

3. For the purpose of these proceedings, 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. The Respondent explicitly waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the final order contained in this CAFO, and waives all defenses which have been raised or could have been raised to the claims set forth in the CAFO.
5. The CAFO resolves all RCRA violations as alleged herein from 2010 through 2015.
6. Respondent consents to the issuance of the CAFO hereinafter recited, consents to the assessment and payment of the stated civil penalty in the amount and by the method set out in this CAFO, and consents to the specific stated compliance order.

II. JURISDICTION

7. This CAFO is issued by the EPA pursuant to Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928, as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (“HSWA”) 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).
8. Respondent agrees to undertake and complete all actions required by the terms and conditions of this CAFO. In any action by the EPA or the United States to enforce the terms of this CAFO, Respondent agrees not to contest the authority or jurisdiction of the EPA to issue or enforce this CAFO, and agrees not to contest the validity of this CAFO or its terms or conditions.

III.
FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

9. Respondent is a corporation, authorized to do business in the State of Texas.
10. Respondent is a “person” within the meaning of Section 1004(15) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(15); and 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE¹ § 3.2(25), [40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
11. Respondent owns and/or operates the facilities identified in Paragraph 1 as full service environmental testing labs and performs analysis to determine environmental pollutants in environmental media such as water and soil.
12. In May 2014, EPA conducted site visits at several Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (“TSDs”) and pursuant to Section 3007 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6927 obtained information on ALS hazardous wastes that it offered for transport and treatment (“Responses”).
13. During the period of January 2015 through July 2015, EPA conducted a further RCRA investigation and record review (“Investigation”) of Respondent’s performance and operations as a generator of hazardous waste at Facilities A and B.
14. During the Investigation and review of the Responses, EPA discovered that Respondent generated, accumulated, and offered for transport and treatment the following hazardous waste, during 2010 through 2015:
 - i. Ignitable, corrosive, and reactive characteristic wastes with the hazardous waste codes, respectively D001, D002, and D003;

- ii. Toxicity wastes with the hazardous waste codes D018, D022, D023, D024, D025, D038, D039, D041 respectively benzene, chloroform, o-cresol, m-cresol, p-cresol, pyridine, tetrachloroethylene and 2, 4, 5-trichlorophenol; and
- iii. Listed hazardous waste, with the hazardous waste codes F002, F003, F005, U123, U196 and U210 respectively spent halogenated solvents, spent non-halogenated solvents, formic acid, pyridine and tetrachloroethylene.

15. The waste streams identified in Paragraph 14 are “hazardous waste” as defined in

30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE § 335.1 (69), [40 C.F.R. §§ 261.21, 261.22, 261.23, 261.24, 261.31, and 261.33].

16. EPA determined that the activities at both facilities are similar in their operations and generation of hazardous waste.

17. From the Investigation and review of the Responses, EPA determined that during the period of 2010 through 2015, Respondent generated the hazardous waste streams identified in Paragraph 14 in quantities that exceeded the threshold amount in some instances of 100 kg of hazardous waste per month and other instances, 1000 kg of hazardous waste per month, which qualified Respondent for the small or large quantity generator status, respectively, under 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE, Chapter 335, Subchapter C, [40 C.F.R. Part 262], for the periods that such wastes remained onsite at Facility A.

18. EPA determined that Respondent operates as a small quantity generator at Facility B, as is supported by Respondent’s Section 3010(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930(a) notification for Facility B.

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19. Respondent is a “generator” of “hazardous waste” at the Facilities, as those terms are defined in Sections 1004(5) & (6) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6903(5) & (6), and 30 TEX ADMIN.CODE §§ 335.1(65) & (69), [40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
20. The exemptions set forth at 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE § 335.78(c), [40 C.F.R. § 261.5(c)], are not applicable to ALS.
21. The facilities listed in Paragraph 1 above is each a “solid waste management facility” within the meaning of Section 1004(29) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(29); and a “facility” within the meaning of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 335.1 (59), [40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
22. 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 at 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE, Chapter 335, Subchapter C, [40 C.F.R Part 262].

FACILITY A
(During the Periods of 2010 to the Effective Date of the CAFO)

Claim i. Notification Requirements

23. The allegations in Paragraphs 1-22 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
24. Pursuant to 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE §§ 335.78(a) and (b), [40 C.F.R. §§ 261.5(a) and (b)], a generator is a conditionally exempt small quantity generator (“CESQG”) in a calendar month if he generates no more than 100 kg of hazardous waste and complies with 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE §§ 335.78(l), (g), and (j), [40 C.F.R. §§ 261.5 (f), (g), and (j)].
25. 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 the Administrator or authorized State a

notification stating the location and general description of such activity and the identified characteristic or listed hazardous wastes handled by such person.

26. Respondent did not file with the Administrator or the authorized State a subsequent notification of its hazardous waste activities for Facility A during the periods in 2010 through 2015 to reflect its generation of hazardous waste triggering the small or large quantity threshold in violation of Section 3010(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930(a).

