



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

MAR 31 2009

Adam G. Sowatzka, Esq.
King & Spalding LLP
1180 Peachtree Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

RE: The Medical Center of Central Georgia, Inc. – Executed Consent Agreement and Final Order, Docket Number: RCRA-04-2009-4006(b)

Dear Mr. Sowatzka:

Please find enclosed a copy of the fully executed Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) docketed RCRA-04-2009-4006(b). The CAFO was effective upon filing, and payment of the civil penalty of \$37,800 is due within thirty (30) days of this date.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (404) 562-9539 with any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Sawyer".

Bonnie Sawyer
Associate Regional Counsel

Enclosure

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4**

IN THE MATTER OF:)	Docket Number: RCRA-04-2009-4006(b)
)	
The Medical Center of Central Georgia, Inc.)	Proceeding under Section 3008(a)
777 Hemlock Street)	of the Resource Conservation and
Macon, Georgia 31297)	Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)
)	
EPA ID No.: GAD981230584)	
)	
Respondent.)	
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CONSENT AGREEMENT

I. NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a civil administrative enforcement action, ordering compliance with the requirements of Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 6921 *et seq.*, and the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Act (GHWMA), 12-8-60 through § 12-8-83, of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA). This action seeks civil penalties pursuant to Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), for alleged violations of RCRA and GHWMA and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, set forth at Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R.), Parts 260 through 270 and 273, and the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (GHWMR) at Chapter 391-3-11 of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Rules.
2. 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, provide that where the parties agree to settlement of one or more causes of action before the filing of a complaint, a proceeding may be simultaneously commenced and concluded by the issuance of a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CA/FO). 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2).
3. Complainant and Respondent have conferred solely for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18 and desire to settle this action. Accordingly, before any testimony has been taken upon the pleadings and without any admission of violation or adjudication of any issue of fact or law and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b), Complainant and Respondent have agreed to the execution of this CA/FO, and Respondent hereby agrees to comply with the terms of this CA/FO.

II. THE PARTIES

4. Complainant is the Chief, RCRA & OPA Enforcement & Compliance Branch, RCRA Division, Region 4, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
5. Respondent is The Medical Center of Central Georgia, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation incorporated and operating in the State of Georgia. The facilities are located at 777 Hemlock Street and 676 Pine Street in Macon, Georgia 31297.

III. PRELIMINARY STATEMENTS

6. Pursuant to Section 3006(b) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6926(b), on August 21, 1984, the State of Georgia (the State) received final authorization from EPA to carry out certain portions of the State hazardous waste program in lieu of the federal program set forth in RCRA. The requirements of the authorized State program are found in the GHWMA, § 12-8-60 through § 12-8-83, and regulations set forth at Chapter 391-3-11 of the GHWMR. For purposes of this Order, citations herein to the requirements of RCRA shall constitute a citation to the equivalent requirements of the GHWMA and citations herein to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Parts 124 and 260 through 268, and Parts 270 and 273 shall constitute a citation to the equivalent requirements of the GHWMR. The use of the 40 C.F.R. citations is also appropriate since the GHWMR incorporated by reference the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Parts 124 and 260 through 268, and Parts 270 and 273.
7. Although EPA has granted the State of Georgia authority to enforce its own hazardous waste program, EPA retains jurisdiction and authority to initiate an independent enforcement action pursuant to Section 3008(a)(2) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(2). EPA exercises this authority in the manner set forth in the Memorandum of Agreement between EPA and the State of Georgia.
8. Pursuant to Section 3008(a)(2) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(2), Complainant has given notice of this action to the State of Georgia before issuance of this CA/FO.
9. Section 3002(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6922(a) and Section 12-8-66 of the GHWMA authorizes the regulation of facilities that generate hazardous waste. The implementing regulations for these requirements are found in 40 C.F.R. Part 262 (Section 391-3-11-.08 of the GHWMR).
10. Section 3004 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6922, and GHWMA, § 12-8-60 through § 12-8-83, set forth standards applicable to generators of hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. The implementing regulations for these requirements are found at 40 C.F.R. Part 264 and Chapter 391-3-11 of the GHWMR.
11. Section 3005 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6925, and GHWMA, § 12-8-60 through § 12-8-83, set forth the requirement that a facility treating, storing, or disposing of hazardous waste must have a permit or interim status. The implementing regulations for this requirement are found at 40 C.F.R. Parts 264 (permitted) and 265 (interim status) and Chapter 391-3-11 of the GHWMR.

12. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 261.2 and Chapter 391-3-11 of the GHWMR, a “solid waste” is any discarded material that is not otherwise excluded by regulation.
13. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 261.3 and Chapter 391-3-11 of the GHWMR, a solid waste is a “hazardous waste” if it meets any of the criteria set out in this section and is not excluded from regulation as a hazardous waste under 40 C.F.R. § 261.4(b) and Chapter 391-3-11 of the GHWMR.
14. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 260.10 (Section 391-3-11-.02 of the GHWMR), a “generator” is any person, by site, whose act or process produces hazardous waste identified or listed in 40 C.F.R. Part 261 or whose act first causes a hazardous waste to be subject to regulation.
15. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 262.12(c) (Section 391-3-11-.08 of the GHWMR), a generator must not offer his hazardous waste to transporters or to treatment, storage, or disposal facilities that have not received an EPA identification number.
16. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 262.20(a) (Section 391-3-11-.08 of the GHWMR), a generator who transports a hazardous waste for offsite treatment, storage, or disposal must prepare a Manifest (OMB Control number 2050-0039) on EPA Form 8700-22, and, if necessary, EPA Form 8700-22A, according to the instructions included in the appendix of Part 262.
17. Pursuant to Section 3010 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930, (GHWMA, § 12-8-60 through § 12-8-83), any person transporting a hazardous waste or owning or operating a facility for treatment, storage or disposal of a hazardous waste must file with EPA (or with States having authorized hazardous waste permit programs under section 6925 of RCRA) a notification stating the location and general description of such activity and the identified or listed hazardous wastes handled by such person.
18. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 264.176 (Section 391-3-11-.10 of the GHWMR), containers holding ignitable or reactive waste must be located at least 15 meters (50 feet) from the facility’s property line.
19. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 262.34(c)(1), (Section 391-3-11-.08 of the GHWMR), a generator may accumulate as much as 55 gallons of hazardous waste in containers at or near the point of generation where wastes initially accumulate, which is under the control of the operator of the process generating the waste, without a permit or interim status provided he meets the requirements of this section, including marking his containers with the words “Hazardous Waste” or with other words that identify the contents of the container.
20. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 273.14(a) (Section 391-3-11-.18 of the GHWMR), handlers of universal waste batteries must clearly label or mark each battery or containers or packages in which the batteries are contained with one of the following phrases: “Universal Waste – Battery(ies),” or “Waste Battery(ies),” or “Used Battery(ies).”

