### STATE OF LOUISIANA

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF: Settlement Tracking No. × SA-WE-23-0082

HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY

**Enforcement Tracking Nos.** 

AI # 33033, 148556 WE-CN-23-00123 ×

WE-PP-23-00124

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

#### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

\*

The following Settlement Agreement is hereby agreed to between Hilcorp Energy Company ("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 corporation that owns and/or operates oil and gas production facilities located in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana ("the Facilities").

II

On May 8, 2023, the Department issued to Respondent a Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement Tracking No. WE-CN-23-00123 (Exhibit 1). On June 12, 2023, the Department issued to Respondent a Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement Tracking No. WE-PP-23-00124 (Exhibit 2). The violations in Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 are referred to herein as the "Violations."

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

IV

To avoid the delay, uncertainty, inconvenience, and expense of protracted litigation of the alleged Violations, and in consideration of the mutual promises and obligations of this Settlement Agreement, 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 TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$22,000.00 (Settlement Payment) of which any and all claims the Department has against Respondent for the Violations, and the Department agrees and represents that it will not initiate or pursue any claims against Respondent for the Violations. The Department accepts the Settlement Payment in full and final settlement of all Violations asserted against Respondent. Further, the Parties agree that Two Thousand Seven Hundred Nine and 18/100 Dollars (\$2,709.18) of the Settlement Payment 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. The Settlement Payment 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, 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 abovereferenced documents being considered as proving the violations alleged herein for the sole purpose of determining Respondent's compliance history.

VΙ

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 Settlement 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 Terrebonne 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

The Settlement 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. Settlement 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.

ΧI

In consideration of the above, any claims for penalties arising out of the Violations 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.

# HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY BY: (Signature JAN JOPUNG TITLE: SVP-L48 THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this 30th , 20 24 , at Houston, Teyas LILY PORTALES Notary Public, State of Texas Comm. Expires 12-03-2024 Notary ID 129204252 LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY Avelia S. Gria amounto, Secretary THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this 30th day of , 20 24, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. NOTARY PUBLIC (ID # 51205 **DEIDRA JOHNSON NOTARY PUBLIC** EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LOUISIANA

Approved:

Aurelia Giacometto, Secretary

NOTARY ID NO. 5120

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

## ENFORCEMENT DIVISION CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & POST OFFICE BOX 4312 NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY



BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70821-4312

DATON ROODE, LOUISIANA	10051-4315			
Enforcement Tracking No.	WE-CN-23-00123	Certified Mail No.	7021 1970 0000 3978 9067	
Agency Interest (AI) No.	33033	Contact Name	Scott B. Pierce	
Alternate ID No.	LAG33A234	Contact Phone No.	(225) 219-3723	
Respondent:	Hilcorp Energy Company	Facility Name:	Caillou Island State Lease 301 CF #3 Tank Battery #2	
	c/o C T Corporation System	Physical Location:	14.3 mi SE of Cocodrie	
	Agent for Service of Process			
	3867 Plaza Tower Dr.	City, State, Zip:	Cocodrie, LA	
	Baton Rouge, LA 70816	Parish:	Terrebonne	

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.

The Respondent owns and/or operates an oil and gas production facility located 14.3 miles southeast of Cocodrie, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. The Respondent was granted authorization under Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) General Permit LAG33A234 effective on June 8, 2021. LPDES General Permit LAG33A234 will expire on May 4, 2026. Under the terms and conditions of LPDES General Permit LAG33A234, the Respondent is permitted to discharge wastewater associated with oil and gas exploration, development, and production facililites located within the Coastal Seas of Louisiana into Terrebonne Bay, waters of the state.