FACILITIES A and B
(During the Periods of 2010 to the Effective Date of the CAFO)

Claim ii. Failure to Comply with the Manifest Requirements

27. The allegations in Paragraphs 1-22 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
28. Pursuant to 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE §§ 335.10(a)(1) and 335.10(c), [40 C.F.R. § 262.20(a)] a generator shall not offer its hazardous waste for shipment unless it prepares a standard manifest form (EPA Form 8700-22) according to the instructions found in the Appendix to 40 C.F.R. Part 262 and includes a Texas waste code for each hazardous waste itemized on the manifest.
29. From a review of Respondent's Facility A's manifests, during the period of 2010 through 2013, EPA determined that Respondent did not prepare its manifests as is required by the regulations and therefore operated in violation of 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE §§ 335.10(a)(1) and 335.10(c), [40 C.F.R. § 262.20(a)].
30. From a review of Respondent's Facility B's manifests, during the period of 2011 through 2013, EPA determined that Respondent did not prepare its manifests as is required by the

regulations and therefore operated in violation of 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE §§ 335.10(a)(1) and 335.10(c), [40 C.F.R. § 262.20(a)].

FACILITY A
(During the Periods of 2010 to the Effective Date of the CAFO)

Claim iii. Failure to Operate within Its Stated Generator Status

31. The allegations in Paragraphs 1-22 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
32. During the Investigation, EPA determined that Respondent operated as a small quantity generator (“SQG”) or large quantity generator (“LQG”) at Facility A for the relevant period of the CAFO.
33. During the period of 2010 through 2015, Respondent at its Facility A exceeded the conditionally exempted small quantity generator status and for the months such hazardous waste remained onsite, and operated as a SQG or LQG in violation of one or more of the requirements for a small or large quantity generators under 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE, Chapter 335, Subchapter C, [40 C.F.R. § 262.34].

FACILITY A
(During the Periods of 2010 to the Effective Date of the CAFO)

Claim iv. Failure to File Annual/Biennial Reports

34. The allegations in Paragraphs 1-22 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
35. Pursuant to 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE § 335.71, [40 C.F.R. § 262.41], a large quantity generator who ships any hazardous waste off-site for treatment, storage and/or disposal, must prepare and submit a Biennial Report to EPA’s Regional Administrator, and to the TCEQ, by

March 1 of each even-numbered year in addition to the annual reporting, which is required under 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE § 335.9.

36. For the 2011 reporting year, the EPA and/or the TCEQ did not receive the requisite number of Annual/Biennial Reports that Respondent was required to file for its Facility A in violation of 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE §§ 335.9 and 335.71, [40 C.F.R. § 262.41].

FACILITIES A and B
(During the Periods of 2010 and 2012, Respectively for Facility A and B)

Claim v. Failure to Make Adequate Hazardous Waste Determination

37. The allegations in Paragraphs 1-22 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
38. Pursuant to 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE § 335.62, [40 C.F.R. § 262.11(c)], a person who generates a solid waste, as defined in 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE § 335.1, [40 C.F.R. § 261.2], must determine if the waste is hazardous either by applying the required test method or by applying its knowledge of the hazardous characteristic of the waste in light of the materials or the processes used.
39. For the relevant periods of this CAFO, Respondent failed to make adequate hazardous waste determination on all its waste streams at Facilities A and B.
40. Respondent violated the requirements of RCRA and the regulations promulgated at 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE § 335.62, [40 C.F.R. § 262.11(c)] by failing to make the requisite hazardous waste determination on all its solid waste streams generated by Respondent at Facility A and B.

FACILITY B
(During the Periods of 2012)

Claims vi. Storage of Hazardous Waste without a Permit

41. The allegations in Paragraphs 1-22 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference
42. Pursuant to 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE § 335.69(d), [40 C.F.R. § 262.34(d)], a generator of 100 kilograms but less than 1000 kilograms of hazardous waste in a calendar month, may accumulate hazardous waste on site for 180 days or less without a permit or without interim status provided that the generator complies with all the requirements of 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE § 335.69(d), [40 C.F.R. § 262.34(d)].
43. The exemption at 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE § 335.69(e), [40 C.F.R. § 262.34(e)] is not applicable to Respondent for its Facility B.
44. Pursuant to 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE § 335.69(f), [40 C.F.R. § 262.34(f)], a generator who generates greater than 100 kilograms but less than 1,000 kilogram of hazardous waste in a calendar month, who accumulates hazardous waste for more than 180 days, and for whom the exemption at 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE § 335.69(e), [40 C.F.R. § 262.34(e)] is not applicable is an operator of a storage facility and is subject to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Parts 264, 265, 267 and the Permit requirements of part 270, unless the generator has been granted an extension to the 180-day period.
45. During the period of January 23, 2012, to October 23, 2012, Respondent accumulated 1818 kg of hazardous waste on site at its Facility B, having the hazardous waste characteristics of toxicity (D041) beyond the 180 days allowed for a SQG.