EPA ALLEGATIONS

21. Respondent is a "person" as defined in Section 1004(15) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(15), and 40 C.F.R. § 260.10.
22. Respondent is the "owner" and "operator" of "facilities" located in at 777 Hemlock Street and 676 Pine Street in Macon, Georgia, as those terms are defined in 40 C.F.R. § 260.10. 777 Hemlock Street is the mailing address for a hospital, which is owned and operated by Respondent, and 676 Pine Street is a small parcel of property owned by Respondent that is located nearby the hospital. The facility at 676 Pine Street is located near the intersection of Pine and Hemlock Streets. It is separated from property that is owned by Respondent and located across the street from the 777 Hemlock Street location by a driveway of approximately 42 feet that is not under common ownership.
23. On August 29, 2008, a representative of EPA performed a RCRA compliance evaluation inspection (CEI) of Respondent's facilities.
24. Respondent, as a result of operations at the 777 Hemlock facility, is a generator of hazardous waste. Respondent had filed a hazardous waste registration for the property located at 777 Hemlock Street, Registration No. GAD 981 230 584.
25. At the time of the CEI, EPA alleges that Respondent was transporting hazardous waste generated at its facility located at 777 Hemlock Street, Macon, Georgia, using its own trucks, which had not received an EPA identification number, on public roads to the facility it owned and operated at 676 Pine Street, Macon, Georgia, a location that had not received an EPA identification number and did not have a permit or interim status authorizing the storage of hazardous waste.
26. EPA therefore alleges that Respondent violated 40 C.F.R. § 262.12(c) (Section 391-3-11-.08 of the GHWMR), by offering its hazardous waste to a transporter and to a treatment, storage, or disposal facility that have not received an EPA identification number.
27. EPA also alleges that Respondent violated Section 3010 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930, (GHWMA, § 12-8-60 through § 12-8-83), by transporting hazardous waste without filing with EPA (or with States having authorized hazardous waste permit programs under section 6925 of RCRA) a notification stating the location and general description of such activity and the identified or listed hazardous wastes handled by it.
28. EPA also alleges that Respondent violated Sections 3010 and 3005 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930, (GHWMA, § 12-8-60 through § 12-8-83), by and owning and operating a facility for treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous waste without filing with EPA (or with States having authorized hazardous waste permit programs under section 6925 of RCRA) a notification stating the location and general description of such activity and the identified or listed hazardous wastes handled by it, and without having a permit or interim status.

29. At the time of the CEI, EPA alleges that Respondent was transporting hazardous waste generated at its facility located at 777 Hemlock Street, Macon, Georgia, to its facility located at 676 Pine Street, Macon, Georgia, without a hazardous waste Manifest.
30. EPA therefore alleges that Respondent violated 40 C.F.R. § 262.20(a) (Section 391-3-11-.08 of the GHWMR), by transporting a hazardous waste for offsite treatment, storage, or disposal without preparing a Manifest (OMB Control number 2050-0039) on EPA Form 8700-22, and, if necessary, EPA Form 8700-22A, according to the instructions included in the appendix of Part 262.
31. With respect to the violations alleged in paragraphs 25-30 herein, although the facilities are both owned by Respondent and located nearby, EPA alleges that the two properties are not contiguous as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 260.10 (see definition of "on-site").
32. At the time of the CEI, EPA alleges that Respondent was storing ignitable hazardous waste in containers in the waste storage building at 676 Pine Street. The containers were stored within 50 feet of the facility's property line.
33. EPA therefore alleges that Respondent violated 40 C.F.R. § 264.176 (Section 391-3-11-.10 of the GHWMR), by storing containers holding ignitable waste in a location less than 50 feet from the facility's property line.
34. At the time of the CEI, EPA alleges that Respondent was accumulating a one gallon container of hazardous waste at or near its point of generation that was not marked with the words "Hazardous Waste" or with other words that identified the contents of the container.
35. EPA therefore alleges that Respondent violated 40 C.F.R. § 262.34(c)(1), (Section 391-3-11-.08 of the GHWMR), by failing to mark a hazardous container with the words "Hazardous Waste" or with other words that identify the contents of the container.
36. At the time of the CEI, EPA alleges that Respondent was accumulating universal waste batteries in a container that was not clearly labeled or marked with one of the following phrases: "Universal Waste – Batteries," Or "Waste Batteries," or "Used Batteries."
37. EPA therefore alleges that Respondent violated 40 C.F.R. § 273.14(a) (Section 391-3-11-.18 of the GHWMR), by failing to clearly label universal waste batteries or their container with one of the following phrases: "Universal Waste – Battery(ies)." Or "Waste Battery(ies)," or "Used Battery(ies)."

V. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

Based on the foregoing Allegations and Determinations, the parties agree to the following:

38. For the purposes of this CA/FO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set out in the above paragraphs pursuant to Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928.

