

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

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FILED
EPA REGION VIII
DENVER COLORADO

In the Matter of:)	COMBINED
)	COMPLAINT AND
)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
M & M Classic Auto Parts, Inc.)	DOCKET NO. : CWA-08-2012-0022
D/B/A Bert's Model A Center)	
3560 Chestnut Place)	
Denver, Colorado)	Docket No.
Respondent.)	

Complainant, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 (EPA or Complainant), and M&M Classic Auto Parts, Inc., doing business as (D/B/A) Bert's Model A Center (Respondent) hereby consent and agree as follows:

A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. EPA has jurisdiction over these matters pursuant to sections 308 and 309(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Act), as amended. 33 U.S.C. §§ 1318 and 1319(a). The rules for this proceeding are the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits" (Rules of Practice), 40 C.F.R. part 22, a copy of which has been provided to Respondent.
2. This Combined Complaint and Consent Agreement (CCCA) is entered into by the parties for the purpose of simultaneously commencing and concluding this matter, as authorized by 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b), and executed pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2) and (3).
3. For the purposes of this proceeding, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations. Respondent consents to the assessment of the civil penalty and waives any right to a hearing or appeal before any tribunal and to contest any issue of law or fact set forth herein.
4. Complainant asserts that settlement of this matter is in the public interest, and the parties agree that entry of this CCCA without further litigation and without adjudication of any issue of fact or law is the most appropriate means of resolving this matter.
5. This CCCA, upon incorporation into a final order, applies to and is binding upon EPA and upon Respondent, and Respondent's employees, agents, successors and assigns. Any change in ownership 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.

6. This CCCA contains all terms of the settlement agreed to by the parties.

B. FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

7. Respondent is a corporation and therefore a "person" within the meaning of section 502(5) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5).

8. In order to restore and maintain the integrity of the nation's waters, section 301(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), among other things, prohibits the discharge of any pollutant by any person into waters of the United States except in compliance with a permit issued pursuant to section 402 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

9. Section 402 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, under which EPA and, upon receiving authorization, states may permit discharges of pollutants into navigable waters, subject to specific terms and conditions. "Navigable waters" means the waters of the United States, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7).

10. Section 402(p) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p), requires an NPDES permit for storm water discharges associated with industrial activities.

11. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) was approved by EPA to administer the NPDES program on March 27, 1975. 40 Fed. Reg. 16713, April 14, 1975. A permit issued by CDPHE under Colorado's EPA-authorized NPDES program is known as a Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) permit.

12. At the time of this filing, Respondent is identified as an automobile recycler (SIC code 5015), under the CDPS general permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated With the Recycling Industry (Permit) issued by CDPHE on December 1, 2006.

13. Respondent owns and/or is engaged in receiving salvage vehicles and selling used motor vehicle parts from those vehicles at Bert's Model A Center located at 3560 Chestnut Place in Denver, Colorado (Site), and is therefore an "owner or operator" of a facility subject to regulation under the NPDES program as defined in the regulations. 40 C.F.R. § 122.2. Respondent is engaged in an "industrial activity" as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14).

14. At all times relevant to this CCCA, Respondent has operated Bert's Model A Center as a corporation.

15. Respondent has day-to-day responsibility for operations at the Site.

16. The Site encompasses approximately 42,000 square feet.

17. According to precipitation data recorded at the Denver Water Department weather station approximately 0.64 and 1.15 inches of rain fell on May 12 and May 13, 2011 in Denver, Colorado.

C. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

18. On May 12, 2011, inspectors from EPA conducted an NPDES storm water inspection of the Site.
19. At the time of the inspection, the Respondent had not sought or obtained authorization from CDPHE to discharge storm water from the Site under the applicable general permit or any individual permit.
20. Inspectors observed a discharge of storm water with a visible sheen from the Site and observed evidence of previous discharges.
21. The runoff and drainage from the Site are “storm water” as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(13).
22. The storm water ran off the site via a storm drain on or near the north loading dock.
23. A barrel of oil was seen on Site, located above the storm drain on or near the north loading dock, without secondary containment.
24. The storm water from the Site flowed northwest out of the storm drain or north loading dock to the storm drain on the corner of Chestnut Place and Atkins Court. The storm drain at the corner of Chestnut Place and Atkins Court discharged directly to the South Platte River. The distance from the storm drain to the River is approximately 100 feet.
25. Storm water, snow melt, surface drainage and runoff water discharged from the Site and have flowed into the South Platte River.
26. The South Platte River is a “navigable water” as defined by section 502(7) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7), and a “water of the United States” as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.
27. The storm water discharge from the Site is a “discharge of a pollutant” as defined by section 502(12) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12), and 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.
28. The storm water discharge from the Site is a discharge from a “point source” as that term is defined in section 502(14) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(14), and 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.
29. On October 17, 2011, Respondent submitted a notice of intent to CDPHE indicating Respondent’s intent to have industrial storm water discharged from the Site covered by the Permit. The Respondent was issued a Permit on April 6, 2012 (NPDES Permit No.

COR060216).

D. CIVIL PENALTY

30. Section 309(g)(2)(A) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(A), authorizes the EPA to assess a civil administrative penalty for any violation of various provisions of the Act, including but not limited to sections 301 and 308 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311 and 1318, and for any violation of a condition or limitation of a permit issued under section 402 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342. The amount of the penalty that EPA can assess is up to \$11,000 per day for each day during which a violation occurred from March 16, 2004, through January 12, 2009, and up to \$16,000 per day for each day after January 12, 2009, during which a violation continues. For violations from March 16, 2004, through January 12, 2009, the maximum total penalty is \$157,500. For violations after January 12, 2009, the maximum is \$177,500. These amounts have been adjusted for inflation by 40 C.F.R. part 19.
31. Section 309(g)(3) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(3), requires EPA to take into account the following factors in assessing a civil administrative penalty: the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation(s) and, with respect to the violator, ability to pay, any prior history of such violations, degree of culpability, any economic benefit or savings gained from the violation, and such other factors that justice may require.

Nature, Circumstances, Extent, and Gravity of Violations

32. As mentioned above, EPA observed a discharge of storm water with a visible sheen from the Site and observed evidence of previous discharges, which discharged to the South Plate River via storm drains. Respondent had not sought or obtained a permit to discharge pollutants to a water of the United States. Best management practices that would have minimized pollutant discharges were not being implemented at the Site. Had Respondent obtained and complied with a storm water discharge permit, it would have controlled its discharges and minimized pollutant discharges.
33. The Site is an automobile salvage yard, which is a regulated industrial activity. According to the December 2006, "Industrial Storm Water Fact Sheet Series – Sector M: Automobile Salvage Yards," EPA-833-F-06-028, the potential pollutants of concern from automobile salvage yards include oil and grease, ethylene glycol, galvanized metals, heavy metals, mercury, sulfuric acid, petroleum hydrocarbons, total suspended solids,

organics, chlorinated solvents, acid/alkaline wastes, detergents, phosphorus, salts, and fuel.

34. The section of the South Platte River where the City of Denver's MS4 storm drains discharge is in segment 14 of the Upper South Platte River Basin (5 C.C.R. 1002-38), which is designated by CDPHE as having uses including Class 1 - warm water aquatic life (capable of sustaining a wide variety of warm water biota), recreation with existing primary contact, water supply with sufficient drinking water quality after standard treatment, and agricultural. Segment 14 of the Upper South Platte River Basin is listed on the Colorado's Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and Monitoring and Evaluation List (5 C.C.R. 1002-93, updated April 30, 2010) for arsenic. Approximately 1 river mile north of the approximate discharge location to the South Platte River, segment 15 begins, which is listed on the Colorado's Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and Monitoring and Evaluation List (5 C.C.R. 1002-93, updated April 30, 2010) for cadmium.
35. EPA and states with authorized NPDES programs rely on permits to implement the controls needed to prevent water pollution. Respondent's failure to seek permit authorization jeopardizes the integrity of EPA's and CDPHE's programs to control storm water pollution.

