

UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6  
DALLAS, TEXAS

IN THE MATTER OF:

Nortex Metal Finishing

RESPONDENT

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Consent Agreement and Final Order  
USEPA Docket No. RCRA-06-2021-0904

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**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER**

**I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. This Consent Agreement and Final Order ("CAFO") is entered into by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 ("EPA" or "Complainant") and Respondent, Nortex Metal Finishing ("Respondent" or "Nortex") and concerns the facility located at 1917 Silver Street Garland, TX 75042 ("Facility").
2. Notice of this action has been given to the State of Texas, under Section 3008(a)(2) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA"), 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(2)<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> On December 26, 1984, the State of Texas received final authorization for its base Hazardous Waste Management Program (49 FR 48300). Subsequent revisions have been made to the Texas Hazardous Waste Program and authorized by the EPA. Except as otherwise provided, all citations found within this order are to the "EPA-Approved Texas Statutory and Regulatory Requirements Applicable to the Hazardous Waste Management Program" dated December 2015, incorporated by reference under 40 C.F.R. § 272.2201(c)(1)(i) effective on April 10, 2020. 85 Fed. Reg. 20190 (April 10, 2020); 40 C.F.R. 272.2201: Texas State-Administered Program: Final Authorization. References and citations to the "EPA-Approved Texas Statutory and Regulatory Requirements Applicable to the Hazardous Waste Management Program" may vary slightly from the State of Texas' published version. The corresponding C.F.R. citations are also provided.

3. For the purpose of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations herein; however, Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations and conclusions of law contained in this CAFO. This CAFO states a claim upon which relief may be granted.
4. Respondent waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed final order contained in this CAFO and waives all defenses which have been raised or could have been raised to the claims in the CAFO.
5. The CAFO resolves only those violations which are alleged herein.
6. Respondent consents to the issuance of this CAFO as the most appropriate means of settling EPA's allegations without any adjudication of issues of law or fact, consents to the assessment and payment of the civil penalty in the amount and by the method set out in this CAFO, and consents to the compliance order in this CAFO.
7. The EPA and Respondent agree to the use of electronic signatures for this matter. The EPA and Respondent further agree to electronic service of this Consent Agreement and Final Order, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.6, by email to the following addresses:

To EPA:

pittman.lawrence@epa.gov

To Respondent:

shelby@nortexmetalfinishing.com

## II. JURISDICTION

8. This CAFO is issued by EPA pursuant to Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 and is simultaneously

commenced and concluded through the issuance of this CAFO under 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3).

9. Respondent agrees to undertake and complete all actions required by the terms and conditions of this CAFO. In any action by EPA or the United States to enforce the terms of this CAFO, Respondent agrees not to contest the authority or jurisdiction of EPA to issue or enforce this CAFO and agrees not to contest the validity of this CAFO or its terms or conditions.

## **II. FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

10. Respondent is a domestic for-profit corporation authorized to do business in the State of Texas.
11. Respondent is a "person" within the meaning of Section 1004(15) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(15), and 30 Texas Admin. Code § 335.2(25), [40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
12. Respondent owns and operates the Facility.
13. The Facility is a plating and polishing business.
14. The Facility is a "facility" within the meaning of 30 Texas Admin. Code § 335.1(60) [40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
15. From 12/2019 to 06/2020, EPA conducted a RCRA record review of the Facility's activities as a generator of hazardous waste. On 12/09/19, the EPA conferred with Respondent regarding the violations alleged herein and provided an opportunity for Respondent to submit additional information or materials.
16. EPA discovered that Respondent generated, and offered for transport and treatment, hazardous wastes as defined in 30 Texas Admin. Code § 335.1 (70), [40 C.F.R. §§ 261.21, 261.22, 261.24, and 261.33].
17. Based on its review, EPA determined that Respondent generated the hazardous waste streams, in 2018 and 2019, in quantities that exceeded the threshold amount of 100 kilograms of non-acute

hazardous waste in a month, corresponding to Small Quantity Generator (SQG) and 1000 kilograms of non-acute hazardous waste in a month, corresponding to Large Quantity Generator (LQG) status under 30 Texas Admin. Code, Chapter 335, Subchapter C, [40 C.F.R. Part 262], for the periods that such wastes remained onsite.

18. Respondent is a "generator" of "hazardous waste" as those terms are defined in 30 Texas Admin. Code §§ 335.1(66) & (70) [40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
19. As a generator of hazardous waste, Respondent is subject to Sections 3002 and 3010 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6922 and 6930, and the regulations set forth in 30 Texas Admin. Code Chapter 335, Subchapter C, [40 C.F.R Part 262].