39. The Respondent neither admits nor denies the factual allegations or alleged violations set out in this CA/FO.
40. Respondent waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement.
41. Respondent waives its right to challenge the validity of this CA/FO and the settlement of the matters addressed in this CA/FO based on any issue related to the Paperwork Reduction Act.
42. Respondent waives any right it may have pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.8 to be present during any discussions with, or to be served with and reply to, any memorandum or communication addressed to EPA officials where the purpose of such discussion, memorandum or communication is to persuade such official to accept and issue this CA/FO.
43. The parties agree that the settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that this CA/FO is consistent with the applicable requirements of RCRA.
44. The parties agree that compliance with the terms of this CA/FO shall resolve the violations of RCRA alleged in this CA/FO.
45. Respondent by signing this CA/FO also certifies that all violations alleged in this CA/FO have been corrected.
46. Each party will pay its own costs and attorney's fees.

VI. PAYMENT OF CIVIL PENALTY

47. Respondent consents to the payment of a civil penalty in the amount of THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$37,800.00) within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of this CA/FO.
48. Payments shall be made by check with good and sufficient funds, by electronic funds transfer (EFT), or by Automated Clearhouse (ACH) (also known as REX or remittance express). If paying by check, the check shall be payable to: Treasurer, United States of America, and the facility name and docket number for this matter shall be referenced on the face of the check. If the Respondent sends payment by the U.S. Postal Service, the payment shall be addressed to:

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979077
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

If the Respondent sends payment by non-U.S. Postal express mail delivery, the payment shall be sent to:

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

If paying by EFT, the Respondent shall transfer the payment to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA: 021030004
Account Number: 68010727
SWIFT address: FRNYUS33
33 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10045
Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read: "D 68010727
Environmental Protection Agency"

If paying by ACH, the Respondent shall remit payment to:

PNC Bank
ABA: 051036706
Account Number: 310006
CTX Format Transaction Code 22 – checking
Environmental Protection Agency
808 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20074
Contact: Jesse White, 301-887-6548

Respondent shall submit a copy of the payment to the following addressees:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA - Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

and to:

Frank Ney, Acting Chief
South Enforcement & Compliance Section
RCRA and OPA Enforcement and Compliance Branch
RCRA Division
U.S. EPA - Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

49. If Respondent fails to remit the civil penalty as agreed to herein, EPA is required to assess interest and penalties on debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the costs of processing and handling the delinquent claim. Interest, at the statutory judgment rate provided for in 31 U.S.C. § 3717, will therefore begin to accrue on the civil penalty if not paid within 30 calendar days after the effective date of this Consent Agreement. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, Respondent must pay the following amounts on any amount overdue:
- (a) **Interest.** Any unpaid portion of a civil penalty must bear interest at the rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717(a)(1). Interest will therefore begin to accrue on a civil penalty or stipulated penalty if it is not paid by the last date required. Interest will be assessed at the rate of the United States Treasury tax and loan rate in accordance with 4 C.F.R. § 102.13(c).
 - (b) **Monthly Handling Charge.** Respondent must pay a late payment handling charge of \$15.00 on any late payment, with an additional charge of \$15.00 for each subsequent 30 calendar day period over which an unpaid balance remains.
 - (c) **Non-Payment Penalty.** On any portion of a civil penalty more than ninety (90) calendar days past due, Respondent must pay a non-payment penalty of six percent (6%) per annum, which will accrue from the date the penalty payment became due and is not paid. This non-payment is in addition to charges which accrue or may accrue under subparagraphs (a) and (b).
50. Penalties paid pursuant to this CA/FO are not deductible for federal tax purposes under 28 U.S.C. § 162(f).

VII. PARTIES BOUND

51. This CA/FO shall be binding upon Respondent and its successors and assigns. Respondent shall cause its officers, directors, employees, agents and all persons, including independent contractors, contractors and consultants acting under or for Respondent, to comply with the provisions hereof in connection with any activity subject to this CA/FO.
52. No change in ownership, partnership, corporate or legal status relating to the facility will in any way alter Respondent's obligations and responsibilities under this CA/FO.
53. The undersigned representative of Respondent hereby certifies that she or he is fully authorized to enter into this CA/FO and to execute and legally bind Respondent to it.

VIII. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

54. Notwithstanding any other provision of this CA/FO, an enforcement action may be brought pursuant to Section 7003 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6973, or other statutory authority, should the EPA find that the handling, storage, treatment, transportation, or

disposal of solid waste or hazardous waste at Respondent's facility may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health or the environment.

