

**FILED**

**Feb 11, 2026**

**3:40 pm**

**U.S. EPA REGION 5  
HEARING CLERK**

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

In the Matter of:	)	Docket No. RCRA-05-2026-0001
	)	
Evergreen Battery Recycling LLC	)	Consent Agreement and Final Order
Warren, Ohio	)	Under Section 3008(a) of the Resource
	)	Conservation and Recovery Act,
U.S. EPA ID No.: OHR000033076	)	42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)
	)	
<b>Respondent.</b>	)	
_____	)	

**Consent Agreement and Final Order**  
**Preliminary Statement**

1. This is an administrative action commenced and concluded under Section 3008(a) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended, also known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), and Sections 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules) as codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

2. The Complainant is the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Region 5.

3. Respondent is Evergreen Battery Recycling LLC, a corporation doing business in the State of Ohio.

4. U.S. EPA provided notice of this action to the State of Ohio pursuant to Section 3008(a)(2) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(2).

5. Where the parties agree to settle one or more causes of action before the filing of

a complaint, the administrative action may be commenced and concluded simultaneously by the issuance of a consent agreement and final order (CAFO). 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b).

6. The parties agree that settling this action without the filing of a complaint or the adjudication of any issue of fact or law is in their interest and in the public interest.

#### **Jurisdiction and Waiver of Right to Hearing**

7. Jurisdiction for this action is conferred upon U.S. EPA by Sections 3006 and 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6926 and 6928.

8. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in this CAFO and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations in this CAFO.

9. Respondent waives its right to request a hearing as provided at 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c), any right to contest the allegations in this CAFO, and its right to appeal this CAFO. 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 waives any right to challenge the lawfulness of the final order accompanying the consent agreement.

#### **Statutory and Regulatory Background**

10. Pursuant to Sections 3002-3005 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6922-6925, U.S. EPA promulgated regulations [codified at 40 C.F.R. Parts 260 through 279] governing generators and transporters of hazardous waste and facilities that treat, store, and dispose of hazardous waste.

11. Pursuant to Section 3006 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6926, U.S. EPA may authorize a state to administer the RCRA hazardous waste program in lieu of the federal program when the Administrator finds that the state program meets certain conditions.

12. Any violation of regulations promulgated pursuant to Subtitle C or any state

provision authorized pursuant to Section 3006 of RCRA constitutes a violation of RCRA, subject to the assessment of civil penalties and issuance of compliance orders as provided in Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928.

13. Pursuant to Section 3006(b) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6926(b), the Administrator of U.S. EPA granted the State of Ohio final authorization to administer a state hazardous waste program in lieu of the federal government's base RCRA program effective June 30, 1989. 54 Fed. Reg. 27170 (June 28, 1989).

14. Under Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), U.S. EPA may issue an order assessing a civil penalty for any past or current violation, requiring compliance immediately or within a specified period, or both.

#### Factual Allegations

15. Respondent was and is a "person" as defined by OAC § 3745-50-10(A)(88), and Section 1004(15) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(15).

16. Respondent is an "owner" or "operator," as those terms are defined under OAC § 3745-50-10(A)(83) and (84) of a facility located at 2250 Larchmont Avenue, Warren, Ohio, 44483.

17. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Respondent's Facility consisted of land and structures, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land, used for treating, storing, or disposing of hazardous waste.

18. Respondent's Facility is a "facility," as that term is defined under OAC § 3745-50-10(A)(39).

19. Respondent's actions and processes at the facility cause the production of

“hazardous waste,” as that term is defined under OAC § 3745-50-10(A)(48) and 3745-51-01.

20. Respondent is a “generator” of hazardous waste, as that term is defined under OAC § 3745-50-10(A)(45).

21. Since at least 2023, Respondent generated 1000 kilograms or greater of hazardous waste in some calendar months (qualifying it as a “Large Quantity Generator”), which it shipped off-site to a treatment, storage or disposal facility within the United States.

22. On May 5, 2025, U.S. EPA sent to Respondent a Notice of Violation and Opportunity for Settlement.

23. The Notice letter identified RCRA violations, and an option and timeline for resolution of the matter through a streamlined settlement process.

24. The goal of the streamlined settlement process is to quickly and efficiently assess and resolve the matter, bring the facility into compliance, and enter into an agreed upon CAFO.

25. Thereafter, Respondent engaged with U.S. EPA to expeditiously assess the matter and agrees to the entry of this CAFO.

