

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103**



In the Matter of:	:	
	:	
Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services 6776 Reisterstown Road, Suite #311 Baltimore, MD 21215	:	U.S. EPA Docket No. RCRA-03-2024-0018
	:	
Respondent.	:	Proceeding under Section 9006 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 6991e
	:	
	:	
Southern Maryland Pre-Release Unit Underground Storage Tank Facility Id. No. 970 14320 Oaks Road Charlotte Hall, Maryland 20622	:	
	:	
Facility.	:	

CONSENT AGREEMENT

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This Consent Agreement is entered into by the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III (“Complainant”) and the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (“Respondent”) (collectively the “Parties”), pursuant to Section 9006 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, commonly referred to as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended (“RCRA” or the “Act”), 42 U.S.C. § 6991e, and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits (“Consolidated Rules of Practice”), 40 C.F.R. Part 22. Section 9006 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6991e, authorizes the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess penalties and undertake other actions required by this Consent Agreement. The Administrator has delegated this authority to the Regional Administrator who, in turn, has delegated the authority to enter into agreements concerning administrative penalties to

the Complainant. This Consent Agreement and the attached Final Order (hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Consent Agreement and Final Order”) resolve Complainant’s civil penalty claims against Respondent under Section 9006 of RCRA for the violations alleged herein.

2. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, Complainant hereby simultaneously commences and resolves this administrative proceeding.

JURISDICTION

3. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) has jurisdiction over the above-captioned matter, as described in Paragraph 1, above.
4. The Consolidated Rules of Practice govern this administrative adjudicatory proceeding pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.1(a)(4).
5. EPA has given the Maryland Department of the Environment (“MDE”) notice of the issuance of this Consent Agreement and Final Order in accordance with Section 9006(a)(2) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6991e(a)(2).

GENERAL PROVISIONS

6. For purposes of this proceeding only, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth in this Consent Agreement and Final Order.
7. Except as provided in Paragraph 6, above, Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations set forth in this Consent Agreement.
8. Respondent agrees not to contest the jurisdiction of EPA with respect to the execution of this Consent Agreement, the issuance of the attached Final Order, or the enforcement of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.
9. For purposes of this proceeding only, Respondent hereby expressly waives its right to contest the allegations set forth in **this Consent Agreement and Final Order** and waives its right to appeal the accompanying Final Order.
10. Respondent consents to the assessment of the civil penalty stated herein, to the issuance of any specified compliance order herein, and to any conditions specified herein.
11. Respondent shall bear its own costs and attorney’s fees in connection with this proceeding.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

12. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, Complainant alleges and adopts the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth immediately below.
13. Section 9006(d) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6991e(d), authorizes civil penalties to be assessed against any owner or operator of an underground storage tank (“UST”) who fails to comply with, *inter alia*, any requirement or standard of a State program that has been approved pursuant to Section 9004 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6991c for the violations alleged herein.
14. On June 20, 1992, EPA approved the State of Maryland’s UST program regulations, the Maryland Department of the Environment regulations entitled “TANK MANAGEMENT,” as contained in the Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”) Chapter 26, Sections 26.10.02 to 26.10.11.
15. Complainant alleges that Respondent failed to comply with specific requirements of Subtitle I of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6991 *et seq.*, its implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 280, and the federally-approved Maryland UST management program regulations set forth in COMAR, Title 26, Subtitle 10 *et seq.*
16. For the times relevant to the allegations set forth below, the State of Maryland was a governmental organization, which became a state in 1788.
17. For the times relevant to the allegations set forth below, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services was a governmental organization, which was created by the State of Maryland in 1970.
18. At all times relevant to this Consent Agreement, Respondent has been and continues to be a “person” as defined by Section 9001(5) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6991(5), and COMAR § 26.10.02.04B(40).
19. At all times relevant to this Consent Agreement, Respondent has been the “operator” and/or “owner” of “USTs” and “UST systems,” as defined in Sections 9001(3), (4) and (10) of RCRA, 42, U.S.C. § 6991(3), (4), and (10); and COMAR § 26.10.02.04B(37), (39), (64) and (66), located at 14320 Oaks Road, Charlotte Hall, Maryland 20622 (“the Facility”).
20. On June 1, 2021, under the authority of Section 9005(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6991d(a), EPA conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (“CEI” or “Inspection”) of the Facility. The findings of the EPA inspection are the basis for the violations cited in this Consent Agreement.

