

3. For the purpose of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations herein; however, Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations and conclusions of law contained in this CAFO. This CAFO states a claim upon which relief may be granted.
4. Respondent waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed final order contained in this CAFO and waives all defenses which have been raised or could have been raised to the claim in the CAFO.
5. The CAFO resolves only those violations which are alleged herein.
6. Respondent consents to the issuance of this CAFO as the most appropriate means of settling EPA's allegations without any adjudication of issues of law or fact, consents to the assessment and payment of the civil penalty in the amount and by the method set out in this CAFO, and consents to the compliance order in this CAFO.

II. JURISDICTION

7. This CAFO is issued by EPA pursuant to Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 and is simultaneously commenced and concluded through the issuance of this CAFO under 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3).
8. Respondent agrees to undertake and complete all actions required by the terms and conditions of this CAFO. In any action by EPA or the United States to enforce the terms of this CAFO, Respondent agrees not to contest the authority or jurisdiction of EPA to issue or enforce this CAFO and agrees not to contest the validity of this CAFO or its terms or conditions.

III. FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

9. Respondent is a waste management firm authorized to do business in the State of Texas.
10. Respondent is a "person" within the meaning of Section 1004(15) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(15), and 30 Texas Admin. Code § 3.2(25), [40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
11. Respondent owns and operates the Facility.
12. The Facility is licensed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the treatment and storage of radioactive waste and for the disposal of byproduct material, low-level radioactive waste (LLRW), and mixed waste.
13. The Facility is a "facility" within the meaning of 30 Texas Admin. Code § 335.1(60) [40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
14. From May 3-5, 2023, EPA conducted a RCRA on-site inspection and record review of the Facility's activities as a generator of hazardous waste.
15. EPA discovered that Respondent generated, and offered for transport and treatment, hazardous wastes as defined in 30 Texas Admin. Code § 335.1 (70), [40 C.F.R. §§ 261.21, 261.22, 261.24, and 261.33].
16. Based on its review, EPA determined that Respondent generated the hazardous waste streams in quantities that exceeded the threshold amount of 1000 kilograms of non-acute hazardous waste in a month, corresponding to Large Quantity Generator (LQG) status under 30 Texas Admin. Code, Chapter 335, Subchapter C, [40 C.F.R. Part 262], for the periods that such wastes remained onsite.

17. Respondent is a "generator" of "hazardous waste" as those terms are defined in 30 Texas Admin. Code §§ 335.1(66) & (70) [40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
18. As a generator of hazardous waste, Respondent is subject to Sections 3002 and 3010 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6922 and 6930, and the regulations set forth in 30 Texas Admin. Code Chapter 335, Subchapter C, [40 C.F.R Part 262].
19. EPA submitted to Respondent on August 28, 2023, a Notice of Potential Violation and Opportunity to Confer ("Notice"). EPA conferred with the Respondent regarding the violations alleged therein and provided an opportunity for Respondent to submit additional information and materials.

IV. VIOLATIONS

Claims 1. Failure to Meet Adequate Aisle Spacing Requirements

20. The allegations in Paragraphs 1-19 are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.
21. Under 30 Texas Admin. Code § 335.152(a)(2) [40 C.F.R. § 264.35], the owner or operator must maintain aisle space to allow the unobstructed movement of personnel, fire protection equipment, spill control equipment, and decontamination equipment to any area of facility operation in an emergency, unless it can be demonstrated to the Regional Administrator that aisle space is not needed for any of these purposes.
22. During the Inspection, EPA determined that the Respondent did not comply with the aisle spacing requirements in its procedural requirements in OP-2.1 Waste and Reagent Storage, which stated 24-inches of aisle spacing as appropriate.
23. At all times relevant to this CAFO, the Respondent failed to maintain adequate aisle spacing, in violation of 30 Texas Admin. Code § 335.152(a)(2) [40 C.F.R. § 264.35].

