

STATE OF LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF:

KOCH FERTILIZER, LLC

AI # 32778

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

* Settlement Tracking No.
* SA-AE-20-0048
*
* Enforcement Tracking No.
* AE-CN-15-00186
* AE-CN-15-00186A
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SETTLEMENT

The following Settlement is hereby agreed to between Koch Fertilizer, 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 existing anhydrous ammonia distribution facility located in Taft, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana (“the Facility”).

II

On June 30, 2017, the Department issued to Respondent a Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement No. AE-CN-15-00186 (Exhibit 1).

On May 6, 2019, the Department issued to Respondent an Amended Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement No. AE-CN-15-00186A (Exhibit 2).

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 TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$2,620.00), of which Nine Hundred Sixty-One and 86/100 Dollars (\$961.86) 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, Amended 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 St. Charles 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.

KOCH FERTILIZER, LLC

BY: _____
(Signature)

SHAWN KIMBERLY
(Printed)

TITLE: VP OPERATIONS

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this 26th day of February, 20 21, at Wichita, Kansas.

Rebecca Garner
NOTARY PUBLIC (ID # 1140248)



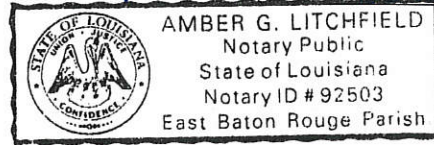
(stamped or printed)

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 20th day of May, 20 21, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

NOTARY PUBLIC (ID # 92503)



(stamped or printed)

Approved: _____
Lourdes Iturralde, Assistant Secretary



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

CHUCK CARR BROWN, Ph.D.
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

June 30, 2017

CERTIFIED MAIL (7005 1820 0002 2095 9840)
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

KOCH FERTILIZER, LLC
c/o C T Corporation System
Agent for Service of Process
3867 Plaza Tower Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

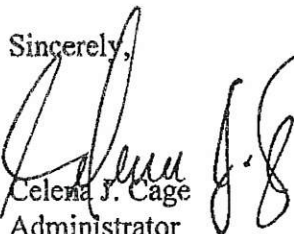
**RE: CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER
& NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY
ENFORCEMENT TRACKING NO. AE-CN-15-00186
AGENCY INTEREST NO. 32778**

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 **KOCH FERTILIZER, LLC (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. 2520-00059
Attachment



c: Koch Nitrogen Company
P.O. Box 1028
Taft, LA 70057

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

IN THE MATTER OF

**KOCH FERTILIZER, LLC
ST. CHARLES PARISH
ALT ID NO. 2520-00059**

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

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ENFORCEMENT TRACKING NO.

AE-CN-15-00186

AGENCY INTEREST NO.

32778

**CONSOLIDATED
COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY**

The following **CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY** is issued to **KOCH FERTILIZER, LLC (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 the Taft Ammonia Terminal (facility), an existing anhydrous ammonia distribution facility, located at 266 Louisiana Highway 3142 in Taft, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana. The facility currently operates under Minor Source Air Permit No. 2520-00059-05 issued to Koch Nitrogen Company, LLC, on July 10, 2012, and administratively amended on October 3, 2012. The Respondent underwent a name change to Koch Fertilizer, LLC, effective on March 31, 2015.

II.

On or about October 17, 2014, 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 March 22, 2017.

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

- A. The Respondent failed to correct deficiencies in equipment that are outside acceptable limits before further use or in a safe and timely manner when necessary means are taken to assure safe operation. Specifically, conclusions from a 2014 addendum to a 2011 inspection noted two (2) high risk pipe sections requiring immediate attention per the definition in the 2014 report. While the high risk conditions existed in 2011, section P0001-2 was not addressed until October 2012 and section P0001-01 was not addressed until October 2014. Each failure is a violation of LAC 33:III.5901.A, which incorporates by reference 40 CFR 68.73(e), and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(2).
- B. The Respondent failed to conduct inspections and tests on process equipment at a frequency consistent with applicable manufacturers' recommendations and good engineering practices. Specifically, pipe visual inspections were not performed five (5) years prior to 2011 according to API standard 570. Additionally, visual inspection of tank A was due in 2006 but not performed until 2011. Each failure is a violation of LAC 33:III.5901.A, which incorporates by reference 40 CFR 68.73(d)(3), and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(2).
- C. The Respondent failed to perform inspections and testing on process equipment according to recognized and generally accepted good engineering practices. Specifically, in 2011 pipe and vessel thickness readings were taken but corrosion rate and remaining life calculations were not made according to API standards 570 and 510. The 2014 addendum to the 2011 inspection contained incorrect remaining life calculations due to the critical date for when data was collected being incorrectly entered as the date the calculations were made and not the actual data collection date. Additionally, tank B was inspected for thickness in 2007 but a corrosion rate was not calculated as required. Each failure is a violation of LAC 33:III.5901.A, which incorporates by reference 40 CFR 68.73(d)(2), and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(2).
- D. The Respondent failed to properly document each inspection and test that was performed on the process equipment. Specifically, the date and results of vessel and pipe API visual inspections conducted in 2011 were not documented. Additionally, a 2001 external visual inspection for tank A did not state who performed the inspection. Each failure is a violation of LAC 33:III.5901.A, which incorporates by reference 40 CFR 68.73(d)(4), and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(2).