21. At the time of the June 1, 2021 Inspection, the Inspector noted that, while the Facility contains several USTs, only the 1,000-gallon UST, Tank No. 7, is regulated under 40 C.F.R. Part 280, and the federally-approved Maryland UST management program regulations set forth in COMAR, Title 26, Subtitle 10 *et seq.*
22. At all times relevant to the applicable violations alleged herein, there was at the Facility one (1) UST which contained a “regulated substance” as that term is defined in Section 9001(7) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6991(7), and COMAR § 26.10.02.04B(48):
 - a. Tank No. 7: 1,000 gallons; containing regular-grade gasoline; double wall, fiberglass-reinforced plastic (“FRP”), equipped with double wall, flexible plastic piping; tank installed 11/01/1997.
23. At all times relevant to the applicable violations alleged herein, Tank 7, along with the respective underground piping associated with Tank 7, was a “petroleum UST system” and “existing tank system” as these terms are defined in COMAR § 26.10.02.04B(43) and (19).
24. In the case of the Facility, Suction Piping is the type of piping utilized for Tank 7.
25. On February 23, 2023, Respondent removed Tank 7 from the Facility.

Count I
Failure to conduct tank release detection on an UST

26. The information and allegations in the preceding paragraphs of this Consent Agreement are incorporated herein by reference.
27. COMAR § 26.10.05.02, *Requirements for Petroleum UST Systems*, under Section A, requires that: *Owners and operators of petroleum UST systems shall provide release detection for tanks and piping as described in this regulation.*
28. COMAR § 26.10.05.02, *Requirements for Petroleum UST Systems*, under Section B, *Tanks*, requires that:

All UST systems shall take daily inventory as described in Regulation .04 B, below. In addition, tanks shall be monitored at least every 30 days for releases using one of the methods listed in Regulation .04 E – I....
29. During the June 1, 2021, Inspection, Respondent provided records indicating that it conducted tank release detection, as required by COMAR § 26.10.05.02, on June 2, 2019. Respondent failed to do monthly leak detection after June 2, 2019. Based on the June 2, 2019 date, Respondent was required to conduct the next monthly tank release detection by the due date of July 2, 2019, resulting in a late period that ran from July 2, 2019, to February 23, 2023.

30. Respondent's failure to conduct monthly tank release detection on Tank 7 for the time period of July 2, 2019 to February 23, 2023, constitutes a violation of COMAR § 26.10.05.02B and the requirement to provide release detection for tanks and piping at COMAR § 26.10.05.02A.
31. In failing to comply with COMAR § 26.10.05.02B, Respondent is in violation of COMAR § 26.10.05.02A and 42 U.S.C. § 6991b(c), and is subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 9006(d) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6991e(d).

Count II
Failure to conduct line tightness test (LTT) or
monthly monitoring of pressurized piping

32. The information and allegations in the preceding paragraphs of this Consent Agreement are incorporated herein by reference.
33. COMAR § 26.10.05.02, *Requirements for Petroleum UST Systems*, under Section C, Piping, Subsection 1, requires that:
 - (1) *Underground piping that routinely contains regulated substances shall be monitored for releases in a manner that meets one of the requirements of this section.*
 - (2) *Pressurized Piping. ... (not applicable for Tank 7 at the Facility)*
 - (3) *Suction Piping. Underground piping that conveys regulated substances under suction shall either have a line tightness test conducted at least every 3 years and in accordance with Regulation .05 C, or use a monthly monitoring method conducted in accordance with Regulation .05 D. Release detection is not required for suction piping that is designed and constructed to meet the following standards:*
 - (a) *The below-grade piping operates at less than atmospheric pressure;*
 - (b) *The below-grade piping is sloped so that the contents of the pipe will drain back into the storage tank if the suction is released;*
 - (c) *Only one check valve is included in each suction line;*
 - (d) *The check valve is located directly below and as close as practical to the suction pump; and*
 - (e) *A method is provided that allows compliance with §C (3) (b) - (d) above, to be readily determined.*
34. At the 2021 inspection, Respondent had no records of testing done for COMAR § 26.10.05.02C(3). Based on the lack of available records during the June 1, 2021 Inspection, upon information and belief, EPA finds the Facility did not perform line tightness testing or monthly monitoring as required by COMAR § 26.10.05.02C(3), by the due date of July 2, 2019, resulting in a late period that ran from July 2, 2019 to