### **III. VIOLATIONS**

#### **Claims 1. Notification Requirements**

20. The allegations in Paragraphs 1-19 are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.
21. Pursuant to Section 3010(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930(a), any person generating a characteristic or listed hazardous waste shall file with EPA or the authorized state a notification stating the location and general description of such activity and the identified characteristic or listed hazardous waste handled by such person. No identified characteristic or listed hazardous waste subject to this subchapter may be transported, treated, stored, or disposed of unless notification has been given as required by Section 3010(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930(a).
22. Respondent did not file with the EPA or the State of Texas, an authorized state, a subsequent notification of its hazardous waste activities at the Facility during 2018 and 2019 in violation of Section 3010(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930(a) and 30 Texas Admin. Code § 335.6(c).

#### **Claims 2. Failure to Operate within Its Stated Generator Status**

23. The allegations in Paragraphs 1-19 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.

24. During the investigation, EPA determined that the Nortex Facility declared its generator status as a conditionally exempt small quantity generator (CESQG) or small quantity generator (SQG).
25. Pursuant to 30 Texas Admin. Code § 335.78(b), [40 C.F.R. § 261.5(b)], as long as a CESQG complies with the applicable requirement under 30 Texas Admin. Code §§ 335.78(e), (f), (g) and (j) and 40 C.F.R. §§ 261.5 (e), (f), (g) and (j), the generator's hazardous waste is not subject to regulation under 30 Texas Admin. Code, Chapter 335, Subchapters C-H and O; 40 C.F.R. Parts 262 through 268; 40 C.F.R. Parts 270 and 124; and the requirements of Section 3010 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930.
26. During portions of 2018, the Nortex Facility exceeded their declared CESQG status and operated in some instances as a large quantity generator (LQG). During January 2019, the Nortex Facility exceeded their declared CESQG status and operated as an SQG. During October and December 2019, the Nortex Facility exceeded their declared SQG status and operated in some instances as an LQG. Nortex failed to meet the generator requirements in violation of one or more of the requirements for small and large quantity generators under 30 Texas Admin. Code, Chapter 335, Subchapter C, [40 C.F.R. § 262.34].

### **III.COMPLIANCE ORDER**

27. Pursuant to Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), Respondent is hereby ordered to take the following actions, and within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this CAFO, Respondent shall provide in writing the following:
- A. Respondent shall certify that it has assessed all its solid waste streams at the Nortex Facility to determine the accurate waste codes and has developed and implemented standard operating procedures ("SOPs") to ensure that Respondent is operating the Facility in compliance with RCRA and the regulations promulgated thereunder, including, but not

- limited to, procedures for: (a) making hazardous waste determinations; (b) managing hazardous wastes; (c) reporting, transporting, and disposing of hazardous waste; (d) preparing its manifests; and (e) meeting the requirements of the land disposal requirements;
- B. Respondent shall certify that it has accurately and adequately complied with its RCRA Section 3010 notification for the Facility; and
- C. Respondent shall provide, with its certification, a copy of Respondent's SOPs as described in subparagraph A above.
- D. Respondent shall certify the cost of implementation of injunctive relief.
- E. Respondent shall certify the environmental benefit (reduction of waste or reduction in the toxicity of waste).
28. In all instances in which this CAFO requires written submission to EPA, the submittal made by Respondent shall be signed by an owner or officer of the Respondent and shall include the following certification:

"I certify under the penalty of law that this document and all its attachments were prepared by me or under my direct supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

Copies of all documents required by this CAFO shall be sent to the following:

U.S. EPA, Region 6  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECAD-SR)  
ATTN: Angela Hays  
Dallas, Texas 75270-2102

Where required, notice shall be sent electronically by email to Enforcement Officer Angela Hays, respectively at [hays.angela@epa.gov](mailto:hays.angela@epa.gov).