	Terrebonne Bay, w	T
	Date of Violation	Description of Violation
11,	Inspection(s) & File Review Aug. B, 2022 March 30, 2023	The Respondent caused and/or allowed the discharge of crude oil to waters of the state. Specifically,  A. The Respondent reported a release of approximately 332 barrels of crude oil into Terrebonne Bay on or about August 8, 2022. The discharge was a result of a tank (A2 Tank) falling into the water due to the facility's pillings giving way. A2 Tank's fall also damaged the piping of another tank (A1 Tank) causing crude oil to leak from both tanks.  B. The Respondent reported the release of 10 gallons of crude oil into Terrebonne Bay on or about October 1, 2018, which was the result of flow-line corrosion.  (La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(1)(a) and LAC 33:IX.1701.B)
111.	Inspection(s) & File Review Aug. 8, 2022 March 30, 2023	The Respondent failed to submit a complete written notification report. Specifically, regarding the Respondent's release of crude oil that occurred on or about August 8, 2022, the Respondent submitted the required written notification report. However, the written notification report did not include information regarding the details of the circumstances (root cause) and events leading to the unauthorized discharge in line item four (4), the preventability of the discharge in line item fourteen (14), and the estimated amount of recovered materials in line item sixteen (16). (La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(3) and LAC 33:1.3925.B.)
IV.	Inspection(s) Aug. 8, 2022	The Respondent failed to implement the Spill Prevention and Control (SPC) Plan, Specifically, a review of the Respondent's SPC Plan, Sections 9.0 and 9.1 indicated that that monthly visual inspections would be performed and documented. The Respondent's representative stated that monthly visual inspections were not documented. (La. R. S. 30:2076(A)(3), LAC 33:IX.905.B, and LAC 33:IX.708.C.1.b.)
<b>v</b> .	Inspection(s) Aug. 8, 2022	The Respondent failed to provide information. Specifically, on or about August 22 and/or 29, 2022, subsequent to the August 8, 2022 inspection, the Respondent was requested to provide the following information:  • Versions of the annual inspection reports which included what tanks were inspected,  • An updated written notification report which included the missing information referenced above in paragraph III.

#### ORDER

The Departement requested that this information be provided by close of business on September 16, 2022. The Respondent failed to provide this information. (LPDES Permit LAG33A234 (Part III, Sections A.2 and 8),

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

La. R. S. 30:2076(A)(3), LAC 33:IX.2701.H.)

	To take, immediately upon receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER, any and all steps necessary to meet and maintain	compliance
l.	with the Water Quality Regulations. This shall include, but not be limited to; correcting all of the violations described to the violation described to the vi	ibed in the
	"Findings of Fact" portion.	

- 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.
- To immediately cease, upon receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER, any unauthorized discharges from the Respondent's facility to waters of the state.
- IV.

  To submit to the Enforcement Division, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER, a complete written notification report regarding the Respondent's release of crude oil that occurred on or about August 8, 2022, in accordance with the information requirements outlined in LAC 33:1.3925.B in order to address the missing information specified in Paragraph III of the "Findings of Fact" portion.

EXHIBIT 1

11.