Claims 2. Failure to Comply with Satellite Accumulation Area Requirements

24. The allegations in Paragraphs 1-19 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
25. Under 30 Texas Admin. Code § 335.53(d) [40 C.F.R. § 262.15(a)], a generator may accumulate as much as 55 gallons of non-acute hazardous waste or 1 kg of solid acute hazardous waste in containers at or near any point of generation where wastes initially accumulate which is under the control of the operator of the process generating the waste.
26. During the Inspection, EPA determined that the Respondent generated more than 55 gallons of non-acute hazardous waste in a Satellite Accumulation Area in the laboratory.
27. At all times relevant to this CAFO, the Respondent accumulated more than 55 gallons of non-acute hazardous waste in a Satellite Accumulation Area, in violation of Under 30 Texas Admin. Code § 335.53(d) [40 C.F.R. § 262.15(a)].

V. COMPLIANCE ORDER

28. Pursuant to RCRA § 3008(a), 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), Respondent is hereby ordered to take the following actions, and within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this CAFO, Respondent shall provide in writing the following:
- A. Respondent shall certify that it has assessed all its solid waste streams at the WCS Facility to determine the accurate waste codes and has developed and implemented standard operating procedures ("SOPs") to ensure that Respondent is operating the WCS Facility in compliance with RCRA and the regulations promulgated thereunder, including, but not limited to, procedures for: (a) making hazardous waste determinations; (b) managing hazardous wastes; (c) reporting, transporting, and disposing of hazardous waste; (d)

preparing its manifests; and (e) meeting the requirements of the land disposal requirements;

- B. Respondent shall certify that it has accurately and adequately complied with its RCRA Section 3010 notification for the WCS Facility and within the prescribed time period; and
- C. Respondent shall provide, with its certification, a copy of Respondent's SOPs as described in subparagraph A above.
- D. Respondent shall certify the cost of implementation of injunctive relief.
- E. Respondent shall certify the environmental benefit (reduction of waste or reduction in the toxicity of waste).

29. In all instances in which this CAFO requires written submission to EPA, the submittal made by Respondent shall be signed by an owner or officer of the Respondent and shall include the following certification:

"I certify under the penalty of law that this document and all its attachments were prepared by me or under my direct supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

Copies of all documents required by this CAFO shall be sent to the following:

U.S. EPA, Region 6
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECAD)
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75270-2102
ATTN: Elizabeth Pham

Where required, notice shall be sent electronically by email or telephone to Enforcement Officer Elizabeth Pham, respectively at pham.elizabeth@epa.gov or at 214-665-8354.

VI. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

A. Penalty Provisions

30. Pursuant to the authority granted in Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928, and upon consideration of the entire record herein, including the above referenced Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, which are hereby adopted and made a part hereof, upon the seriousness of the alleged violations, and Respondent's good faith efforts to comply with the applicable regulations, it is ordered that Respondent be assessed a civil penalty of \$15,365.70.
31. The penalty shall be paid within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of this CAFO and made payable to the Treasurer United States.
32. The EPA web address, <https://www.epa.gov/financial/additional-instructions-making-payments-epa>, provides a list of options available for transmitting payment of penalties.

Options for payment include:

- A. Electronic payments via Pay.gov. <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/11751879>
- B. Remittance by Regular Mail, U.S. Postal Mail (including certified mail) or U.S. Postal Service

Express Mail. The check should be remitted to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979078
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

- C. Overnight Mail (non-U.S. Postal Service), the check should be remitted to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Government Lockbox 979078

Waste Control Specialists
RCRA-06-2024-0929

3180 Rider Trail S.
Earth City, MO 63045

D. Wire Transfer:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA: 021030004
Account No. 68010727
SWIFT address = FRNYUS33
33 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10045

The case name and docket number (**In the Matter of Waste Control Specialists, Docket No. RCRA-06-2024-0929**) shall be clearly documented on or within the chosen method of payment to ensure proper credit.

33. The Respondent shall send a simultaneous notice of such payment to the following:

Lorena S. Vaughn
Regional Hearing Clerk (ORC)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75270-2102

U.S. EPA, Region 6
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECAD)
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75270-2102
ATTN: Elizabeth Pham

Respondent's adherence to this request will ensure proper credit is given when penalties are received by EPA.

34. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, unless otherwise prohibited by law, EPA will assess interest and late payment penalties on outstanding debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the cost of processing and handling a delinquent claim. Interest on the civil penalty assessed in this CAFO will begin to accrue on the effective date of the CAFO and will be recovered by EPA on any amount of the civil penalty that is not paid within thirty (30) calendar

days of the civil penalty's due date and will be assessed at the rate of the United States

Treasury tax and loan rate in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a).

35. Moreover, the costs of the Agency's administrative handling overdue debts will be charged and assessed monthly throughout the period the debt is overdue. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). EPA will also assess a \$15.00 administrative handling charge for administrative costs on unpaid penalties for the thirty (30) day period after the payment is due and an additional \$15.00 for each subsequent thirty (30) day period the penalty remains unpaid. In addition, a penalty charge of up to six percent per year will be assessed monthly on any portion of the debt which remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). Should a penalty charge on the debt be required, it shall accrue from the first day payment is delinquent. 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d). Other penalties for failure to make a payment may also apply.

36. For purposes of the identification requirement in Section 162(f)(2)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 162(f)(2)(A)(ii), and 26 C.F.R. § 162-21(b)(2), performance of the Compliance Order and payment of the civil penalty are restitution, remediation, or required to come into compliance with the law.

B. Costs

37. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees. Furthermore, Respondent specifically waives its right to seek reimbursement of its costs and attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act (5 U.S.C. § 504), as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (P.L. 04-121), and any regulations promulgated pursuant to those Acts.

C. Termination and Satisfaction

38. When Respondent believes that it has complied with all the requirements of this CAFO, including compliance with the Compliance Order and payment of the civil penalty, Respondent shall also certify this in writing and in accordance with the certification language set forth in Section V (Compliance Order). Unless the EPA, Region 6 objects in writing within sixty (60) days of EPA's receipt of Respondent's certification, then this CAFO is terminated on the basis of Respondent's certification.

D. Effective Date of Settlement

39. This CAFO shall become effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

Waste Control Specialists
RCRA-06-2024-0929

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES CONSENT TO THE ENTRY OF THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER:

FOR THE RESPONDENT:

Date: 2/16/2024

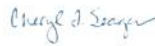
Jay B. Cartwright

Digitally signed by Jay B. Cartwright
DN: CN = Jay B. Cartwright email =
jcartwright@wvcstexas.com C = US O = Waste Control
Specialists LLC OU = Director of ESH&Q / RSO
Date: 2024.02.16 10:20:30 -0600

Waste Control Specialists

FOR THE COMPLAINANT:

Date: _____



Digitally signed by Cheryl T.
Seager
Date: 2024.02.16 14:41:35 -06'00'

Cheryl T. Seager
Director
Enforcement and
Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. EPA, Region 6

FINAL ORDER

Pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, the foregoing CAFO is hereby ratified. This Final Order shall not in any case affect the right of EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. This Final Order shall resolve only those causes of action alleged herein. Nothing in this Final Order shall be construed to waive, extinguish or otherwise affect Respondent's (or its officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, or assigns) obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations, including the regulations that were the subject of this action. Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of settlement and the civil penalty payment instructions as set forth in the CAFO. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b) this Final Order shall become effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

Date: _____

THOMAS RUCKI

Digitally signed by THOMAS
RUCKI
Date: 2024.02.22 10:38:32 -05'00'

Thomas Rucki
Regional Judicial Officer

Waste Control Specialists
RCRA-06-2024-0929

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA - Region 6, 1201 Elm Street, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75270-2102, and that I sent a true and correct copy on this day in the following manner to the email addresses:

Copy via Email to Complainant:

henley.hollis@epa.gov

Copy via Email to Respondent:

jcartwright@wcstexas.com
Waste Control Specialists
9998 W State Hwy 176
Andrews, TX 79714

**LORENA
VAUGHN**

Digitally signed by LORENA
VAUGHN
Date: 2024.02.26 10:02:39
-06'00'

Regional Hearing Clerk
EPA Region 6