February 23, 2023.

35. In failing to comply with COMAR § 26.10.05.02C(3), Respondent is in violation of Section COMAR § 26.10.05.02 and 42 U.S.C. § 6991b(c), and is subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 9006(d) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6991e(d).

CIVIL PENALTY

36. In settlement of EPA’s claims for civil penalties for the violations alleged in this Consent Agreement, Respondent consents to the assessment of a civil penalty in the amount of **THIRTY-THOUSAND dollars (\$30,000.00)**, which Respondent shall be liable to pay in accordance with the terms set forth below.
37. The civil penalty is based upon EPA’s consideration of a number of factors, including the penalty criteria (“statutory factors”) set forth in RCRA, Section 9006(c) and (e), 42 U.S.C. § 6991e(c) and (e), which includes the seriousness of the violation, any good faith efforts to comply with the applicable requirements, and any other factors considered appropriate. In developing a proposed penalty for the violations alleged in this Consent Agreement, EPA will take into account the particular facts and circumstances of this case with specific reference to EPA’s November 1990 U.S. E.P.A. Penalty Guidance for Violations of UST Regulations, and EPA’s Interim Consolidated Enforcement Penalty Policy for Underground Storage Tank Regulations and Revised Field Citation Program and ESA Policy, dated October 5, 2018 (collectively “UST Penalty Guidance”) which reflects the statutory penalty criteria and factors set forth Section 9006(c) of RCRA, and the appropriate *Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation*, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 19, and the applicable EPA memoranda addressing EPA’s civil penalty policies to account for inflation.
38. Payment of the civil penalty amount, and any associated interest, administrative fees, and late payment penalties owed, shall be made by either cashier’s check, certified check or electronic wire transfer, in the following manner:
- a. All payments by Respondent shall include reference to Respondent’s name and address, and the Docket Number of this action, *i.e.*,
EPA Docket Number RCRA-03-2024-0018;
 - b. All checks shall be made payable to the “United States Treasury”;
 - c. All payments made by check and sent by regular mail shall be addressed and mailed to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979078
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

- d. For additional information concerning other acceptable methods of payment of the civil penalty amount see:

<https://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>

- e. A copy of Respondent's check or other documentation of payment of the penalty using the method selected by Respondent for payment shall be sent simultaneously by email to:

Daniel T. Gallo
Assistant Regional Counsel
gallo.dan@epa.gov

and

U.S. EPA Region III Regional Hearing Clerk
R3_Hearing_Clerk@epa.gov.

39. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, EPA is entitled to assess interest and late payment penalties on outstanding debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the costs of processing and handling a delinquent claim, as more fully described below. Accordingly, Respondent's failure to make timely payment of the penalty as specified herein shall result in the assessment of late payment charges including interest, penalties and/or administrative costs of handling delinquent debts.
40. Payment of the civil penalty is due and payable immediately upon receipt by Respondent of a true and correct copy of the fully executed and filed Consent Agreement and Final Order. Receipt by Respondent or Respondent's legal counsel of such copy of the fully executed Consent Agreement and Final Order, with a date stamp indicating the date on which the Consent Agreement and Final Order was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, shall constitute receipt of written initial notice that a debt is owed EPA by Respondent in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.9(a).
41. INTEREST: In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a)(1), interest on the civil penalty assessed in this Consent Agreement and Final Order will begin to accrue on the date Respondent is notified of its debt to the United States as established upon the ratification and filing of the fully executed Consent Agreement and Final Order with the Regional Hearing Clerk. However, EPA will not seek to recover interest on any amount of the civil penalties that is paid within thirty (30) calendar days after the date on which such interest begins to accrue. Interest 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).
42. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS: The costs of the EPA's administrative handling of overdue debts will be charged and assessed monthly throughout the period a debt is