·	RIGI	IT TO APPEAL
	- 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	on a disputed issue of material fact or of law arising from this COMPLIANC
i.		equest with the Secretary no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of thi
- <del></del> -	The request for an adjudicatory hearing shall specify the	provisions of the COMPLIANCE ORDER on which the hearing is requested
H.	and shall briefly describe the basis for the request. This	s request should reference the Enforcement Tracking Number and Agenc
	address specified in this document.	ind corner of the first page of this document and should be directed to th
		aring, a hearing on the disputed issue of material fact or of law regarding
	this COMPLIANCE ORDER may be scheduled by the Se	cretary of the Department. The hearing shall be governed by the Act, the
III.	Administrative Procedure Act (La. R.S. 49:950, et seq	.), and the Division of Administrative Law's (DAL) Procedural Rules. The
		NCE ORDER prior to the hearing, after providing sufficient notice and a
	Opportunity for the preparation of a defense for the hea	aring. Ment action unless the request for hearing is timely filed. Failure to timel
IV.	request a hearing constitutes a walver of the Responde	ent's right to a hearing on a disputed issue of material fact or of law unde
	Section 2050.4 of the Act for the violation(s) described i	herein.
	The Respondent's fallure to request a hearing or to file	an appeal or the Respondent's withdrawal of a request for hearing on thi
V.	addressing the same violation(s) although the Resonne	nt from contesting the findings of facts in any subsequent penalty action dentity
	permanent part of its compliance history.	new is estopped from objecting to this COMPENSIEE ONDER DECORDING
VI.	Civil penalties of not more than thirty-two thousand fiv	e hundred dollars (\$32,500) may be assessed for each day of violation. Th
	Respondent's failure or refusal to comply with this CON	APLIANCE ORDER and the provisions herein will subject the Respondent to
	not more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for each	25, which could result in the assessment of a civil penalty in an amount of
VII.		eserves the right to seek civil penalties in any manner allowed by law, an
	nothing herein shall be construed to preclude the right	
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1.	Pursuant to La. R.S. 30:2050.3(B), you are hereby notif	fied that the issuance of a penalty assessment is being considered for th
	elect to submit comments, it is requested that they be	be filed regarding the violation(s) and the contemplated penalty. If you will be sufficient within ten (10) days of receipt of this posice
II.	Prior to the issuance of additional appropriate enforcer	nent action(s), you may request a meeting with the Department to presen
	any mitigating circumstances concerning the violation(	i). If you would like to have such a meeting, please contact Scott B. Pierc
	at (225) 219-3723 within ten (10) days of receipt of this	
HI.	the Department is required by La. K.S. 30:2025(E)(3)(	<ul> <li>a) to consider the gross revenues of the Respondent and the monetar nalty will be assessed and the amount of such penalty. Please forward th</li> </ul>
	Respondent's most current annual gross revenue state	ment along with a statement of the monetary benefits of noncomplianc
	for the cited violation(s) to the above named contact	t person within ten (10) days of receipt of this NOTICE OF POTENTIA
	PENALTY. Include with your statement of monetary be	nefits the method(s) you utilized to arrive at the sum. If you assert that n
	monetary benefits have been gained, you are to ful	ly justify that statement. If the Respondent chooses not to submit the
	admission that the Respondent has the ability to pay th	ment within ten (10) days, it will be viewed by the Department as a e statutory maximum penalty as outlined in La. R.S. 30:2025.
īV.		33:1.Subpart1.Chapter7. To expedite closure of this NOTICE OF POTENTIA
	PENALTY portion, the Respondent may offer a settle	ment amount to resolve any claim for civil penalties for the violation(s
	described herein. The Respondent may offer a settle	ement amount, but the Department is under no obligation to enter int
	settlement negotiations. The decision to proceed with	a settlement is at the discretion of the Department. The settlement offe TED COMPLIANCE ORDER AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY REQUES
	TO CLOSE" form. The Respondent may submit the set	tlement offer within one hundred and eighty (180) days of receipt of thi
	NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY portion but no later th	an ninety (90) days of achieving compliance with the COMPLIANCE ORDE
	portion. The Respondent must include a justification of	f the offer. <b>DO NOT</b> submit payment of the offer amount with the form
	The Department will review the settlement offer and no This CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE O	otify the Respondent as to whether the offer is or is not accepted.
<u>v.</u>	<del></del>	
Enfon	contacts and st	Hearing Requests:
	lana Department of Environmental Quality	Department of Environmental Quality
	e of Environmental Compliance	Office of the Secretary
	er Enforcement Division	Post Office Box 4302
	Office Box 4312 n Rouge, LA 70821	Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4302 Attn: Hearings Clerk, Legal Division
	Scott B. Pierce	Re: Enforcement Tracking No. WE-CN-23-00123
		Agency Interest No. 33033
Wate	r Permits Division (if necessary):	Physical Address (if hand delivered):
•	artment of Environmental Quality	
	te of Environmental Services	Department of Environmental Quality 602 N Fifth Street
	Office Box 4313 on Rouge, LA 70821-4313	Baton Rouge, LA 70802
	: Water Permits Division	
Attn		1
	<del>-</del> -	

# HOW TO REQUEST CLOSURE OF THIS CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER BUNGTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY

- 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.
  - o 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.

Date: <u>05/08/2023</u>

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

Celena I. Cage

Assistant Secretary

Office of Environmental Compliance

cc: Hilcorp Energy Co.

c/o Allan Pringle, Env. Spc.

1111 Travis St. Houston, TX 77002

#### Attachment(s)

- Request to Close
- Settlement Brochure

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY

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POST OFFICE BOX 4312 NOTICE OF POTENTIAL P
RATON ROUGE TOUISIANA 70821-4312 REQUEST TO CLOS