55. Complainant reserves the right to take enforcement action against Respondent for any future violations of RCRA and the implementing regulations and to enforce the terms and conditions of this CA/FO.
56. Except as expressly provided herein, nothing in this CA/FO shall constitute or be construed as a release from any civil or criminal claim, cause of action or demand in law or equity for any liability Respondent may have arising out of, or relating in any way to, the transportation, release, or disposal of any hazardous constituents, hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, pollutants, or contaminants found at, taken to, or taken from Respondent's facility.
57. This CA/FO may be amended or modified only by written agreement executed by both the EPA and Respondent.

IX. OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS

58. All actions required to be taken pursuant to this CA/FO shall be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of all applicable local, state, and Federal laws and regulations. Respondent shall obtain or cause its representatives to obtain all permits and approvals necessary under such laws and regulations.

X. SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS

59. A copy of any documents that Respondent files in this action shall be sent to the following attorney who represents EPA in this matter and who is authorized to receive service for EPA in the proceeding:

Bonnie Sawyer
Associate Regional Counsel
OEA – 13th Floor
U.S. EPA – Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960
(404) 562-9539

60. A copy of any documents that Complainant files in this action shall be sent to the following attorney who represents the Respondent in this matter and who is to receive service for the Respondent in this proceeding:

Adam G. Sowatzka
King & Spalding LLP
1180 Peachtree Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
404.572.3503 (direct)
404.572.5135 (fax)
asowatzka@kslaw.com

XI. SEVERABILITY


61. It is the intent of the parties that the provisions of this CA/FO are severable. If any provision or authority of this CA/FO or the application of this CA/FO to any party or circumstances is held by any judicial or administrative authority to be invalid or unenforceable, the application of such provisions to other parties or circumstances and the remainder of the CA/FO shall remain in force and shall not be affected thereby.

XII. EFFECTIVE DATE

62. The effective date of this CA/FO shall be the date on which the CA/FO is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

The Medical Center of Central Georgia, Inc.

By:  Dated: 3/24/09
Kenneth B. Banks
Senior Vice President and General Counsel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By:  Dated: 3/26/09
Caroline Y. F. Robinson, Chief
RCRA & OPA Enforcement & Compliance Branch
RCRA Division

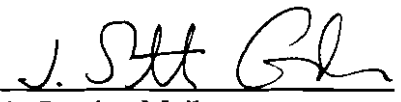
**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4**

IN THE MATTER OF:)	Docket Number: RCRA-04-2009-4006(b)
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The Medical Center of Central Georgia, Inc.)	Proceeding under Section 3008(a)
777 Hemlock Street)	of the Resource Conservation and
Macon, Georgia 31297)	Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)
)	
EPA ID No.: GAD981230584)	
)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

FINAL ORDER

The foregoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved, ratified and incorporated by reference into this Final Order in accordance with 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 Respondent is hereby ORDERED to comply with all of the terms of the foregoing Consent Agreement effective immediately upon filing of this Consent Agreement and Final Order with the Regional Hearing Clerk. This Order disposes of this matter pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18 and 22.31.

BEING AGREED, IT IS SO ORDERED this 30th day of March, 2009.

BY: 
A. Stanley Meiburg
Acting Regional Administrator
EPA Region 4

In the Matter of The Medical Center of Central Georgia, Inc.
Docket Number: RCRA-04-2009-4006(b)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day filed the original and a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and the attached Final Order (CA/FO), in the Matter of Medical Center of Central Georgia, Docket Number: RCRA-04-2009-4006(b), on March 31 2009, and on March 31, 2009, served the parties listed below in the manner indicated:

Bonnie Sawyer
Associate Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA - Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(Via EPA's internal mail)

Adam Sowatzka
King & Spalding LLP
1180 Peachtree Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

(Via Certified Mail- Return Receipt Requested)

Date: March 31, 2009

Clauette Hanes for
Patricia A. Bullock
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA - Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-9511