



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

2008 FEB 28 PM 12:57

1595 WYNKOOP STREET

DENVER, CO 80202-1129

Phone 800-227-8917

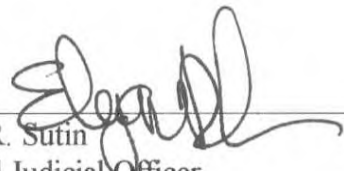
http://www.epa.gov/region08

DOCKET NO.: CWA-08-2007-0027

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
MERIT ENERGY COMPANY)	FINAL ORDER
13727 Noel Road, Suite 500)	
Dallas, TX 75240)	
)	
RESPONDENT)	

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §22.18, of EPA’s Consolidated Rules of Practice, the Consent Agreement resolving this matter is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order. The Respondent is hereby **ORDERED** to comply with all of the terms of the Consent Agreement, effective immediately upon receipt by Respondent of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

SO ORDERED THIS 28th DAY OF February, 2008


Elyana R. Sutin
Regional Judicial Officer

**UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

2008 FEB 28 PM 12:57

BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

IN THE MATTER OF:)	Docket No. CWA-08-2007-0027
)	
Merit Energy Company)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
13727 Noel Road, Suite 500)	
Dallas, TX 75240)	
)	
(Powell Pressure Maintenance Unit)	
SWNE Sec. 26, T40N, R74W,)	
Converse County, Wright, WY))	
)	
Respondent.)	

Complainant, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 (EPA), and Respondent, Merit Energy Company, by their undersigned representatives, hereby consent and agree as follows:

1. On September 27, 2007, Complainant issued an Administrative Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (Complaint) alleging certain violations of Section 311(j) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(j), as amended by the Oil Pollution Act, and the Oil Pollution Prevention regulations set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 112. The Complaint proposed a civil penalty for the violations alleged therein.
2. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations of the Complaint and neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations of the Complaint.
3. Respondent waives its right to a hearing before any tribunal, to contest any issue of law or fact set forth in the Complaint, or this Consent Agreement.

4. This Consent Agreement, upon incorporation into a final consent order, applies to and is binding upon EPA and upon Respondent and Respondent's heirs, successors and assigns. Any change in ownership or corporate status of Respondent, including, but not limited to, any transfer of assets or real or personal property, shall not alter Respondent's responsibilities under this agreement. This Consent Agreement contains all terms of the settlement agreed to by the parties.

5. Respondent consents and agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of twenty-two thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$22,250), in the manner described below in this paragraph:

- a. Payment is due within 30 calendar days from the date written on the Final Consent Order, issued by the Regional Judicial Officer, that adopts this Consent Agreement. If the due date falls on a weekend or legal federal holiday, then the due date becomes the next business day. The date the payment is made is considered to be the date processed by Mellon Bank described below. Payments received by 11:00 AM EST are processed on the same day, those received after 11:00 AM are processed on the next business day.
- b. The payment shall be made by remitting a cashier's or certified check, referencing the name and docket number of this case, and "Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund-311," for this amount, payable to "**Environmental Protection Agency,**" to:

**US checks by regular
US postal service mail:**

US EPA Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
PO Box 979077
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

**Federal Express, Airborne,
or other commercial carrier:**

U.S. Bank
1005 Convention Plaza
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, MO 63101

Wire transfers:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA = 021030004
Account = 68010727
SWIFT address = FRNYUS33
33 Liberty Street
New York NY 10045
Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire
message should read "D 68010727
Environmental Protection Agency "

On Line Payment:

WWW.PAY.GOV
Enter sfo 1.1 in the search field

Open form and complete required
fields.

Copies of the check or wire transfer shall be simultaneously sent to:

Donna K. Inman
U.S. EPA Region 8 (8ENF-UFO)
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

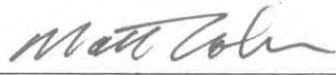
Tina Artemis, Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA Region 8 (8RC)
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

- c. In the event payment is not received by the specified due date, interest accrues from the date of the final order, not the payment due date, at a rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, and will continue to accrue until the payment is received in full (i.e., on the 1st late day, 30 days of interest accrues).
- d. In addition to the accrual of interest specified in paragraph 16 of this Agreement, a handling charge of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) shall be assessed on the 31st day from the date of the final order, and each subsequent 30-day period that the penalty, or any portion thereof, remains unpaid. In addition, a six percent (6%) per annum penalty shall be assessed on any unpaid principal amount if the penalty payment is not received within 90 days of the due date (i.e., the 121st day from the date the final order is signed). Payments are first applied to outstanding handling charges, 6% penalty interest, and late interest. The remainder is then applied to the outstanding principal amount.

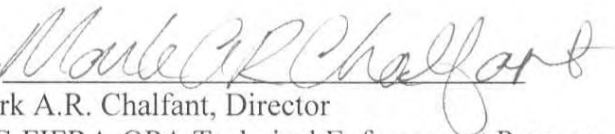
- e. Respondent agrees that the penalty shall never be claimed as a federal or other tax deduction or credit.
6. Nothing in this Consent Agreement shall relieve Respondent of the duty to comply with the Act and its implementing regulations.
7. Failure by Respondent to comply with any of the terms of the Consent Agreement shall constitute a breach of the agreement and may result in referral of the matter to the Department of Justice for enforcement of the Consent Agreement and for such other relief as may be appropriate in federal district court.
8. Nothing in the Consent Agreement shall be construed as a waiver by the EPA or any other federal entity of its authority to seek costs or any appropriate penalty associated with any collection action instituted as a result of Respondent's failure to perform pursuant to the terms of the Consent Agreement.
9. The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he/she is fully authorized to enter into and bind the Respondent to the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement.
10. The parties agree to submit this Consent Agreement to the Regional Judicial Officer, with a request that it be incorporated into a final order.
11. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorney fees in connection with this matter.
12. The Consent Agreement, upon incorporation into a final order by the Regional Judicial Officer and full satisfaction by the parties, shall be a complete and full civil settlement of the specific violations alleged in the Complaint.

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 8,**
Complainant.

Date: 2/25/08


By: 
David J. Janik, Director
Legal Enforcement Program
Office of Enforcement, Compliance
and Environmental Justice

Date: 2/25/08

By: 
Mark A.R. Chalfant, Director
UIC-FIFRA-OPA Technical Enforcement Program
Office of Enforcement, Compliance
and Environmental Justice

MERIT ENERGY COMPANY,
Respondent.

Date: 2/19/08

By: 
Scott Gladden
Vice President and General Counsel

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that the original of the attached **CONSENT AGREEMENT/FINAL ORDER** in the matter of **MERIT ENERGY CO., DOCKET NO.: CWA-08-2007-0027** was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk on February 27, 2008.

Further, the undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the document was delivered to Brenda Morris, Enforcement Attorney, U. S. EPA – Region 8, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, CO 80202-1129. True and correct copies of the aforementioned document was placed in the United States mail certified/return receipt requested on February 28, 2008.

Arlene Valliquette
Land & Regulatory Manager – North Division
Merit Energy Company
13727 Noel Road, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75240


Pouch mailed to:

Honorable Susan L. Biro
Chief, Administrative Law Judge
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, DC 20460

E-mailed to:

Michelle Angel
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati Finance Center
26 W. Martin Luther King Drive (MS-0002)
Cincinnati, Ohio 45268

February 28, 2008


Tina Artemis
Paralegal/Regional Hearing Clerk