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA	70821-4312	REQUEST TO	CLOSE		7	LOUISIANA
Enforcement Tracking No.	WE-CN-23-00	123	Contact Nam	e Scott	B. Pierce	
Agency Interest (AI) No.	33033		Contact Phor	ne No. (225)	219-3723	
Alternate ID No.	LAG33A234					
Respondent:	1	<del></del>	Facility Name	: Caillo	I Island State	Lease 301 CF #3
	Hilcorp Energ	y Company			Battery #2	
	c/o C T Corpor	ration System	Physical Loca	tlon: 14.3 S	E of Cocodri	ę
		rice of Process				
	3867 Plaza To		City, State, Zi	p: Cocod	rie, LA	
<del></del>	Baton Rouge,	LA 70816	Parish:	Terret	оппе	
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	STATEMENT O	F COMPLIANCE		Date (	ompleted	Copy Attached?
written report was submit	ted in accordance	e with Paragraph II	of the "Order" po	rtion of		
he COMPLIANCE ORDER.						
All necessary documents we						
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OMPLIANCE ORDER.					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
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he facility is being operated of the COMPLIANCE ORDER.	Cinal compliance	ntain the requireme	nts of the "Orger" p	iortion		
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		SETTLEMENT	OFFER (OPTION	44		200 Sept. 18 (1944) V.
		(check the	applicable option)	•		
The Respondent is a Department has the	not interested in a	entering into settler	ment negotiations v	vith the Departmen	nt with the u	inderstanding that the
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Respondent is Inter	rested in entering	into settlement ne	egotiations in NU11	: Department and	would like t	WE-CN-23-00123), the set up a meeting
		di				
Pospondent is in	any ciaim for civ	vii penaities for the	violations in NOTI	CE OF POTENTIAL	PENALTY (\	WE-CN-23-00123), ti
\$	which ch:	all include LDEQ enf	errement costs and	is with the De	epartment	and offers to p
Monetary co		an incidde EDEG Ein	orcement costs and	any monetary per	ient of non-c	omphance.
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or any other facility I own	or operate. I fi	urther certify that	I am either the R	espondent or an	outhorized	renresentative of ti
Respondent.				espondent or an	00111077200	representative by th
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Respondent's Signa	iture	Respondent	's Printed Name		Responde	nt's Title
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		MPLETED DOCUM	MENT TO THE AL	INKE22 REFOR		
Louisiana Department of Env		ty				
Office of Environmental Com	piiance					
Enforcement Division						
Post Office Box 4312						
Baton Rouge, LA 70821						
Attn: Scott B. Plerce						

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

WE-CN-23-00123 CONOPP FORM 2

#### 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.

	NATUR	RE AND GRAVIT	OF THE VIOLATIO	N
	<b>类为物理</b>	MAJOR	MODERATE -	MINOR
IMPACT H OR	MAJOR	\$32,500 to \$20,000	\$20,000 to \$15,000	\$15,000 to \$11,000
E OF RISK OR IUMAN HEALT PROPERTY	MODERATE	\$11,000 to \$8,000	\$8,000 to \$5,000	\$5,000 to \$3,000
DEGREE TO HI	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 fimits, 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
- 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.

Penalty Event Total = Penalty Event Minimum + (Adjustment Percentage x [Penalty Event Maximum - 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	
•	FAQs
Judicial Interest	provided by the Louisiana State Bar Association



#### LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

#### NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY



**ENFORCEMENT DIVISION** POST OFFICE BOX 4312

**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70821-4312** 

Enforcement Tracking No.	WE-PP-23-00124	Certified Mail No.	7021 1970 0000 3978 9043
Agency Interest (AI) No.	148556	Contact Name	Scott B. Pierce
Alternate ID No.	LAU008456	Contact Phone No.	(225) 219-3723
Respondent:	Hilcorp Energy Company	Facility Name:	Bay St Elaine Ocar Platform
	c/o C T Corporation System	Physical Location:	14 mi S of Dulac
	Agent for Service of Process		
	3867 Plaza Tower Dr.	City, State, Zip:	Dulac, LA
	Baton Rouge, LA 70816	Parish:	Terrebonne

This 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 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.

The Respondent owns and/or operates an oil and gas production facility located 14 miles south of Dulac, Terrebonne Parish. Louisiana. The Respondent does not have a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit or any other

- authority to discharge pollutants to waters of the state. **Date of Violation Description of Violation** Inspection(s) & The Respondent caused and/or allowed the discharge of crude oil and/or produced water to waters of the File Review state. Specifically, the Respondent reported a release of approximately 2 barrels (bbls) of crude oil into Oct. 5, 2022 Terrebonne Bay, which occurred on or about October 5, 2022. The discharge was a result of sand cutting a May 26, 2023 pinhole into a cushion T flowline. In addition, the file review also revealed that the Respondent reported the following releases of crude oil and/or produced water into Terrebonne Bay: May 11, 2022: 3 gallons (gals) of crude oil as a result of a failed thermal wall on the high pressure II. separator gas outlet. November 16, 2018: 5 bbls of crude oil and 5 bbls of produced water as a result of a leak from a failed hammer union on a 2-inch fluid flowline.
  - - May 25, 2018: 2 bbls of crude oil as a result of a leak caused by corrosion of a cushion T flowline