#### IV. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

##### A. Penalty Provisions

29. Complainant reviewed the authority granted in Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928, considered the entire record, including the above referenced Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and took statutory factors relating to penalty, including the seriousness of the alleged violations, and Respondent's good faith efforts to comply with the applicable regulations, into account when determining an appropriate penalty. During the initial penalty discussions between Complainant and the Respondent, the Respondent alerted Complainant that it would have financial difficulty paying the proposed penalty (i.e., an ability to pay). Respondent supplied appropriate financial information for complainant's review. After reviewing the submitted financial information the parties agreed that \$1,000 was an appropriate amount to resolve the alleged violation along with the costs associated with a return to compliance pursuant to the Compliance Order.
30. The penalty shall be paid within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of this CAFO and made payable to the Treasurer United States.
31. The EPA web address, <https://www.epa.gov/financial/additional-instructions-making-payments-epa> , provides a list of options available for transmitting payment of penalties. Options for payment include:
- Electronic payments via Pay.gov. <https://www.pay.gov/public/search>
- Remittance by Regular Mail, U.S. Postal Mail (including certified mail) or U.S. Postal Service Express Mail, the check should be remitted to:

Nortex Metal Finishing  
RCRA-06-2021-0904

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

Overnight Mail (non-U.S. Postal Service), the check should be remitted to:

U.S. Bank  
Government Lockbox 979077  
U.S. EPA Fines and Penalties  
1005 Convention Plaza  
SL-MO-C2-GL  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
314-418-1028

Wire Transfer:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
ABA: 021030004  
Account No. 68010727  
SWIFT address = FRNYUS33  
33 Liberty Street  
New York, NY 10045

The case name and docket number (**In the Matter of Nortex Metal Finishing, Docket No. RCRA-06-2021-0904**) shall be clearly documented on or within the chosen method of payment to ensure proper credit.

32. The Respondent shall send a simultaneous notice of such payment to the following:

Lorena S. Vaughn  
Regional Hearing Clerk (ORC)  
U.S. EPA, Region 6  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Dallas, Texas 75270-2102

U.S. EPA, Region 6  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECAD-SR)  
ATTN: Angela Hays  
Dallas, Texas 75270-2102

Respondent's adherence to this request will ensure proper credit is given when penalties are received by EPA.



33. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, unless otherwise prohibited by law, EPA will assess interest and late payment penalties on outstanding debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the cost of processing and handling a delinquent claim. Interest on the civil penalty assessed in this CAFO will begin to accrue on the effective date of the CAFO and will be recovered by EPA on any amount of the civil penalty that is not paid within thirty (30) calendar days of the civil penalty's due date and 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).
34. Moreover, the costs of the Agency's administrative handling overdue debts will be charged and assessed monthly throughout the period the debt is overdue. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). EPA will also assess a \$15.00 administrative handling charge for administrative costs on unpaid penalties for the thirty (30) day period after the payment is due and an additional \$15.00 for each subsequent thirty (30) day period the penalty remains unpaid. In addition, a penalty charge of up to six percent (6%) per year will be assessed monthly on any portion of the debt which remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). Should a penalty charge on the debt be required, it shall accrue from the first day payment is delinquent. 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d). Other penalties for failure to make a payment may also apply.

**B. Costs**

35. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees. Furthermore, Respondent specifically waives its right to seek reimbursement of its costs and attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act (5 U.S.C. § 504), as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (P.L. 04-121), and any regulations promulgated pursuant to those Acts.

**C. Termination and Satisfaction**

36. When Respondent believes that it has complied with all the requirements of this CAFO, including compliance with the Compliance Order and payment of the civil penalty, Respondent shall also certify this in writing and in accordance with the certification language set forth in Section III (Compliance Order). Unless the EPA, Region 6 objects in writing within sixty (60) days of EPA's receipt of Respondent's certification, then this CAFO is terminated on the basis of Respondent's certification.

**D. Effective Date of Settlement**

37. This CAFO shall become effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

Nortex Metal Finishing  
RCRA-06-2021-0904

**THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES CONSENT TO THE ENTRY OF THIS CONSENT  
AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER:**

FOR THE RESPONDENT:

Date: 1/27/21

Shelby Wotton  
Nortex Metal Finishing

Nortex Metal Finishing  
RCRA-06-2021-0904

FOR THE COMPLAINANT:

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

**FINAL ORDER**

Pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, the foregoing CAFO is hereby ratified. This Final Order shall not in any case affect the right of EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. This Final Order shall resolve only those causes of action alleged herein. Nothing in this Final Order shall be construed to waive, extinguish or otherwise affect Respondent's (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. Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of settlement and the civil penalty payment instructions as set forth in the CAFO. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b) this Final Order shall become effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

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Thomas Rucki  
Regional Judicial Officer

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was electronically delivered to the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA - Region 6, 1201 Elm Street, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75270-2102, and that a true and correct copy was sent this day in the following manner to the email addresses:

Copy via Email to Complainant:

pittman.lawrence@epa.gov

Copy via Email to Respondent:

shelby@nortexmetalfinishing.com

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EPA Region 6