- E. The Respondent failed to develop and implement safe work practices to control the entrance, presence and exit of the contract owner or operator and contract employees in covered process areas. Specifically, the facility had three (3) contract employees working in covered process areas with expired contractor safety orientations. Each failure is a violation of LAC 33:III.5901.A, which incorporates by reference 40 CFR 68.87(b)(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, including, but not limited to, LAC 33:III.5901.

II.

To submit to the Enforcement Division, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this **COMPLIANCE ORDER**, a written report that includes evidence that equipment visual inspections are conducted according to 40 CFR 68.73(d)(3), especially pipe and tank A visual inspections.

III.

To submit to the Enforcement Division, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this **COMPLIANCE ORDER**, a written report that includes corrected remaining life calculations as mentioned above in Findings of Fact subparagraph II.C.

IV.

To submit to the Enforcement Division, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this **COMPLIANCE ORDER**, a written report that includes evidence that each inspection and test on the process equipment is being documented according to 40 CFR 68.73(d)(4).

V.

To, immediately upon receipt of this **COMPLIANCE ORDER**, implement safe work practices to control the entrance, presence and exit of the contract owner or operator and contract employees in covered process areas by ensuring that all contract employees receive up-to-date safety training and/or orientation according to 40 CFR 68.87(b)(4). To submit to the Enforcement Division, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this **COMPLIANCE ORDER**, evidence demonstrating compliance with this Order.

VI.

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-15-00186
Agency Interest No. 32778

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-15-00186
Agency Interest No. 32778

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 30th day of June, 2017.



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: Richard LeBlanc



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

CHUCK CARR BROWN, Ph.D.
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

May 6, 2019

CERTIFIED MAIL (7004 2510 0006 3853 3001)
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

KOCH FERTILIZER, LLC
c/o C T Corporation System
Agent for Service of Process
3867 Plaza Tower Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

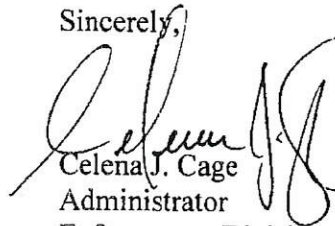
RE: AMENDED CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY
ENFORCEMENT TRACKING NO. AE-CN-15-00186A
AGENCY INTEREST NO. 32778

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act (La. R.S. 30:2001, et seq.), the attached **AMENDED CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY** is hereby served on **KOCH FERTILIZER, LLC (RESPONDENT)** for the violations described therein.

Any questions concerning this action should be directed to Madison Kirkland at (225) 324-3204 or Madison.Kirkland@la.gov.

Sincerely,


Celena J. Cage
Administrator
Enforcement Division

CJC/MLK/mlk
Alt ID No. 2520-00059
Attachment

c: Koch Nitrogen Company
Shawn Kimberly, VP Operations
P.O. Box 1028
Taft, LA 70057



Each failure is a violation of LAC 33:III.5901.A, which incorporates by reference 40 CFR 68.73(d)(2), and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(2).

D. The Respondent failed to properly document each inspection and test that was performed on the process equipment. Specifically, the date and results of vessel and pipe API visual inspections conducted in 2011 were not documented. Each failure is a violation of LAC 33:III.5901.A, which incorporates by reference 40 CFR 68.73(d)(4), and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(2).”

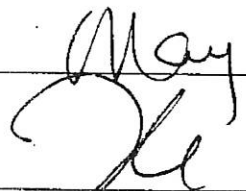
II.

The Department incorporates all of the remainder of the original **CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY, ENFORCEMENT TRACKING NO. AE-CN-15-00186** and **AGENCY INTEREST NO. 32778** as if reiterated herein.

III.

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

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 6th day of May, 2019.



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
Post Office Box 4312
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312
Attention: Madison Kirkland