overdue. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). If payment is not received within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, EPA will also assess a \$15.00 administrative handling charge for administrative costs on unpaid penalties for the first thirty (30) day period after the payment is due and an additional \$15.00 for each subsequent thirty (30) days the penalty remains unpaid.

43. LATE PAYMENT PENALTY: A late payment penalty of six percent per year will be assessed monthly on any portion of the civil penalty that remains delinquent more than ninety (90) calendar days. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(c). Should assessment of the penalty charge on the debt be required, it shall accrue from the first day payment is delinquent. 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d).
44. Respondent agrees not to deduct for federal tax purposes the civil penalty assessed in this Consent Agreement and Final Order.
45. **The parties consent to service of the Final Order by e-mail at the following valid e-mail addresses: gallo.dan@epa.gov (for Complainant), and stuart.nathan@maryland.gov (for Respondent).**

GENERAL SETTLEMENT CONDITIONS

46. By signing this Consent Agreement, Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Agreement and Final Order will be available to the public and represents that, to the best of Respondent's knowledge and belief, this Consent Agreement and Final Order does not contain any confidential business information or personally identifiable information from Respondent.
47. Respondent certifies that any information or representation it has supplied or made to EPA concerning this matter was, at the time of submission true, accurate, and complete and that there has been no material change regarding the truthfulness, accuracy or completeness of such information or representation. EPA shall have the right to institute further actions to recover appropriate relief if EPA obtains evidence that any information provided and/or representations made by Respondent to the EPA regarding matters relevant to this Consent Agreement and Final Order, **including information about respondent's ability to pay a penalty**, are false or, in any material respect, inaccurate. This right shall be in addition to all other rights and causes of action that EPA may have, civil or criminal, under law or equity in such event. Respondent and its officers, directors and agents are aware that the submission of false or misleading information to the United States government may subject a person to separate civil and/or criminal liability.

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

48. Respondent certifies to EPA, upon personal investigation and to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it currently is in compliance with regard to the violations alleged in this Consent Agreement.

OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS

49. Nothing in this Consent Agreement and Final Order shall relieve Respondent of its obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, nor shall it restrict EPA's authority to seek compliance with any applicable laws or regulations, nor shall it be construed to be a ruling on the validity of any federal, state or local permit. This Consent Agreement and Final Order does not constitute a waiver, suspension or modification of the requirements of RCRA, Subtitle I, or any regulations promulgated thereunder.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

50. This Consent Agreement and Final Order resolves only EPA's claims for civil penalties for the specific violations alleged against Respondent in this Consent Agreement and Final Order. EPA reserves the right to commence action against any person, including Respondent, in response to any condition which EPA determines may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, public welfare, or the environment. This settlement is subject to all limitations on the scope of resolution and to the reservation of rights set forth in Section 22.18(c) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c). EPA reserves any rights and remedies available to it under RCRA, Subtitle I, the regulations promulgated thereunder and any other federal law or regulation to enforce the terms of this Consent Agreement and Final Order after its effective date.

EXECUTION /PARTIES BOUND

51. This Consent Agreement and Final Order shall apply to and be binding upon the EPA, the Respondent and the officers, directors, employees, contractors, successors, agents and assigns of Respondent. By his or her signature below, the person who signs this Consent Agreement on behalf of Respondent is acknowledging that he or she is fully authorized by the Respondent to execute this Consent Agreement and to legally bind Respondent to the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

EFFECTIVE DATE

52. The effective date of this Consent Agreement and Final Order is the date on which the Final Order, signed by the Regional Administrator of EPA, Region III, or his/her designee, the Regional Judicial Officer, is filed along with the Consent Agreement with the Regional Hearing Clerk pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice.