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46. Respondent was not granted an extension to the 180-day period, for the hazardous waste described in Paragraph 45, pursuant to 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE § 335.69(f), [40 C.F.R. § 262.34(f)].
47. For the time periods described in Paragraph 45, Respondent stored hazardous waste at its Facility B in violation of 30 TEX.ADMIN.CODE Subchapters C and F, [40 C.F.R. Parts 264, 265, 267, and 270].

IV.

COMPLIANCE ORDER

48. Pursuant to Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), Respondent is hereby ordered to take the following actions for Facility A and B, and within One Hundred and Twenty (120) calendar days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall provide in writing the following to the EPA:

- A. Respondent shall certify that it has assessed all its solid waste streams to determine the accurate waste codes and has developed and implemented standard operating procedures “SOPs” to ensure that ALS is operating 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 the manifests; and (e) meeting the requirements of the land disposal requirements;

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- B. Respondent shall certify that it has accurately and adequately complied with its RCRA Section 3010 Notification, and within the prescribed time period; and
- C. Respondent shall provide, with its certification, a copy of Respondent's SOP as described in subparagraph A above.

49. 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 ALS 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. Environmental Protection Agency
Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division
Hazardous Waste Enforcement Branch
Compliance Enforcement Section (6EN-HC)
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Attn: Dale Thrush

V.

TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

i. Penalty Provisions

50. Pursuant to the authority granted in Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928, and upon consideration of the entire record herein, including the above referenced Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, which are hereby adopted and made a part hereof, upon the seriousness of the alleged violations, and Respondent's good faith efforts to comply with the applicable regulations, it is ordered that Respondent be assessed a civil penalty of Two Hundred and Eight Thousand Three Hundred and Forty-One Dollars (\$208,341.00).
51. The penalty shall be paid within nine (9) months of the effective date of this CAFO, made payable to the Treasurer United States, and in the manner and prescribed time period set forth in Paragraph 53 below.
52. The first payment of \$69,447.00 shall be paid on or before October 30, 2015. The second and third payment of \$69,447.00 shall each be paid respectively on or before January 29, 2016 and April 29, 2016.
53. The following are Respondent's options for transmitting the penalties:
Regular Mail, U.S. Postal Mail (including certified mail) or U.S. Postal Service Express Mail, the check should be remitted to:

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

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

U.S. Bank
Government Lockbox 979077
US EPA Fines and Penalties
1005 Convention Plaza
SL-MO-C2-GI
St. Louis, MO 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 ALS Group, USA Corp: Docket RCRA-06-2015-0937) shall be clearly documented on or within your chosen method of payment to ensure proper credit.

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

Lorena S. Vaughn
Regional Hearing Clerk (6RC-D)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

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Mark Potts, Associate Director
Hazardous Waste Enforcement Branch (6EN-H)
Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733
Attention: Dale Thrush

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

55. 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 process 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 forty-five (45) 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). 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 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.

ii. Cost

56. 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.

iii. Termination and Satisfaction

57. 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 so certify in writing and in accordance with the certification language set forth in Section IV (Compliance Order), Paragraph 49. 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.

iv Effective Date of Settlement

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

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

FOR THE RESPONDENT:

Date: 9/9/2015

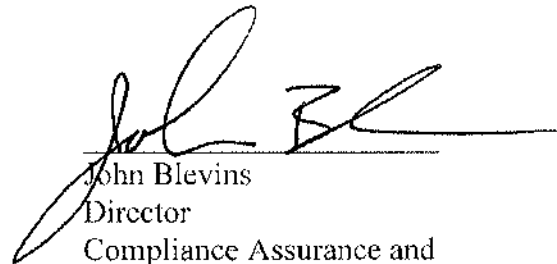


ALS Group, USA Corp
D/b/a as ALS Environmental

RAS NARAN
GROUP GENERAL MANAGER
ALS LIFE SCIENCES, GUSAC

FOR THE COMPLAINANT:

Date: 9.15.15



John Blevins
Director
Compliance Assurance and
Enforcement Division


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FINAL ORDER

Pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, 40 CFR 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. The 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 CFR § 22.31(b) this Final Order shall become effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

Date: _____

9/17/15



Thomas Rucki
Regional Judicial Officer

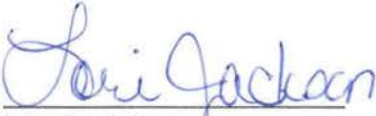
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 17th day of Sept., 2015, the original of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was hand delivered to the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA - Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733, and that a true and correct copy of the CAFO was sent to the following by the method identified below:

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED 7014 015000002454 4968

ALS Group, USA Corp
10450 Stancliff Road, Suite 210
Houston, TX 77099
281-530-5656
Attention: Mr. Greg Grandits


Ms. Lori Jackson
Paralegal

¹ All citations to the EPA authorized Texas hazardous waste program refer to Title 30 of the Texas Administrative Code (T.A.C.) as amended, effective through December 31, 2009. 77 Fed. Reg. 71344, 71352 (November 30, 2012); 40 C.F.R. Part 272, Appendix A, Texas. The corresponding Code of Federal Regulation (C.F.R.) citations are also provided.