#### (La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(1)(a), LAC 33:IX. 1701.B, and LAC 33:IX.1901.A) Inspection(s) The Respondent failed to submit a complete written notification report. Specifically, regarding the Oct. 5, 2022 Respondent's release of crude oil that occurred on or about October 5, 2022, the Respondent submitted the required written notification report. However, the written notification report did not include III. information regarding a determination of whether the discharge was preventable as required in line item fourteen (14), and the estimated amount of recovered materials in line item sixteen (16) (La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(3) and LAC 33:1.3925.B.) Inspection(s) & The Respondent failed to submit a complete application to discharge to waters of the state. Specifically, **File Review** the facility is an oil and gas production facility located within Coastal Waters of Louisiana. As such, all Oct. 5, 2022

- stormwater runoff leaving the facility is considered deck drainage for which the discharge requires an May 26, 2023 LPDES permit. (La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(3), LAC 33:IX.501.A, and LAC 33:IX.2501.A) On or about December 13, IV. 2022, the Department received the Respondent's LPDES Notice of Intent (NOI) to discharge wastewater from oil & gas exploration, development, and production facilities located within Coastal Waters of Louisiana. The application for the LPDES permit was determined to be administratively complete on April The Respondent operated the facility without the required authorization of an LPDES Permit. Specifically, **File Review** May 26, 2023 the Respondent has been operating the facility without the required LPDES Permit since December 2010. V. The Departmen received an NOI on or about December 13, 2022, and was determined to be administratively complete on April 4, 2023. (La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(3), and LAC 33:IX.501.A) NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY
- 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 1. 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.
- 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.
- For each violation described herein, the Department reserves the right to seek civil penalties and the right to seek compliance with its rules and regulations in any manner allowed by law, and nothing herein shall be construed to preclude the right to seek such penalties and compliance.
- The Department assesses civil penalties based on LAC 33:1.Subpart1.Chapter 7. To expedite closure of this NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY, the Respondent may offer a settlement amount to resolve any claim for civil penalties for the violation(s) described

EXHIBIT 2 SSIGOE 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 "NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY REQUEST TO SETTLE" form. The Respondent may submit the settlement offer within one hundred and eighty (180) days of receipt of this NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY. 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.

VI. To reduce document handling, please refer to the Enforcement Tracking Number and Agency Interest Number on the front of this document on all correspondence in response to this action.

#### CONTACTS AND SUBMITTAL OF 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

Physical Address (if hand delivered):
Department of Environmental Quality
602 N Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

#### HOW TO REQUEST CLOSURE OF THIS NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY

To expedite closure of the NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY, 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.
- <u>DO NOT</u> 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 this NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY, 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

cc: Hilcorp Energy Co. c/o Allan Pringle, Env. Spc. 1111 Travis St. Houston, TX 77002

Attachment(s)

- Request to Settle

WE-PP-23-00124 Page 2 NOPP FORM 1

LDEQ-EDMS Document 13864876, Page 3 of 3 LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION **NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY** POST OFFICE BOX 4312 **REQUEST TO SETTLE (OPTIONAL)** BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70821-4312 **Enforcement Tracking No.** WE-PP-23-00124 **Contact Name** Scott B. Pierce Agency Interest (AI) No. 33033 Contact Phone No. (225) 219-3723 Alternate ID No. LAU008456 Facility Name: Hilcorp Energy Company Bay St Elaine Ocar Platform Respondent: c/o C T Corporation System Physical Location: 14 mi S of Dulac **Agent for Service of Process** 3867 Plaza Tower Dr. City, State, Zip: Dulac, LA Baton Rouge, LA 70816 Parish: Terrebonne SETTLEMENT OFFER (OPTIONAL) (check the applicable option) 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 33:1.5ubpart1.Chapter7. In order to resolve any claim for civil penalties for the violations in NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY (WE-PP-23-00124), the Respondent is interested in entering into settlement negotiations with the Department and would like to set up a meeting to discuss settlement procedures. In order to resolve any claim for civil penalties for the violations in NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY (WE-PP-23-00124), 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. 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. The Respondent has reviewed the violations noted in NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY (WE-PP-23-00124) 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 # MAIL COMPLETED DOCUMENT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

Date

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.

WE-PP-23-00124 NORR FORM 2