

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75270**

In the Matter of

Ash Grove Cement Company,

Respondent.

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Docket No. RCRA-06-2023-0955

EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

1. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 (“EPA”) is authorized to enter into this Expedited Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) pursuant to Section 3008 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (“RCRA”), 42 U.S.C. § 6928 and 40 C.F.R.

§ 22.13(b).

2. Pursuant to Section 3008(a)(2) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(2), EPA has provided notice to the state of Arkansas of this action.

3. Ash Grove Cement Company (“Respondent”) is the owner or operator of the facility located at 4343 Highway 108, Foreman, Arkansas 71836 (the “Facility”). The EPA alleges that Respondent violated the following requirements of RCRA and the EPA approved and authorized Arkansas hazardous waste management program:

- a. APEC Rule 23 § 264.71(a)(2)(v) and 40 C.F.R. § 264.71(a)(2)(v) require that manifests be submitted to EPA’s e-Manifest system within 30 days of the date the waste was delivered. On 305 occasions from 2020 to 2022, Respondent failed to submit manifests to the e-Manifest system for purposes of data entry within 30 days of the date of delivery, in violation of APEC Rule 23 § 264.71(a)(2)(v) and 40 C.F.R. § 264.71(a)(2)(v).
- b. APEC Rule 23 § 265.71 and 40 C.F.R. § 265.1311(b)(2) require that manifests be certified at the time of submission. On 337 occasions from 2020 to 2022, Respondent failed to certify manifests submitted to the e-Manifest

system in violation of APEC Rule 23 § 265.71 and 40 C.F.R. § 265.1311(b)(2).

4. The EPA and Respondent agree that settlement of this matter for a civil penalty of \$12,500 dollars is in the public interest. Respondent certifies that it has provided payment for the full civil penalty amount, and that such payment identified Respondent by name and docket number, was made by certified or cashier's check made payable to the "United States Treasury", and sent to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
PO Box 979078
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

or by alternate payment method described at <http://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>.

Respondent certifies that the original Agreement and a true and accurate copy of the deposit for payment was submitted to:

U.S. EPA, Region 6
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECDSR)
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75270-2102
ATTN: Gabriel Salinas
salinas.gabriel@epa.gov

5. In signing this Agreement, Respondent: (a) admits that Respondent is subject to RCRA and the implementing regulations; (b) admits that the EPA has jurisdiction over Respondent and Respondent's conduct as alleged herein; (c) neither admits nor denies the factual allegations contained herein; (d) consents to the assessment of this penalty; and (e) waives the opportunity for a hearing to contest any issue of fact or law set forth herein; (f) waives its right to appeal the Final Order accompanying this Agreement pursuant to Section 3008(b) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(b); and (g) consents to electronic service of the filed ESA.

6. By signature below, Respondent certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false submission to the United States Government, that Respondent: (a) has corrected the alleged violations, as applicable, and has submitted true and accurate documentation of such correction along with this Agreement; (b) has submitted payment of the civil penalty as set forth below; and (c) has submitted a true and accurate proof of payment of the civil penalty along with this Agreement.

7. The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter the terms and conditions of this Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order and to execute and legally bind Respondent to it. Upon the effective date of this Agreement, payment of the civil penalty shall constitute full settlement of the civil claims alleged herein.

8. Full payment of the civil penalty shall only resolve Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations alleged herein. EPA reserves its rights to take enforcement action for any other past, present, or future violations of RCRA, any other federal statute or regulation, or this Agreement.

9. Each party shall bear its own costs and fees, if any.

10. The Agreement is binding on the parties signing below, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b), is effective upon filing.

11. This Agreement authorized by the EPA's execution of the Final Order attached hereto constitutes a final order under 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

12. The penalty specified herein shall represent civil penalties assessed by EPA and shall not be deductible for purposes of Federal, State and local taxes.

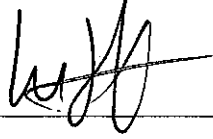
13. The EPA and Respondent agree to the use of electronic signatures for this matter pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.6. The EPA and Respondent further agree to electronic service of this Agreement by email to the following:

To EPA: murdock.russell@epa.gov

To Respondent: summer.grimes@ashgrove.com

RESPONDENT:
Ash Grove Cement Company

Date: Sep-21-2023



Signature

Marcos A Gonzalez
Name

Plant Manager
Title

COMPLAINANT:
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Date: _____

Cheryl T. Seager
Director
Enforcement
and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. EPA, Region 6

FINAL ORDER

Pursuant to Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement resolving this matter is hereby ratified and incorporated by reference into this Final Order.

Respondent is ORDERED to comply with all of the terms of the Expedited Settlement Agreement. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b), the effective date of the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement and this Final Order is the date on which this Final Order is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

This Final Order shall resolve only those causes of action alleged in the Expedited Settlement Agreement. Nothing in this Final Order shall be construed to waive, extinguish, or otherwise affect Respondents' (or its officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, or assigns) obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations, including the regulations that were the subject of this action.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Thomas Rucki
Regional Judicial Officer

Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order was delivered to the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA, Region 6, 1201 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas 75270-2102, and that a true and correct copy was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy via Email to Complainant:

murdock.russell@epa.gov

Copy via Email to Respondent:

summer.grimes@ashgrove.com

Signed
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region 6