order" portion of this **COMPLIANCE ORDER** by completing the attached "**CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY REQUEST TO CLOSE**" form and returning it to the address specified.
 - Before requesting closure of the **COMPLIANCE ORDER** portion, please contact the Financial Services Division at 225-219-3865 or email them at _DEQ-WWWFinancialServices@la.gov to determine if you owe outstanding fees.
- To expedite closure of the **NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY** portion, the Respondent may offer a settlement amount to resolve any claim for civil penalties for the violation(s) described herein.
 - The Department assesses civil penalties based on LAC 33:1.Subpart1.Chapter7.
 - The Respondent may offer a settlement amount but the Department is under no obligation to enter into settlement negotiations. It is decided upon on a discretionary basis.
 - 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.
 - Before requesting closure of the **NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY** portion, please contact the Financial Services Division at 225-219-3865 or email them at _DEQ-WWWFinancialServices@la.gov to determine if you owe outstanding fees.

If you have questions or need more information, you may contact Scott B. Pierce at (225) 219-3723 or scott.pierce@la.gov.




 Celena J. Cage
 Assistant Secretary
 Office of Environmental Compliance

Date: 03/09/2023

cc: Wapiti Operating LLC
c/o Rob Brett
1310 W. Sam Houston Pkwy.
Houston, TX 77403

Attachment(s)

- Request to Close
- Settlement Brochure

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.	WE-CN-22-00686	Contact Name	Scott B. Pierce	
Agency Interest (AI) No.	166513	Contact Phone No.	(225) 219-3723	
Alternate ID No.	LAG33A968			
Respondent:	Wapiti Operating, LLC	Facility Name:	Manila Village Commingling Facility #1	
	c/o Capitol Corporate Services, Inc. Agent for Service of Process	Physical Location:	14.2 miles southeast of Lafitte	
	8550 United Plaza Building II, Ste. 305 Baton Rouge, LA 70809	City, State, Zip:	Lafitte, LA	
		Parish:	Jefferson	
STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE			Date Completed	Copy Attached?
A written report was submitted in accordance with Paragraph II 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 V of the "Order" portion of the COMPLIANCE ORDER.				
All necessary documents were submitted to the Department within 45 days of receipt of the COMPLIANCE ORDER in accordance with Paragraphs III and IV 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:				
(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 33:1.Subpart1.Chapter 7.			
<input type="checkbox"/>	In order to resolve any claim for civil penalties for the violations in NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY (WE-CN-22-00686), 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 NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY (WE-CN-22-00686), 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 NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY (WE-CN-22-00686) and has attached a justification of its offer and a description of any BEPs if included in settlement offer.			
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 Post Office Box 4312 Baton Rouge, LA 70821 Attn: Scott B. Pierce				

If you have questions or need more information, you may contact Scott B. Pierce at (225) 219-3723 or scott.pierce@la.gov.

WHAT IS A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT?

Once the Department has determined that a penalty is warranted for a violation, the Assistant Secretary of the Department, with the concurrence of the Attorney General, may enter into a settlement agreement with the Respondent as a means to resolve the Department's claim for a penalty.

HOW DOES THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT PROCESS WORK?

To begin the settlement agreement process, the Department must receive a written settlement offer. Once this offer is submitted, it is sent for approval by the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Environmental Compliance. The formal Settlement Agreement is drafted and sent to the Attorney General's office where the Attorney General has a 90 day concurrence period. During this time, the Respondent is required to run a public notice in an official journal and/or newspaper of general circulation in each affected parish. After which, a 45 day public comment period is opened to allow the public to submit comments. Once the Department has received concurrence, the settlement agreement is signed by both parties. The Department then forwards a letter to the responsible party to establish a payment plan and/or beneficial environmental project (BEP).

WHAT SHOULD I INCLUDE IN A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT?