Prior Compliance History

36. This complaint is the first enforcement action EPA Region 8 has issued to Respondent regarding noncompliance with the storm water requirements. CDPHE has not issued any enforcement actions to Respondent regarding noncompliance with the storm water requirements.

Degree of Culpability

37. In 1990, EPA promulgated Phase I of its storm water program (55 Fed. Reg. 47990-48091, November 16, 1990). Phase I required NPDES permit authorization for storm water discharges from ten categories of industrial activities, including the sixth category, "Facilities involved in the recycling of materials, including metal scrapyards, battery reclaimers, salvage yards, and automobile junkyards" (55 Fed. Reg. 48066).
38. Various automobile salvage trade associations have posted information on applicable regulations on their web sites, including storm water. Some trade magazines also have information on storm water and include advertisements for environmental consultants for storm water. Respondent is listed as a Colorado Parts Locating System member of the Colorado Automotive Recyclers association. At the time of the inspection, the Colorado Automotive Recyclers website listed "Constant EPA Awareness" and "Stormwater Program" as membership benefits.
39. Therefore, Respondent should have been aware of its responsibilities to meet the requirements related to storm water control.

Economic Benefit

40. Respondent received an economic benefit from its failure to obtain permit authorization and failure to comply with the requirements in the storm water discharge permit. Respondent received an economic benefit by failing to submit a timely application for a permit, failing to develop a timely stormwater management plan, failing to do the required inspections, failing to do the required sampling, failing to submit annual reports, and failing to implement all required best management practices.

Ability to Pay

41. An EPA financial analyst has thoroughly reviewed Respondent's financial condition and has determined that the penalty should be substantially reduced in this matter.

Other Matters that Justice may Require

42. EPA made no adjustments regarding other matters.

Penalty

43. Respondent consents and agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$8,000 in the manner described below:
- a. The first payment is due within 30 calendar days from the date written on the Final Order, issued by the Regional Judicial Officer, that adopts this CCCA. Payment shall be made according to the instructions on the attached document entitled Attachment 1 Collection Information, which is incorporated by reference. Respondent shall pay \$700 per month for 11 months and one payment of \$300 on the twelfth month. Each payment shall be due 30 days from the last payment. A copy of the check or evidence of wire transfer shall be sent simultaneously to:

Natasha Davis
NPDES Enforcement Unit (8ENF-W-NP)
U.S. EPA, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

and

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

- b. In the event payment is not received by the specified due date, interest will accrue

from the date of the Final Order, not the 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 payment in full is received, (i.e., on the 1st late day, 30 days of interest accrues).

c. In addition, a handling charge of fifteen dollars (\$15) shall be assessed the 31st day from the date of the Final Order, and each subsequent thirty day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, remains unpaid. In addition, a six percent (6 %) per annum penalty shall be assessed on any unpaid principal amount if 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.

d. Respondent agrees that the penalty shall never be claimed as a federal or other tax deduction or tax credit.

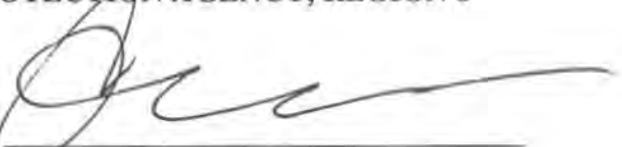
E. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

