

STATE OF LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF:

ALMA PLANTATION, L.L.C.

AI # 1305

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

* Settlement Tracking No.
* SA-AE-21-0050
*
* Enforcement Tracking No.
* AE-CN-18-00147
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SETTLEMENT

The following Settlement is hereby agreed to between Alma Plantation, 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 sugar cane grinding and sugar production facility located in Lakeland, Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana (“the Facility”).

II

On July 9, 2019, the Department issued to Respondent a Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement No. AE-CN-18-00147 (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 SIX THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$6,000.00), of which One Thousand Seventy-One and 42/100 Dollars (\$1,071.42) 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 Pointe Coupee 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.

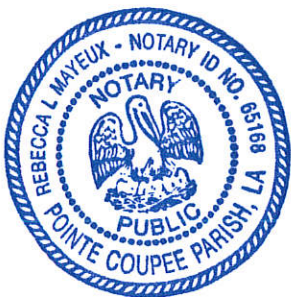
ALMA PLANTATION, L.L.C.

BY: [Signature]
(Signature)

David Stewart
(Printed)

TITLE: General manager

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this 26th day of October, 20 21, at New Roads, Louisiana.



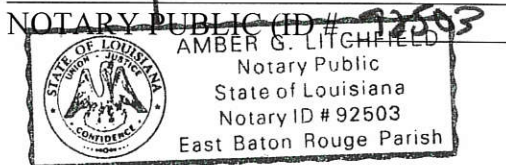
Rebecca L. Mayeux
NOTARY PUBLIC (ID # 05168)

Rebecca L. Mayeux
(stamped or printed)

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

BY: [Signature]
Celena J. Cage, Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Compliance

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this 24th day of March, 20 22, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



(stamped or printed)

Approved: [Signature]
Lourdes Iturralde, 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**



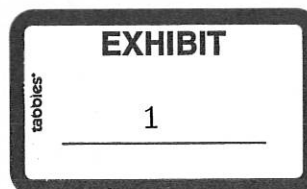
Enforcement Tracking No.	AE-CN-18-00147	Certified Mail No.	7014 0510 0002 3595 4011
Agency Interest (AI) No.	1305	Contact Name	Mark E. Brown
Alternate ID No.	2260-00001	Contact Phone No.	(225) 219-3782
Respondent:	Alma Plantation, L.L.C.	Facility Name:	Alma Facility
	c/o David B. Stewart	Physical Location:	4612 Alma Road
	Agent for Service of Process		
	4612 Alma Road	City, State, Zip:	Lakeland, LA, 70752
Lakeland, LA, 70752	Parish:	Point Coupee	

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 a sugar cane grinding and sugar production facility, located at 4612 Alma Road in Lakeland, Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana. The facility currently operates under Title V Air Permit No. 2260-00001-V6, issued October 24, 2016.																						
II.	During the course of an inspection conducted on December 12, 2018, it was noted that the Respondent failed to appropriately conduct opacity monitoring according to the established Method 9 for individual boiler stacks. The Respondent did not inform the Department prior to using an alternative method of determining the opacity of individual boiler stacks and did not receive authorization to utilize an alternative method.																						
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Inspection(s) December 12, 2018	A review of the opacity monitoring records for all individual boiler stacks revealed a failure to record 24 consecutive readings at 15 second intervals as required. The average of the 24 readings shall be the opacity monitoring record. Instead, the records only stated if all stacks were less than 20%, or if any stack was greater than 20%. The failures to record daily 24 consecutive observations for each of five boilers are violations of SRs 11, 46, 78, 110, and 142 of Title V Permit No. 2260-00001-V6, LAC 33:III.501.C.4, and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(2). In electronic correspondence dated May 9, 2019, the Respondent disclosed that the 2018 grinding season began September 25, 2018, and ended on January 12, 2019.																						



ORDER

Based on the foregoing, the Respondent is hereby ordered to comply with the requirements that are indicated below:

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. This shall include, but not be limited to ; correcting <u>all</u> of the violations described in the "Findings of Fact" portion.
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 the Department at the address specified in this document.
III.	To submit to the Enforcement Division, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER , a compliance plan detailing how the facility will monitor using Method 9 for individual boiler stack opacity observations, or in lieu of Method 9, the date that an application has been submitted to the Permits Division to request alternative means of opacity monitoring, as referenced in Findings of Fact Paragraph II.

RIGHT TO APPEAL

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 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 (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 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 in order 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 this 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:I.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 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.

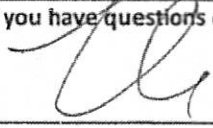
CONTACTS AND SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION

Enforcement Division:	Hearing Requests:
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Compliance Air Enforcement Division Post Office Box 4312 Baton Rouge, LA 70821 Attn: Mark E. Brown	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-18-00147 Agency Interest No. 1305
Permit Division (if necessary):	Physical Address (if hand delivered):
Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Services Post Office Box 4313 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313 Attn: Air Permits Division	Department of Environmental Quality 602 N Fifth Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802

HOW TO REQUEST CLOSURE OF THIS CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY

- To appeal the **COMPLIANCE ORDER** portion, the Respondent must follow the guidelines set forth in the "Right to Appeal" portion of this **COMPLIANCE ORDER**.
- To request closure of this **CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY**, the Respondent must demonstrate compliance with the "Order" portion of this **COMPLIANCE ORDER** by completing the attached "**CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL REQUEST TO CLOSE**" form and returning it to the address specified.
- 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:I.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 "**NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY REQUEST TO SETTLE**" 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.

If you have questions or need more information, you may contact Mark E. Brown at (225) 219-3782, or mark.brown@la.gov



 Lourdes Iturralde
 Assistant Secretary
 Office of Environmental Compliance

Date: 7-9-19

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE
 ENFORCEMENT DIVISION CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER &
 POST OFFICE BOX 4312 NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY
 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70821-4312 REQUEST TO CLOSE



Enforcement Tracking No.	AE-CN-18-00147	Contact Name	Mark E. Brown
Agency Interest (AI) No.	1305	Contact Phone No.	(225) 219-3782
Alternate ID No.	2260-00001		
Respondent:	Alma Plantation, L.L.C.	Facility Name:	Sibley Facility
	c/o David B. Stewart	Physical Location:	773 North Main Street
	Agent for Service of Process		
	4612 Alma Road	City, State, Zip:	Sibley, LA 71073-3035
Lakeland, LA, 70752	Parish:	Webster	

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

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 III 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.Subpart1.Chapter7.
<input type="checkbox"/>	In order to resolve any claim for civil penalties for the violations in CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY AE-CN-18-00147, 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 AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY AE-CN-18-00147, 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 AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY AE-CN-18-00147, 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 E. Brown**