



6. This CCCA contains all terms of the settlement agreed to by the parties.

**B. FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

7. Respondent is a corporation and therefore a "person" within the meaning of section 502(5) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5).

8. In order to restore and maintain the integrity of the nation's waters, § 301(a) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), among other things, prohibits the discharge of any pollutant by any person into waters of the United States except in compliance with a permit issued pursuant to § 402 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

9. Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, under which EPA and, upon receiving authorization, states may permit discharges of pollutants into navigable waters, subject to specific terms and conditions. "Navigable waters" means the waters of the United States, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7).

10. Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p), requires an NPDES permit for storm water discharges associated with industrial activities.

11. At all times relevant to this CCCA, Respondent has operated Yota Yard, Inc. as a corporation.

12. Respondent owns and/or is engaged in receiving salvage vehicles and selling used motor vehicle parts from those vehicles at 3134 and 3101 Walnut Street in Denver, Colorado (Site), and is therefore an "owner or operator" of a facility subject to regulation under the NPDES program as defined in the regulations. 40 C.F.R. § 122.2. Respondent is engaged in an "industrial activity" as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14).

13. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) was approved by EPA to administer the NPDES program on March 27, 1975. 40 Fed. Reg. 16713, April 14, 1975. A permit issued by CDPHE under Colorado's EPA-authorized NPDES program is known as a Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) permit.

14. Respondent is identified as an automobile recycler (SIC code 5015), under the CDPS general permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated With the Recycling Industry issued by CDPHE on December 1, 2006.

15. Respondent has day-to-day responsibility for operations at the Site.

16. The Site encompasses approximately 28,000 square feet.

**C. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS**

17. On June 3, 2011, inspectors from EPA conducted an NPDES storm water inspection of the Site.
18. At the time of the inspection, the Respondent had not sought or obtained authorization from CDPHE to discharge storm water from the Site under the applicable general permit or any individual permit.
19. Inspectors observed evidence of previous discharges and received confirmation from an employee present at the Site during the inspection and from the Site's owner after the inspection that storm water has discharged from the Site.
20. The runoff and drainage from the Site are "storm water" as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(13).
21. Storm water contains "pollutants" as defined by § 502(6) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(6).
22. Storm water from the 3134 Walnut Street portion of the Site runs off of the Site and then northeast on Walnut Street to a storm drain approximately 50 feet northeast of this portion of the Site.
23. Storm water from the southeast edge of the 3101 Walnut Street portion of the Site runs off the Site onto Walnut Street and then flows to a storm drain approximately 50 feet northeast this portion of the Site.
24. Both storm drains discharge to the South Platte River, located approximately 50 feet northeast of the Site.
25. Storm water, snow melt, surface drainage and runoff water have been leaving the Site and have flowed into the South Platte River.
26. The South Platte River is a "navigable water" as defined by § 502(7) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7), and a "water of the United States" as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.
27. The storm water discharge from the Site is a "discharge of a pollutant" as defined by § 502(12) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12), and 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.
28. The storm water discharge from the Site is a discharge from a "point source" as that term is defined in § 502(14) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(14), and 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.

29. On October 11, 2011, Respondent submitted to CDPHE a notice of Respondent's intent to have industrial storm water discharged from the Site covered by the Permit. On April 9, 2012, Respondent was issued a permit certification authorizing Respondent to discharge storm water at the Site in accordance with the requirements of the Permit.

**D. CIVIL PENALTY**

30. Section 309(g)(2)(A) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(A), authorizes the EPA to assess a civil administrative penalty for any violation of various provisions of the Clean Water Act, including but not limited to §§ 301 and 308 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311 and 1318, and for any violation of a condition or limitation of a permit issued under § 402 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342. The amount of the penalty that EPA can assess is up to \$11,000 per day for each day during which a violation occurred from March 16, 2004, through January 12, 2009, and up to \$16,000 per day for each day after January 12, 2009, during which a violation continues. For violations from March 16, 2004, through January 12, 2009, the maximum total penalty is \$157,500. For violations after January 12, 2009, the maximum is \$177,500. These amounts have been adjusted for inflation by 40 C.F.R. part 19.
31. Section 309(g)(3) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(3), requires EPA to take into account the following factors in assessing a civil administrative penalty: the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation(s) and, with respect to the violator, ability to pay, any prior history of such violations, degree of culpability, any economic benefit or savings gained from the violation, and such other factors that justice may require.