44. Nothing in this CCCA shall relieve Respondent of the duty to comply with the Act and its implementing regulations.
45. Respondent waives any and all claims for relief, and otherwise available rights to judicial or administrative review or other remedies which the Respondent may have, with respect to any issue of fact or law or any terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Agreement, including any right of judicial review under the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-708.
46. Failure by Respondent to comply with any of the terms of this CCCA shall constitute a breach of the CCCA and may result in referral of the matter to the Department of Justice for enforcement of this agreement and for such other relief as may be appropriate.
47. Nothing in this CCCA 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 this CCCA.
48. The undersigned Respondent certifies that he is fully authorized to enter into and be bound by the terms and conditions of this CCCA.
49. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.45, EPA will provide public notice of this action. EPA may modify or withdraw its consent to this CCCA if comments received disclose facts or considerations which indicate that the CCCA is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate.
50. If comments received during the public comment period do not require modification of or withdrawal from this CCCA by EPA, the parties agree to submit this CCCA to the Regional Judicial Officer, with a request that it be incorporated into a final order.

51. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorney fees in connection with this matter.
52. This CCCA, 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 herein,

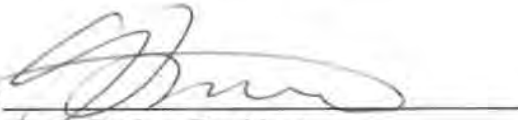
**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 8**

Date: 8/16/2012

By: 
Andrew M. Gaydosh
Assistant Regional Administrator
Office of Enforcement, Compliance &
Environmental Justice

**Steve Becker, President
M & M Classic Auto Parts, Inc.
D/B/A Bert's Model A Center**

Date: 8-14-2012

By: 
Steve Becker, President
M & M Classic Auto Parts, Inc.
D/B/A Bert's Model A Center
3560 Chestnut Place
Denver, Colorado

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 8
1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, CO 80202-1129**

**PUBLIC NOTICE
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON A
COMBINED COMPLAINT AND CONSENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
BERT'S MODEL A CENTER AND THE
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
TO RESOLVE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF
THE CLEAN WATER ACT**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to solicit written comments on the Combined Complaint and Consent Agreement (CCCA) between Bert's Model A Center (Respondent), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), bearing Docket # CWA-08-2012-022. EPA alleged that the Respondent violated the requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA) by failing to seek and obtain a discharge permit for the discharge of regulated stormwater to "Waters of the United States". The CCCA is entered into by the parties for the purpose of simultaneously commencing and concluding this matter, as authorized by Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R.), Section 22.13(b) and executed pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2) and (3). In the CCCA, Respondent agrees to pay a penalty of \$8,000. The alleged violations took place at Bert's Model A Center, 3560 Chestnut Place, Denver, Colorado 80216. The CCCA is issued under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) provisions of the CWA. These regulations govern the discharge of wastewater to "Waters of the United States". The addresses of EPA and respondent are listed here.

Respondent: Bert's Model A Center, 3560 Chestnut Place, Denver, Colorado 80216.

EPA: Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Enforcement, Compliance & Environmental Justice, EPA Region 8, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, Colorado 80202-1129.

EPA desires to receive written comments from any interested party having knowledge of the alleged violations or who can provide any information useful to ensure that any penalty assessed is appropriate.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written comments on the CCCA are encouraged and will be accepted at the address listed below for a period of forty (40) days after the publication of this notice. Written comments submitted by the public as well as information submitted by Respondent will be available for public review, subject to the provisions of law restricting the disclosure of confidential information. Any person submitting written comments has a right to participate in a hearing, if one is held. The complaint is available for review between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the address listed below and

on the internet at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oa/rhc/epaadmin.nsf> by searching for the company name or Docket #.

Please submit written comments to:

Tina Artemis (8RC)
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129.
Telephone: (303) 312-6765

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Persons wishing to receive a copy of other documents in this proceeding (such as the regulations in 40 C.F.R. part 22, which establish procedures for the hearing), or to comment upon the proposed penalty assessment or upon any other aspect of the matter, should contact the Regional Hearing Clerk identified above. No action will be taken by EPA to finalize a settlement in this matter until 40 days after this public notice.