



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

AUG 18 2010

CERTIFIED MAIL 7006 0810 0004 1131 0455
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. James D. Miller
General Manager
The Water Works and Sewer Board
of the City of Anniston
131 West 11th Street
P.O. Box 2268
Anniston, Alabama 36202-2268

Re: Consent Agreement and Final Order
Choccolocco Wastewater Treatment Plant
Docket No. CWA-04-2010-4500(b)

Dear Mr. Miller:

Enclosed please find a fully executed copy of the Consent Agreement and Final Order that has been finalized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Regional Judicial Officer. Please make note of the provisions under Section IV. Payment.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Edward Sims at (404) 562-9768.

Sincerely,

César A. Zapata, Acting Chief
Clean Water Enforcement Branch
Water Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: Alabama Department of Environmental
Management

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4**

IN THE MATTER OF:

City of Anniston
Anniston, Alabama

Respondent

)
) **CONSENT AGREEMENT AND**
) **FINAL ORDER**

) **Docket No. CWA-04-2010-4500(b)**

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CONSENT AGREEMENT

I. Statutory Authority

1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 309(g)(2)(A) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(A), and the *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits*, including Subpart I, published at 64 Fed. Reg. 40176 (July 23, 1999), and codified at 40 Code of Federal Regulations ("C.F.R.") Part 22.

2. The authority to take action under Section 309(g)(2)(A) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(A), is vested in the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). The Administrator has delegated this authority to the Regional Administrator Region 4, who in turn has redelegated this authority to the Director of the Water Protection Division, who in turn has delegated this authority to the Chief of the Clean Water Enforcement Branch of EPA Region 4 ("Complainant").

II. Allegations

3. At all times relevant to this action, the City of Anniston, Alabama ("Respondent"), was a municipality duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Alabama and, therefore, a "person" within the meaning of Section 502(5) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 503.9(o) and (q).

4. At all times relevant to this action, Respondent owned and/or operated the Choccolocco Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, located at 35 Friendship Road, Oxford, Alabama. The Choccolocco Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) with a design flow rate equal to or greater than one million gallons per day, or that serves 10,000 people or more, or is a "Class I sludge management facility" as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 503.9 (c).

5. Respondent is a “person who prepares sewage sludge” as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 503.9(r), as either the person who generates sewage sludge during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works or the person who derives a material from sewage sludge, and is thus subject to the requirements of the CWA and 40 C.F.R. Part 503.

6. Section 405(e) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1345(e), makes it unlawful for any person to dispose of sludge from a treatment works treating domestic sewage except in accordance with regulations promulgated pursuant to Section 405(d) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1345(d), which are found at 40 C.F.R. Part 503.

7. 40 C.F.R. Part 503 establishes standards for the use and disposal of sludge, and consists of general requirements, pollutant limits, management practices, operational standards, frequency of monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting, for the final use or disposal of sewage sludge generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works.

8. Respondent is required to submit an annual report no later than February 19th each year. Based on information contained in the annual report the Respondent reported land applying 1175 dry metric tons (dmt) of sewage sludge for calendar year 2008.

9. 40 C.F.R. § 503.15 (c) requires that one of the vector attraction reduction requirements in § 503.33 (b)(1) through (b)(10) shall be met when bulk sewage sludge is applied to agricultural land, forest, a public contact site, or a reclamation site.

10. For the calendar year 2008, the Respondent submitted data to support the vector attraction reduction requirement by choosing [503.33(b) (1)] Option 1: Reduction in Volatile Solids Content. Under Option 1, reduction of volatile solids is achieved if the mass of volatile solids in the sewage sludge is reduced by at least thirty eight percent (38%).

11. The volatile solids reduction for the months of August, September, and December year 2008, did not meet the minimum thirty eight percent (38%) reduction requirement. The volatile solids reduction for the aforementioned months was thirty four percent (34%), thirty percent (30%), and twenty two percent (22%) respectively. Subsequently, during the months of August, September, and December sewage sludge was land applied that did not meet the vector attraction reduction requirement. The amount of sewage sludge land applied during the aforementioned months was 76 dmt, 136 dmt, and 8 dmt respectively.

12. Therefore, it was determined that for calendar year 2008 the Respondent failed to meet the Vector Attraction Reduction requirement for the months of August, September, and December, in accordance with Option 1: Reduction in Volatile solids Content [503.33(b)(1)], and therefore, violated Section 405(e) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1345(e).

