



**REGION 1**

BOSTON, MA 02109

**FILED**

**1/27/26**

**12:07 PM**

**U.S. EPA REGION 1  
HEARING CLERK**

**EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

Docket Number: CWA-01-2026-0017, NPDES PERMIT No. MAR05J03J

Washington Mills Group, Inc. ("WM" or "Respondent") of North Grafton, Massachusetts is a "person," within the meaning of Section 502(5) of the Clean Water Act (the "Act"), 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5), and 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.

Attached is an "Expedited Settlement Worksheet" ("Settlement Form"), which is incorporated by reference. By its signature, Complainant ("EPA") finds that Respondent is responsible for violating Section 301(a) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311, by failing to fully comply with the terms and conditions of the 2021 Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity, during the time frame described in the Settlement Form.

EPA finds, and Respondent admits, that EPA has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 309(g) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g), and 40 C.F.R. Part 22. Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations in the first two paragraphs of this Expedited Settlement Agreement ("Agreement").

EPA is authorized to enter into this Agreement under the authority vested in the Administrator of EPA by Section 309(g)(2)(A) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(A), and by 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b). EPA and WM (together, the "Parties") enter into this Agreement to settle the civil violations alleged in this Agreement for a penalty of **\$19,688**. Respondent consents to the assessment of this penalty and waives the right to: (1) contest the findings specified in the Settlement Form; (2) a hearing pursuant to Section 309(g)(2) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2); and (3) appeal pursuant to Section 309(g)(8), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(8). By signing this Agreement, Respondent waives any rights or defenses that Respondent has or may have for this matter to be resolved in federal court,

including but not limited to any right to a jury trial, and also waives any right to challenge the lawfulness of the Final Order accompanying the Agreement.

Additionally, Respondent certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false statement to the United States Government, that Respondent has addressed the alleged violations identified in the Settlement Form or has obtained a time frame in writing from EPA by which Respondent has agreed to correct such alleged violations. Furthermore, Respondent agrees that consistent with Section 162(f)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 162(f)(1), Respondent will not deduct penalties paid under this Agreement for federal tax purposes.

Within 10 days after this Agreement becomes final, Respondent agrees to submit payment using any payment method provided at: <https://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>. Respondent shall email proof of payment to Cristeen Schena, EPA Region 1, at: [schena.cristeen@epa.gov](mailto:schena.cristeen@epa.gov), and to the Regional Hearing Clerk, EPA Region 1 at: [R1\\_Hearing\\_Clerk\\_Filings@epa.gov](mailto:R1_Hearing_Clerk_Filings@epa.gov).

This Agreement settles EPA's civil penalty claims against Respondent for the alleged Clean Water Act violations specified in this Agreement. EPA does not waive its rights to take any enforcement action against Respondent for any other past, present, or future civil or criminal violation of the Act or of any other federal statute or regulation. EPA does not waive its right to issue a compliance order for any uncorrected alleged violations described in the Settlement Form. EPA has determined this Agreement to be appropriate.

Respondent agrees to acceptance of Complainant's: i. digital or an original signature on

*In the Matter of: Washington Mills Group, Inc.* Docket No.: CWA-01-2026-0017  
Expedited Settlement Agreement

this Agreement; and ii. service of the fully executed Agreement on Respondent by mail or electronically by email at the email address provided under Respondent's signature. Respondent understands that the mailing or email address may be made public when the Agreement and Certificate of Service are filed and uploaded to a searchable database. Complainant agrees to acceptance of Respondent's digital or original signature on this Agreement.

Prior to requesting that an EPA Regional Judicial Officer issue the Final Order, EPA will provide public notice of this Agreement and a reasonable opportunity for the public to comment on it. EPA will address any comments on this Agreement in accordance with Section 309(g)(4) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(4), and 40 C.F.R. § 22.45. EPA has consulted with the State of Massachusetts in this matter consistent with Section 309(g)(1) of the Act 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(1).

This Agreement is binding on the Parties signing below and becomes final 30 days from the date that a signed copy of the Final Order is transmitted from the Regional Judicial Officer to the Regional Hearing Clerk unless a petition to set aside this Agreement is filed by a commenter pursuant to Section 309(g)(5) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(5), following public noticing of this Agreement.

APPROVED BY EPA:

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Chow, Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

APPROVED BY RESPONDENT:

Name (print): JOHN C. WINKLER

Title (print): VP OF OPERATIONS

Signature:  Date: 1-21-26

**Provide Respondent's or Respondent's representative's email address for electronic service below:**

jwinkler@Washingtonmills.com

FINAL ORDER: More than 40 days have elapsed since the issuance of public notice pursuant to Section 309(g)(4)(A) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(4)(A), and EPA has received no comments concerning this matter.

Having determined that this Agreement is authorized by law, IT IS SO ORDERED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael J. Knapp  
Regional Judicial Officer

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**Region 1 - 5 Post Office Square, Boston MA 02109**  
**EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT Worksheet**  
**Docket No. CWA-01-2026-0017**

<b>Docket Number: CWA-01-2026-0017</b>				
		<b>Site Factors</b>		
<b>Site Name: Washington Mills Group, Inc.</b>		<b>Acres of Exposure</b>	1.5	
<b>Site Address: 20 North Main Street, North Grafton, MA 01536</b>		<b>Full-Time Employees</b>	75	
<b>Lat/Long: 42°13'52"N 71°42'26"W</b>		<b>Environmental Harm</b>	Med	
<b>NPDES Permit ID: MAR05J03J</b>		<b>Sector</b>	Sector E Glass Clay, Cement, Concrete, and Gypsum Products	
<b>Inspection Date: November 21, 2024</b>		<b>Receiving Water Quality</b>	Med	
<b>Permit Section Violation</b>		<b>Magnitude</b>	<b>Penalty Amount</b>	<b>Length of Violation</b>
Site Operations	2.1.1 Stormwater Control Measure Selection and Design Considerations (Failed to select and install effective control measures)	Moderate or 5% ≤ 25%	\$2,461	Jan 2024 - Dec 2024
	2.1.2 Non-Numeric Technology-Based Effluent Limits (Failed to minimize exposure of industrial activities to stormwater and failed to carry out good housekeeping practices)	Significant or > 25%	\$4,922	Jan 2024 - Dec 2024
	5.1 Corrective Actions (Failed to take corrective actions to mitigate unauthorized stormwater discharges)	Moderate or 5% ≤ 25%	\$3,691	Jan 2024 - Dec 2024
Monitoring & Recordkeeping	3.1 Routine Facility Inspections (Failed to conduct inspections)	25% < 50%	\$2,461	Jan 2024 - Dec 2024
	3.2 Quarterly Visual Assessment of Stormwater Discharges (Failed to conduct effective quarterly visual assessments)	25% < 50%	\$2,461	Jan 2024 - Dec 2024
	4.1 Monitoring			
	4.2.1 Benchmark Monitoring			
	4.2.2 Effluent Limitation Monitoring			
	4.2.4 Impaired Waters Monitoring			
	5.2 Additional Implementation Measures			
	6 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP does not accurately describe all site conditions)	Moderate or 5% ≤ 25%	\$2,461	Jan 2024 - Dec 2024
	7 Reporting and Recordkeeping (Late submission of Discharge Monitoring Report)	Moderate or 5% ≤ 25%	\$1,230	July 2023 - Sept 2024
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,688</b>	

\*The "Magnitude" column reflects the severity and/or length of time of the violations observed and documented by the Inspector at the time of the inspection and/or based on additional information.