



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6  
EXPEDITED SPILL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

FILED  
29 JUL 24 AM 10:48  
REGIONAL HEARING CLERK  
EPA REGION 6

DOCKET NO. CWA-06-2024-4502

On December 15, 2023

At: Permian Express Partners, Scurry County, Texas (Respondent) discharged 31 barrels of crude oil, in violation of Section 311(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act (the Act), as noted on the attached FINDINGS and ALLEGED CIVIL VIOLATIONS FORM (Form), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

The parties are authorized to enter into this Expedited Settlement under the authority vested in the Administrator of EPA by Section 311(b) (6) (B) (i) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b) (6) (B) (i), as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and by 40 CFR § 22.13(b). The parties enter into this Expedited Settlement in order to settle the civil violations described in the Form for a penalty of \$3,500.00. This settlement is subject to the following terms and conditions:

EPA finds the Respondent's conduct is subject to the discharge prohibition of Section 311(b)(3) of the Act, as described in the statute and further described by 40 CFR § 110.3. The Respondent admits he/she is subject to Section 311(b)(3) and that EPA has jurisdiction over the Respondent and the Respondent's conduct as described in the Form. Respondent does not contest the Findings and waives any objections it may have to EPA's jurisdiction. The Respondent consents to the assessment of the penalty stated above. Respondent certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false submission to the United States Government, that it has investigated the cause of the spill, it has cleaned up the spill pursuant to the federal requirements, and it has taken corrective actions that will prevent future spills. The Respondent also verifies that it has sent a certified check for \$3,500.00, payable to "Environmental Protection Agency," to: "USEPA, Fines & Penalties, P.O. Box 979077, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000" and Respondent has noted on the penalty payment check "Spill Fund-311" and the docket number of this case, "CWA-06-2024-4502."

Upon signing and returning this Expedited Settlement to EPA, Respondent waives the opportunity for a hearing or appeal pursuant to Section 311 of the Act, and consents to EPA's approval of the Expedited Settlement without further notice.

If Respondent does not sign and return this Expedited Settlement as presented within 30 days of the date of its receipt, the proposed Expedited Settlement is withdrawn without

prejudice to EPA's ability to file any other enforcement action for the violations identified in the Form.

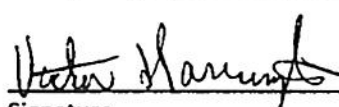
After this Expedited Settlement becomes effective, EPA will take no further action against the Respondent for the violations of the Section 311(b)(3) of the Act described in the Form. However, EPA does not waive any rights to take any enforcement action for any other past, present, or future violations by the Respondent of Section 311(b)(3) of the Act or of any other federal statute or regulation. By its first signature, EPA ratifies the Inspection Findings and Alleged Violations set forth in the Form.

This Expedited Settlement is binding on the parties signing below and is effective upon the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division Director's signature.

APPROVED BY EPA:

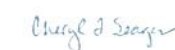
  
Bryant Smalley  
Chief  
Water Enforcement Branch  
Date: May 28, 2024

APPROVED BY RESPONDENT:

Name (print): Victor Harrington  
Title (print): VP-Operations Liquids West  
  
Signature  
Date: 7/8/2024

The estimated cost of the clean-up and corrective action is  
\$ 1,100,000.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

  
Digitally signed by CHERYL SEAGER  
Date: 2024.07.10 09:28:14 -0400  
Date: July 10, 2024  
Cheryl T. Seager, Director  
Enforcement and  
Compliance Assurance Division

### **FINDINGS AND ALLEGED CIVIL VIOLATIONS**

1. Permian Express Partners is a firm qualified to do business in the State of Texas with a place of business located in Houston, TX. The Respondent is a person within the meaning of Section 311(a)(7) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(7).
2. Respondent is the owner/operator of an onshore facility within the meaning of Section 311(a)(10) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(10), pipeline, which is located in Scurry County, Texas (facility).
3. Section 311(b)(3) of the Act prohibits the discharge of oil into or upon the navigable waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines in such quantities that have been determined may be harmful to the public health or welfare or environment of the United States.
4. For purposes of Section 311(b)(3) and (b)(4) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(3) and (b)(4), discharges of oil into or upon the navigable waters of the United States in such quantities that have been determined may be harmful to the public health or welfare or environment of the United States are defined in 40 C.F.R. 110.3 to include discharges of oil that cause a film or a sheen upon or discoloration of the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines.
5. On December 15, 2023, Respondent discharged 31 barrels barrels of oil as defined in Section 311(a)(1) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(1), and 40 C.F.R. 110.1, from its facility into or upon Little Sulphur Creek and adjoining shorelines.
6. Little Sulphur Creek enters Big Creek, thence the Colorado River and is a navigable water of the United States as defined in Section 502(7) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7), and 40 C.F.R. 110.1.
7. Respondent's December 15, 2023, discharge of oil from its facility caused a sheen upon or discoloration of the surface of Little Sulphur Creek and adjoining shorelines and therefore, was in a quantity that has been determined may be harmful under 40 C.F.R 110.3, which implements Sections 311(b)(3) and (b)(4) of the Act.
8. Respondent's December 15, 2023, discharge of oil from its facility into or upon Little Sulphur Creek and adjoining shorelines in a quantity that has been determined may be harmful under 40 C.F.R. 110.3 violated Section 311(b)(3) of the Act. Pursuant to Section 311(b)(6)(B)(i) of the Act, and 40 CFR 19.4, the Respondent is liable for civil penalties of up to \$22,324 per violation, up to a maximum of \$55,808.



**Docket No. CWA-06-2024-4502**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that the original and one copy of the foregoing "Consent Agreement and Final Order," issued pursuant to 40 C.F.R. 22.13(b), was filed on July 29, 2024, with the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA Region 6, 1201 Elm Street, Suite 500, Dallas, TX 75270-2102, and that on the same date a copy of the same was sent to the following, in the manner specified below:

NAME: Lee Escobedo  
ADDRESS: 1300 Main Street  
Houston, TX  
77002  
[lee.escobedo@energytransfer.com](mailto:lee.escobedo@energytransfer.com)

**MICHAEL  
BLAHA**

Digitally signed by MICHAEL  
BLAHA  
Date: 2024.07.29 11:39:08  
-05'00'

---

Michael Blaha  
OPA Enforcement Officer