III. Stipulations and Findings

13. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18 and desire to resolve this matter and settle the allegations described herein without a formal hearing. Therefore, without the taking of any evidence or testimony, the asking

of any argument, or the adjudication of any issue in this matter, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (“CA/FO”) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

14. Respondent is a “person who prepares sewage sludge” as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 503.9(r) and is subject to the requirements of the CWA and 40 C.F.R. Part 503.

15. Respondent is required to demonstrate compliance with 40 C.F.R. § 503.33 vector attraction reduction requirement prior to land application of sewage sludge.

16. Respondent violated Section 405(e) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1345(e), by failing to demonstrate compliance with 40 C.F.R. § 503.33 vector attraction reduction requirement prior to land application of sewage sludge.

17. For the purposes of this CA/FO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set out above and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set out above.

18. Respondent hereby waives its right to contest the allegations set out above and its right to appeal the Final Order accompanying this Consent Agreement.

19. Respondent consents to the assessment of and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CA/FO and consents to the other conditions set forth in this CA/FO.

20. By signing this CA/FO, Respondent certifies that the information it has supplied concerning this matter was at the time of submission, and is, truthful, accurate, and complete for each such submission, response and statement. Respondent realizes that there are significant penalties for submitting false or misleading information, including the possibility of fines and/or imprisonment for knowing submission of such information.

21. EPA reserves the right to assess and collect any and all civil penalties for any violation described herein to the extent that any information or certification provided by Respondent was materially false or inaccurate at the time such information or certification was provided to EPA.

22. Complainant and Respondent agree to settle this matter by their execution of this CA/FO. The parties agree that the settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that this CA/FO is consistent with the applicable requirements of the CWA.

IV. Payment

23. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(2)(A) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(A) and 40 C.F.R. Part 19, and considering the nature of the violations and other relevant factors, EPA has determined that Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500) is an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action.

24. Respondent shall submit payment of the penalty specified in the preceding paragraph

within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CA/FO via a cashier's or certified check, payable to the order of "Treasurer, United States of America." The check shall reference on its face the name of Respondent and the Docket Number of this CA/FO. Such payment shall be tendered to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979077
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

25. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of the check, and a written statement that payment has been made in accordance with this CA/FO, to the following persons at the following addresses:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

and

Ms. Mary Mattox
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
Water Protection Division
Clean Water Enforcement Branch
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

26. The penalty amount specified in Paragraph 23 above shall represent civil penalties assessed by EPA and shall not be deductible for purposes of federal taxes.

27. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(9) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(9), failure by the Respondent to pay the penalty assessed by the CA/FO in full by its due date may subject the Respondent to a civil action to collect the assessed penalty plus interest (at currently prevailing rates from the effective date of this CA/FO), attorneys fees, costs for collection proceedings and a quarterly nonpayment penalty for each quarter during which such failure to pay persists. Such nonpayment penalty shall be in an amount equal to twenty per cent (20%) of the aggregate amount of such penalty and nonpayment penalty which are unpaid as of the beginning of such quarter. In any such collection action, the validity, amount and appropriateness of the penalty and of this CA/FO shall not be subject to review.

V. General Provisions

28. This CA/FO shall not relieve Respondent of its obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of federal, state, or local law, nor shall it be construed to be a ruling on, or determination of, any issue related to any federal, state, or local permit. Other than as expressed

herein, compliance with this CA/FO shall not be a defense to any actions subsequently commenced pursuant to federal laws and regulations administered by the EPA.

29. Nothing in this CA/FO shall be construed as prohibiting, altering, or in any way limiting the ability of the United States to seek any other remedies or sanctions available by virtue of Respondent's violation of this CA/FO or of the statutes and regulations upon which this agreement is based, or for Respondent's violation of any federal or state statute, regulation or permit.

30. Except as otherwise set forth herein, this CA/FO constitutes a settlement by Complainant and Respondent of all claims for civil penalties pursuant to the CWA with respect to only those violations alleged in this CA/FO. Nothing in this CA/FO is intended to nor shall be construed to operate in any way to resolve any criminal liability of the Respondent, or other liability resulting from violations that were not alleged in this CA/FO. Other than as expressed herein, Complainant does not waive any right to bring an enforcement action against Respondent for violation of any federal or state statute, regulation or permit, to initiate an action for imminent and substantial endangerment, or to pursue criminal enforcement.

31. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this CA/FO certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this CA/FO and to execute and legally bind that party to it.

32. This CA/FO applies to and is binding upon Respondent and its officers, directors, employees, agents, successors and assigns.