The Department uses the penalty determination method defined in LAC 33:1.705 as a guideline to accepting settlement offers. The penalty matrix is used to determine a penalty range for each violation based on the two violation specific factors, the nature and gravity of the violation and the degree of risk/impact to human health and property.

		NATURE AND GRAVITY OF THE VIOLATION		
		MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR
DEGREE OF RISK OR IMPACT TO HUMAN HEALTH OR PROPERTY	MAJOR	\$32,500 to \$20,000	\$20,000 to \$15,000	\$15,000 to \$11,000
	MODERATE	\$11,000 to \$8,000	\$8,000 to \$5,000	\$5,000 to \$3,000
	MINOR	\$3,000 to \$1,500	\$1,500 to \$500	\$500 to \$100

Degree of Risk to Human Health or Property

Major: (actual measurable harm or substantial risk of harm) A violation of major impact to an environmental resource or a hazard characterized by high volume and/or frequent occurrence and/or high pollutant concentration.

Moderate: (potential for measurable detrimental impact) A violation of moderate impact and hazard may be one characterized by occasional occurrence and/or pollutant concentration that may be expected to have a detrimental effect under certain conditions

Minor: (no harm or risk of harm) A violation of minor impact are isolated single incidences and that cause no measurable detrimental effect or are administrative in nature.

Nature and Gravity of the Violation

Major: Violations of statutes, regulations, orders, permit limits, or permit requirements that result in negating the intent of the requirement to such an extent that little or no implementation of requirements occurred.

Moderate: Violations that result in substantially negating the intent of the requirements, but some implementation of the requirements occurred

Minor: Violations that result in some deviation from the intent of the requirement; however, substantial implementation is demonstrated.

The range is adjusted using the following violator specific factors:

1. history of previous violations or repeated noncompliance;
2. gross revenues generated by the respondent;
3. degree of culpability, recalcitrance, defiance, or indifference to regulations or orders;
4. whether the Respondent has failed to mitigate or to make a reasonable attempt to mitigate the damages caused by the violation; and
5. whether the violation and the surrounding circumstances were immediately reported to the department, and whether the violation was concealed or there was an attempt to conceal by the Respondent.



Given the previous information, the following formula is used to obtain a penalty amount.

$$\text{Penalty Event Total} = \text{Penalty Event Minimum} + (\text{Adjustment Percentage} \times (\text{Penalty Event Maximum} - \text{Penalty Event Minimum}))$$

After this, the Department adds any monetary benefit of noncompliance to the penalty event. In the event that a monetary benefit is gained due to the delay of a cost that is ultimately paid, the Department adds the applicable judicial interest. Finally, the Department adds all response costs including, but not limited to, the cost of conducting inspections, and the staff time devoted to the preparation of reports and issuing enforcement actions.

WHAT IS A BEP?

A BEP is a project that provides for environmental mitigation which the respondent is not otherwise legally required to perform, but which the defendant/respondent agrees to undertake as a component of the settlement agreement.

Project categories for BEPs include public health, pollution prevention, pollution reduction, environmental restoration and protection, assessments and audits, environmental compliance promotion, and emergency planning, preparedness and response. Other projects may be considered if the Department determines that these projects have environmental merit and is otherwise fully consistent with the intent of the BEP regulations.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY OFFER IS REJECTED?

If an offer is rejected by the Assistant Secretary, the Legal Division will contact the responsible party, or anyone designated as an appropriate contact in the settlement offer, to discuss any discrepancies.

WHERE CAN I FIND EXAMPLES AND MORE INFORMATION?

Settlement Offers	searchable in EDMS using the following filters Media: Air Quality, Function: Enforcement, Description: Settlement
Settlement Agreements	Enforcement Division's website specific examples can be provided upon request
Penalty Determination Method	LAC 33:I Chapter 7
Beneficial Environmental Projects	LAC 33:I Chapter 25
Judicial Interest.....	FAQs provided by the Louisiana State Bar Association