Nature, Circumstances, Extent, and Gravity of Violations

32. As mentioned above, the EPA observed evidence and obtained confirmation from an employee at the Site and the Site's owner that storm water has run off the Site, which discharged to the South Platte River via storm drains. Respondent had not sought or obtained a permit to discharge pollutants to a water of the United States. Best management practices that would have minimized pollutant discharges were not being implemented at the Site. Had Respondent obtained and complied with a storm water discharge permit, it would have controlled its discharges and minimized pollutant discharges.
33. The Site is an automobile salvage yard, which is a regulated industrial activity. According to the December 2006, "Industrial Storm Water Fact Sheet Series – Sector M: Automobile Salvage Yards," EPA-833-F-06-028, the potential pollutants of concern from automobile salvage yards include oil and grease, ethylene glycol, galvanized metals, heavy metals, mercury, sulfuric acid, petroleum hydrocarbons, total suspended solids, organics, chlorinated solvents, acid/alkaline wastes, detergents, phosphorus, salts, and fuel.

34. The section of the South Platte River where the City of Denver's MS4 storm drains discharge is in segment 14 of the Upper South Platte River Basin (5 C.C.R. 1002-38), which is designated by CDPHE as having uses including Class 1 - warm water aquatic life (capable of sustaining a wide variety of warm water biota), recreation with existing primary contact, water supply with sufficient drinking water quality after standard treatment, and agricultural. Segment 14 of the Upper South Platte River Basin is listed on the Colorado's Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and Monitoring and Evaluation List (5 C.C.R. 1002-93, updated April 30, 2010) for arsenic. Approximately 1 river mile north of the approximate discharge location to the South Platte River, segment 15 begins, which is listed on the Colorado's Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and Monitoring and Evaluation List (5 C.C.R. 1002-93, updated April 30, 2010) for cadmium.
35. EPA and states with authorized NPDES programs rely on permits to implement the controls needed to prevent water pollution. Respondent's failure to seek permit authorization jeopardizes the integrity of EPA's and CDPHE's programs to control storm water pollution.

#### Prior Compliance History

36. This complaint is the first enforcement action EPA Region 8 has issued to Respondent regarding noncompliance with the storm water requirements. CDPHE has not issued any enforcement actions to Respondent regarding noncompliance with the storm water requirements

#### Degree of Culpability

37. In 1990, EPA promulgated Phase I of its storm water program (55 Fed. Reg. 47990-48091, November 16, 1990). Phase I required NPDES permit authorization for storm water discharges from ten categories of industrial activities, including the sixth category, "Facilities involved in the recycling of materials, including metal scrapyards, battery reclaimers, salvage yards, and automobile junkyards" (55 Fed. Reg. 48066).
38. Various automobile salvage trade associations have posted information on applicable regulations on their web sites, including storm water. Some trade magazines also have information on storm water and include advertisements for environmental consultants for storm water. Respondent is listed as a Colorado Parts Locating System member of the Colorado Automotive Recyclers association. At the time of the inspection, the Colorado Automotive Recyclers website listed "Constant EPA Awareness" and "Stormwater Program" as membership benefits.
39. Therefore, Respondent should have been fully aware of its responsibilities to meet the requirements related to storm water control.

Economic Benefit

40. Respondent received an economic benefit from its failure to obtain permit authorization and failure to comply with the requirements in the storm water discharge permit. Respondent received benefits by failing to submit a timely application for a permit, failing to develop a timely stormwater management plan, failing to do the required inspections, failing to do the required sampling, failing to submit annual reports, and failing to implement all required best management practices.

Ability to Pay

41. An EPA financial analyst has thoroughly reviewed Respondent's financial condition and has determined that the penalty should be substantially reduced in this matter.

Other Matters that Justice may Require

42. EPA made no penalty adjustments regarding other matters.

Penalty

43. Respondent consents and agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$ 525.00 in the manner described below:
- a. Payment is due within 30 calendar days from the date written on the Final Order, issued by the Regional Judicial Officer, that adopts this CCCA. Payment shall be made according to the instructions on the attached document entitled Attachment 1 Collection Information, which is incorporated herein by reference. A copy of the check or evidence or wire transfer shall be sent simultaneously to:

Stephanie Gieck, Environmental Scientist  
Water Technical Enforcement Program, NPDES Unit (8ENF-W-NP)  
U.S. EPA, Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129

and

Tina Artemis, Regional Hearing Clerk (SRC)  
U.S. EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129

- b. In the event payment is not received by the specified due date, interest will accrue from the date of the Final Order, not the due date, at a rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, and will continue to accrue until payment in full is received, (i.e., on the 1st late day, 30 days of interest accrues).
- c. In addition, a handling charge of fifteen dollars (\$15) shall be assessed the 31st day from the date of the Final Order, and each subsequent thirty day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, remains unpaid. In addition, a six percent (6 %) per annum penalty shall be assessed on any unpaid principal amount if payment is not received within 90 days of the due date (i.e., the 121st day from the date the Final Order is signed). Payments are first applied to outstanding handling charges, 6 % penalty interest, and late interest. The remainder is then applied to the outstanding principal amount.
- d. Respondent agrees that the penalty shall never be claimed as a federal or other tax deduction or tax credit.