33. Any change in the legal status of Respondent including, but not limited to, any transfer of assets of real or personal property, shall not alter Respondent's responsibilities under this CA/FO.

34. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorneys fees in connection with the action resolved by this CA/FO.

35. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.5, the individuals below are authorized to receive service relating to this proceeding.

For Complainant:

William T. Jones
Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960
(404) 562-9582

For Respondent:

James D. Miller, General Manager
The Water Works and Sewer Board
Of the City of Anniston
131 West 11th Street
P.O. Box 2268
Anniston, Alabama 36202-2268
(256) 236-3429

36. The parties acknowledge and agree that this CA/FO is subject to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 22.45(c)(4), which provides a right to petition to set aside a consent agreement and proposed final order based on comments received during the public comment period.

37. Pursuant to Section 309(g) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g), and 40 C.F.R. § 22.38(b), Complainant represents that the State of Alabama was provided a prior opportunity to consult with Complainant regarding this matter.

VI. Effective Date

38. The effective date of this CA/FO shall be the date on which the CA/FO is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

For COMPLAINANT, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:



César A. Zapata, Acting Chief
Clean Water Enforcement Branch
Water Protection Division
U.S. EPA Region 4

Date: 6/25/10

For RESPONDENT, THE WATER WORKS AND SEWER BOARD OF THE CITY OF ANNISTON, ALABAMA:



James D. Miller, General Manager
The Water Works and Sewer Board
Of the City of Anniston

Date: 6-16-10

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4

IN THE MATTER OF:

City of Anniston
Anniston, Alabama

Respondent

)
) **CONSENT AGREEMENT AND**
) **FINAL ORDER**

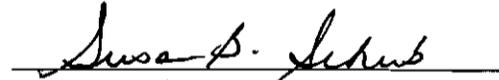
)
) **Docket No. CWA-04-2010-4500(b)**
)
)
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FINAL ORDER

In accordance with the *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits*, including Subpart I, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, and authorities delegated to me, the foregoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(2)(A) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(A), Respondent is hereby ordered to comply with the terms of the foregoing Consent Agreement.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Date: 8/17/2010



Susan B. Schub
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the attached **CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER** in the matter of City of Anniston, Alabama, Docket No. CWA-04-2010-4500(b) (filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk on August 18, 2010) was served on August 18, 2010, in the manner specified to each of the persons listed below.

By hand-delivery: William T. Jones
Associate Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**By certified mail,
return receipt requested:** James D. Miller, General Manager
The Water Works and Sewer Board
Of the City of Anniston
131 West 11th Street
P.O. Box 2268
Anniston, Alabama 36202-2268

James McIndoe, Chief
Water Division
Alabama Department of Environmental
Management
P.O. Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

for Claudette A. Hancock
Patricia A. Bullock, Regional Hearing Clerk
United States Environmental
Protection Agency, Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 562-9511

EPA ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CONTROL NUMBER FORM

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ORIGINATING OFFICE:

(Attach a copy of the final order and transmittal letter to Defendant/Respondent)

This form was originated by: Mary Mattox on 6/24/10
(Name) (Date)

in the WPD/CWEB/West NPDES Enforcement Section at (404) 562- 9733
(Office) (Telephone Number)

Non-SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree
USAO COLLECTS

Administrative Order/Consent Agreement
FMO COLLECTS PAYMENT

SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree
DOJ COLLECTS

Oversight Billing - Cost Package required:
Sent with bill

Not sent with bill

Other Receivable

Oversight Billing - Cost Package not required

This is an original debt

This is a modification

PAYEE: City of Anniston, AL
(Name of person and/or Company/Municipality making the payment)

The Total Dollar Amount of the Receivable: \$ 4,500
(If installments, attach schedule of amounts and respective due dates. See Other side of this form.)

The Case Docket Number: CWA-04-2010-4500(b)

The Site Specific Superfund Account Number: _____

The Designated Regional/Headquarters Program Office: Water Protection Division

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE:

The IFMS Accounts Receivable Control Number is: _____ Date: _____

DISTRIBUTION:

A. JUDICIAL ORDERS: Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the **FINAL JUDICIAL ORDER** should be mailed to:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Debt Tracking Officer
Environmental Enforcement Section
Department of Justice RM 1647
P.O. Box 7611, Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044 | 2. Originating Office (EAD) |
| | 3. Designated Program Office |

B. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS: Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the Administrative Order should be to:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Originating Office | 3. Designated Program Office |
| 2. Regional Hearing Clerk | 4. Regional Counsel (EAD) |