### **Alleged Violations**

#### **Count I: Notification of Change of Hazardous Waste Activity**

26. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 1 through 25 of this CAFO as though set forth in this paragraph.

27. Pursuant to OAC § 3745-52-10(B), a generator must determine the quantity of hazardous waste generated per month, to allow the generator to determine the applicability of the provisions of OAC § 3745-52 that are dependent on quantity generated per month.

28. Pursuant to Section 3010(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930(a), generators are required

to file with an authorized State a notification (or if necessary, a subsequent notification) including the types of wastes handled and the type of hazardous waste activity (*e.g.*, change to Large Quantity Generator status).

29. Section 3010(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930(a), is implemented through EPA Form 8700-12 (OMB 2050-0024), which requires notification if, among other things, a generator's hazardous waste activity changes to Large Quantity Generator status.

30. From at least 2023 until the present, Respondent did not submit a notification of the change of the facility's type of hazardous waste activity to Large Quantity Generator status in relevant months, in violation of Section 3010(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930(a).

#### **Count II: Biennial Reporting**

31. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 1 through 25 of this CAFO as though set forth in this paragraph.

32. Pursuant to OAC § 3745-52-41(A), a generator of more than 1,000 kilograms of hazardous waste in a calendar month must provide to the director or the director's designee the data necessary for the department to prepare and submit the Ohio hazardous waste report as required. A Biennial Report is due by March 1 of each even numbered year.

33. For reporting year 2023, Respondent did not prepare and submit a Biennial Report to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) by March 1 of 2024, in violation of OAC § 3745-52-41(A).

#### **Compliance Order**

34. Pursuant to Section 3008(a)(1) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(3), Respondent is hereby ordered to comply with the following requirements as expeditiously as possible and no

later than 30 days from the effective date of this CAFO.

35. Respondent shall file with the Ohio EPA an updated Notification of RCRA Subtitle C Activities (e.g. Site Identification Form 8700-12), including the types of wastes handled and the type of hazardous waste activity (e.g., change to Large Quantity Generator status). This updated Notification may be filed along with the 2023 Biennial Hazardous Waste Report.

36. Respondent shall file with Ohio EPA a Biennial Hazardous Waste Report covering the year 2023.

37. Respondent shall submit the following certification to U.S. EPA that U.S. EPA REGION 5 with the requirements in paragraphs 34 – 36, above:



I certify under the penalty of law that based on my review of all relevant information and documents, and inquiring of those individuals immediately responsible for providing all relevant information and documents, Evergreen Battery Recycling LLC is in compliance with the requirements of this Compliance Order. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.

Date 5-19-2026

Signature and Title  Robert Vaughn, COO

38. If unable to certify compliance in paragraph 37, Respondent shall submit notification explaining why it is unable to comply, the actions it is taking to comply, and a proposed date that it will comply.

39. Respondent shall submit all certifications and notifications required under the Compliance Order to:

Land Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
[RS1ecab@epa.gov](mailto:RS1ecab@epa.gov)

And

Todd Brown  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
[brown.todd@epa.gov](mailto:brown.todd@epa.gov)

#### **Civil Penalty Order**

40. Pursuant to Section 3008(a)(3) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(3), Complainant determined that an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action is \$13,715. In determining the penalty amount, Complainant took into account the above Factual Allegations, the seriousness of the violations, any good faith efforts to comply with the applicable requirements, and other factors as justice may require. Complainant also considered U.S. EPA's RCRA Civil Penalty Policy, dated June 23, 2003.

41. Respondent agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$13,715 ("Assessed Penalty"). Based on Respondent's documented inability to pay claim, and in accordance with applicable laws, EPA conducted an analysis of Respondent's financial information and determined that the Assessed Penalty is an appropriate amount to settle this action, which Respondent consents to pay as follows:

- a. The Assessed Penalty will be paid in three (3) equal installments, in order to complete payment of the entire Assessed Penalty and interest, which is assessed at a rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to

31 U.S.C. § 3717(a)(1). Including the Assessed Penalty and interest, the total amount that will be paid upon completion of all payments will be \$13,848.34. The first payment is due within thirty (30) days after the date the Final Order ratifying this Agreement is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk ("Filing Date"). Respondent's subsequent payments shall thereafter be due in 30-day intervals from said Filing Date.

b. Respondent shall make payments in accordance with the following schedule:

Payment Number	Payment shall be made <i>no later than</i>	Principal Amount	Interest Amount	Total Payment Amount
1	30 days after the Filing Date.	\$4,571.66	\$0.00	\$4,571.66
2	60 days after the Filing Date.	\$4,571.66	\$106.67	\$4,678.33
3	90 days after the Filing Date.	\$4,571.68	\$26.67	\$4,598.35
<b>Total</b>		\$13,715.00	\$133.34	\$13,848.34

c. Notwithstanding Respondent's agreement to pay the Assessed Penalty in accordance with the installment schedule set forth above, Respondent may pay the entire Assessed Penalty of \$13,715 within thirty (30) days of the Filing Date and, thereby, avoid the payment of interest pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a). In addition, Respondent may, at any time after commencement of payments under the installment schedule, elect to pay the entire principal balance remaining, together with any interest and other charges accrued up to the date of such full payment.

42. Respondent shall pay the penalty using any method, or combination of appropriate methods, as provided on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>. For additional instructions see: <https://www.epa.gov/financial/additional-instructions-making-payments-epa>. Respondent must send a notice of payment that states Respondent's name and the case docket number to EPA at the following addresses when it submits a payment:

Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
[r5hearingclerk@epa.gov](mailto:r5hearingclerk@epa.gov)

Land Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
[R5lecab@epa.gov](mailto:R5lecab@epa.gov)

Todd Brown  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
[brown.todd@epa.gov](mailto:brown.todd@epa.gov)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Cincinnati Finance Center  
[CINWD\\_AcctsReceivable@epa.gov](mailto:CINWD_AcctsReceivable@epa.gov)

43. This civil penalty is not deductible for federal tax purposes.

44. If Respondent does not timely pay the civil penalty, U.S. EPA may bring an action to collect any unpaid portion of the penalty with interest, handling charges, nonpayment penalties, and the United States enforcement expenses for the collection action. The validity, amount, and appropriateness of the civil penalty are not reviewable in a collection action.

45. Pursuant to 31 C.F.R. § 901.9, Respondent must pay the following on any amount overdue under this CAFO. Interest will accrue on any amount overdue from the date payment

was due at a rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717(a)(1). Respondent must pay a \$15 handling charge each month that any portion of the penalty is more than 30 days past due. In addition, Respondent must pay a 6 percent per year penalty on any principal amount 90 days past due.

#### General Provisions

46. Respondent certifies that it is complying fully with the statutory and regulatory provisions alleged violated in this CAFO.

47. The parties consent to service of this CAFO by e-mail at the following valid e-mail addresses: [brown.todd@epa.gov](mailto:brown.todd@epa.gov) (for Complainant), and [rvbaughn@ebrohio.com](mailto:rvbaughn@ebrohio.com) (for Respondent).

48. This CAFO resolves only Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations alleged in the CAFO.

49. This CAFO does not affect the right of U.S. EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law.

50. Payment of the civil penalty does not affect Respondent's continuing obligation to comply with RCRA and other applicable federal, state, local laws or permits.

51. This CAFO is a "final order" for purposes of 40 C.F.R. § 22.31, U.S. EPA's RCRA Civil Penalty Policy, and U.S. EPA's Hazardous Waste Civil Enforcement Response Policy (December 2003).

52. The terms of this CAFO bind Respondent, its successors, and assigns.

53. Each person signing this agreement certifies that he or she has the authority to sign for the party whom he or she represents and to bind that party to its terms.

54. Each party agrees to bear its own costs and attorney's fees in this action.

55. This CAFO constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.

**Evergreen Battery Recycling LLC, Respondent**

February 4, 2026

Date



Robert Vaughn  
Chief Operations Officer  
Evergreen Battery Recycling, LLC

**United States Environmental Protection Agency, Complainant**

CAROLYN  
PERSOON

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CAROLYN PERSOON  
Date: 2026.02.09  
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Carolyn Persoon  
Division Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5

In the Matter of:  
Evergreen Battery Recycling LLC  
Docket No.: RCRA-05-2026-0001

Final Order

This Consent Agreement and Final Order, as agreed to by the parties, shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk. This Final Order concludes this proceeding pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18 and 22.31. IT IS SO ORDERED.

ANN COYLE Digitally signed by ANN  
COYLE  
Date: 2026.02.11  
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Ann L. Coyle  
Regional Judicial Officer  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5