**E. TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- 42. Nothing in this CCCA shall relieve Respondent of the duty to comply with the Clean Water Act and its implementing regulations.
- 43. Failure by Respondent to comply with any of the terms of this CCCA shall constitute a breach of the CCCA and may result in referral of the matter to the Department of Justice for enforcement of this agreement and for such other relief as may be appropriate.
- 44. Nothing in this CCCA shall be construed as a waiver by the EPA or any other federal entity of its authority to seek costs or any appropriate penalty associated with any collection action instituted as a result of Respondent's failure to perform pursuant to the terms of this CCCA.
- 45. The undersigned Respondent certifies that she/he is fully authorized to enter into and be bound by the terms and conditions of this CCCA.
- 46. Respondent waives any and all claims for relief, and otherwise available rights to judicial or administrative review or other remedies which the Respondent may have, with respect to any issue of fact or law or any terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Agreement, including any right of judicial review under the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-708.
- 47. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.45, EPA will provide public notice of this action. EPA may modify or withdraw its consent to this CCCA if comments received disclose facts or considerations which indicate that the CCCA is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate.

48. If comments received during the public comment period do not require modification of or withdrawal from this CCCA by EPA, the parties agree to submit this CCCA to the Regional Judicial Officer, with a request that it be incorporated into a final order.
49. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorney fees in connection with this matter.
50. This CCCA, upon incorporation into a final order by the Regional Judicial Officer and full satisfaction by the parties, shall be a complete and full civil settlement of the specific violations alleged herein,

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 8

Date: 08/20/12

for By: Eddie A. Sierra  
Andrew M. Gaydosh Assistant Regional  
Administrator Office of Enforcement,  
Compliance & Environmental Justice

**Yota Yard, Inc.**

Date: 8-20-12

By: Nancy Wales  
Nancy Wales, President  
Yota Yard, Inc.  
3134 Walnut Street  
Denver, Colorado  
303-292-5078

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, CO 80202-1129**

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON A  
COMBINED COMPLAINT AND CONSENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
YOTA YARD, INC.  
AND THE  
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
TO RESOLVE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF  
THE CLEAN WATER ACT**

**PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

The purpose of this notice is to solicit written comments on the Combined Complaint and Consent Agreement (CCCA) between Yota Yard, Inc. (Respondent), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), bearing Docket #**CWA-08-2012-0024**. EPA alleged that the Respondent violated the requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA) by failing to seek and obtain a discharge permit for the discharge of regulated stormwater to "Waters of the United States". The CCCA is entered into by the parties for the purpose of simultaneously commencing and concluding this matter, as authorized by Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R.), Section 22.13(b) and executed pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2) and (3). In the CCCA, Respondent agrees to pay a penalty of \$525. The alleged violations took place at Yota Yard, Inc. located at 3134 Walnut Street, Denver, Colorado 80216. The CCCA is issued under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) provisions of the CWA. These regulations govern the discharge of wastewater to "Waters of the United States". The addresses of EPA and respondent are listed here.

Respondent: Yota Yard, Inc. located at 3134 Walnut Street, Denver, Colorado 80216.

EPA: Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Enforcement, Compliance & Environmental Justice, EPA Region 8, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, Colorado 80202-1129.

EPA desires to receive written comments from any interested party having knowledge of the alleged violations or who can provide any information useful to ensure that any penalty assessed is appropriate.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Written comments on the CCCA are encouraged and will be accepted at the address listed below for a period of forty (40) days after the publication of this notice. Written comments submitted by the public as well as information submitted by Respondent will be available for public review, subject to the provisions of law restricting the disclosure of confidential information. Any person submitting written comments has a right to participate in a hearing, if one is held. The

complaint is available for review between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the address listed below and on the internet at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oa/rhc/epaadmin.nsf> by searching for the company name or Docket #.

Please submit written comments to:

Tina Artemis (8RC)  
Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA, Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129.  
Telephone: (303) 312-6765

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Persons wishing to receive a copy of other documents in this proceeding (such as the regulations in 40 C.F.R. part 22, which establish procedures for the hearing), or to comment upon the proposed penalty assessment or upon any other aspect of the matter, should contact the Regional Hearing Clerk identified above. No action will be taken by EPA to finalize a settlement in this matter until 40 days after this public notice.