ENTIRE AGREEMENT

53. This Consent Agreement and Final Order constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the Parties regarding settlement of all claims for civil penalties

*In the Matter of: Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
EPA Docket No. RCRA-03-2024-0018*

pertaining to the specific violations alleged herein and there are no representations, warranties, covenants, terms, or conditions agreed upon between the Parties other than those expressed in this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

*In the Matter of: Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
EPA Docket No. RCRA-03-2024-0018*

For Respondent: Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Date: 10/17/2023

By: *John Gauthier*
John Gauthier
Acting Director, Maryland Department of
Public Safety and Correctional Services/
Division of Capital Construction and
Facilities Maintenance

For the Complainant:

After reviewing the Consent Agreement and other pertinent matters, I, the undersigned Director of the Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, agree to the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and recommend that the Regional Administrator, or his/her designee, the Regional Judicial Officer, issue the attached Final Order.

By: _____
[*Digital Signature and Date*]
Karen Melvin, Director
Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. EPA – Region III
Complainant

Attorney for Complainant:

By: _____
[*Digital Signature and Date*]
Daniel T. Gallo
Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA – Region III

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103



In the Matter of: :
:
Maryland Department of Public Safety : **U.S. EPA Docket No. RCRA-03-2024-0018**
and Correctional Services : :
6776 Reisterstown Road, Suite #311 : **Proceeding under Section 9006 of the**
Baltimore, MD 21215 : **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as**
: **amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 6991e**
Respondent. : :
: :
Southern Maryland Pre-Release Unit : :
Underground Storage Tank : :
Facility Id. No. 970 : :
14320 Oaks Road : :
Charlotte Hall, Maryland 20622 : :
: :
Facility. :

FINAL ORDER

Complainant, the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, and Respondent, Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, have executed a document entitled “Consent Agreement,” which I hereby ratify as a Consent Agreement in accordance with the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (“Consolidated Rules of Practice”), 40 C.F.R. Part 22, Sections 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3). The terms of the foregoing Consent Agreement are accepted by the undersigned and incorporated into this Final Order as if fully set forth at length herein.

Based upon the representations of the parties in the attached Consent Agreement, the civil penalty is based upon EPA’s consideration of a number of factors, including the penalty criteria (“statutory factors”) set forth in RCRA, Section 9006(c) and (e), 42 U.S.C. § 6991e(c) and (e), which includes the seriousness of the violation, any good faith efforts to comply with the applicable requirements, and any other factors considered appropriate with specific reference to EPA’s November 1990 U.S. E.P.A. Penalty Guidance for Violations of UST Regulations, and EPA’s Interim Consolidated Enforcement Penalty Policy for Underground Storage Tank Regulations and Revised Field Citation Program and ESA Policy, dated October 5, 2018 (collectively “UST Penalty Guidance”) which reflects the statutory penalty criteria and factors set forth in Section 9006(c) of RCRA, and the appropriate *Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation*, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 19.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO Section 9006(d) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6991e(d), and Section 22.18(b)(3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, **IT IS HEREBY**

ORDERED that Respondent pay a civil penalty in the amount of **THIRTY-THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$30,000.00)**, in accordance with the payment provisions set forth in the Consent Agreement and in 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(c), and comply with the terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement.

This Final Order constitutes the final Agency action in this proceeding. This Final Order shall not in any case affect the right of the Agency or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief, or criminal sanctions for any violations of the law. This Final Order resolves only those causes of action alleged in the Consent Agreement and does not waive, extinguish or otherwise affect Respondent’s obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of RCRA and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

The effective date of the attached Consent Agreement and this Final Order is the date on which this Final Order is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

Date: _____

By: _____

Joseph J. Lisa
Regional Judicial and Presiding Officer
U.S. EPA Region III

[Digital Signature and Date]

Regional Hearing Clerk

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III