

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1**

IN THE MATTER OF)	
)	
LKQ NORTHEAST, INC)	DOCKET NO: CWA-01-2021-0024
1525 Central Street)	
Leominster, MA 01453,)	
)	ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT
Respondent)	AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER
)	
Proceeding under Section 309(g))	
of the Clean Water Act,)	
33 U.S.C. § 1319(g))	
)	

1. The Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1 (“EPA”) enters into this Consent Agreement and Final Order (“CAFO”) with LKQ Northeast, Inc. (“LKQ Northeast” or “Respondent”), under authority Section 309(g) of the Clean Water Act (“CWA”), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g), and in accordance with applicable delegations and 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18 of EPA’s *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination, or Suspension of Permits* (“*Consolidated Rules*”), for the purpose of resolving alleged violations of the federal *Stormwater Multi-Sector General Permit for Industrial Activities* and Section 301(a) of the Clean Water Act (“CWA”), 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).

2. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(1) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(1), and 40 C.F.R. § 22.38(b), EPA has notified the Commonwealth of Massachusetts this action.

General Allegations

3. The CWA is designed to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters. Section 101(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1251(a).

4. To accomplish the objectives of the CWA, Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), prohibits the discharge of pollutants by any person except in compliance with a permit issued pursuant to Section 402 or 404 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1342 or 1344, and EPA's implementing regulations, found at 40 C.F.R. Part 122.

5. Section 502(5) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5), defines "person" to include "an individual, corporation, partnership, [or] association."

6. Section 311(a)(7) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(7), defines "person" to include "an individual, firm, corporation, association, [or] partnership."

7. Section 502(12) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12), defines "discharge of a pollutant" to include "any addition of any pollutant to navigable waters from any point source."

8. Section 502(6) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(6), defines "pollutant" to include, among other things, garbage, chemical wastes, biological materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, and industrial waste discharged into water.

9. Section 502(14) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(14), defines "point source" to include "any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance . . . from which pollutants are or may be discharged."

10. Section 502(7) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7), defines "navigable waters" as "the waters of the United States, including the territorial seas."

11. Section 308(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1318(a), authorizes the Administrator of EPA to require the owner or operator of any point source to provide such information as the Administrator may reasonably need to carry out the objectives of the CWA, including, among other things, the development and issuance of NPDES permits under Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

12. Pursuant to Sections 308 and 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1318 and 1342, EPA promulgated stormwater discharge regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 122.26.

13. 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(13) defines “stormwater” to include stormwater runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.

14. Section 402(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(a), authorizes EPA to issue NPDES permits for the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters in compliance with the CWA.

15. Section 402(p) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p), and implementing regulation 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(a)(1)(ii) require stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity to be authorized by a NPDES permit.

16. 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(c)(1) provides that dischargers of stormwater associated with industrial activity are required to apply for an individual permit, apply for a permit through a group application, or seek coverage under a general permit.

17. 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14)(vi) specifies that facilities engaging in industrial activity include facilities classified as Standard Industrial Classification (“SIC”) 5015 (Auto Salvage Yard–Sector M).

18. 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14) specifies that the term “stormwater discharge associated with industrial activity” includes stormwater discharges from, among other things, industrial plant yards; immediate access roads and rail lines used or traveled by carriers of raw materials, manufactured products, waste material, or by-products used or created by the facility; material handling sites; refuse sites; sites used for the application or disposal of process waste waters; sites used for the storage and maintenance of material handling equipment; sites used for residual treatment, storage, or disposal; shipping and receiving areas; manufacturing buildings; storage areas (including tank farms) for raw materials, and intermediate and final products; and areas

where industrial activity has taken place in the past and significant materials remain and are exposed to stormwater. Material handling activities include storage, loading and unloading, transportation, or conveyance of any raw material, intermediate product, final product, by-product or waste product.

19. On June 4, 2015, EPA reissued the NPDES Stormwater Multi-Sector General Permit for Industrial Activities (“2015 MSGP”). 80 Fed. Reg. 34403 (June 16, 2015).

20. The 2015 MSGP contain terms and conditions designed to ensure the implementation of practices to minimize the pollutants in stormwater discharge associated with industrial activity.

Findings of Violation

21. LKQ Northeast, a Delaware corporation, is a wholly owned subsidiary of LKQ Corporation (“LKQ”).

22. Respondent is a “person” within the meaning of Sections 311(a)(7) and 502(5) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1321(a)(7) and 1362(5), and 40 C.F.R. § 112.2.

23. Respondent is the owner and operator of an auto salvage yard located at 1525 Central Street in Leominster, Massachusetts (the “Leominster Facility”). At the Leominster Facility, LKQ Northeast purchases unusable vehicles, dismantles them for parts, and sells both salvageable vehicle parts and unsalvageable scrap metal. Its primary SIC code is 5015 (Auto Salvage Yard–Sector M of the 2015 MSGP).

24. Since September 9, 2015, Respondent has conducted “industrial activity,” within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14)(ii) and 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14)(iii) at the Facility.

25. The Leominster Facility has been operating under the MSGP since September 9, 2015.

26. The 2015 MSGP authorizes Respondent to discharge stormwater from Outfalls 001 and 003 at the Leominster Facility into the Fall and Wekepeke Brooks, subject to the terms and conditions in the 2015 MSGP.

27. The Respondent was not authorized by the 2015 MSGP to discharge stormwater from Outfall 002 into Wekepeke Brook.

28. Water flowing through both Fall and Wekepeke Brooks reaches the Atlantic by way of the Nashua and Merrimack Rivers, each waters of the United States and, thereby, “navigable waters,” as defined in Section 502(7) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7).

29. On September 11, 2019, authorized representatives of EPA inspected the Leominster Facility for compliance with federal environmental laws and regulations under the CWA (the “Inspection”).

30. On September 30, 2019, LKQ provided additional information to EPA.

31. On November 12, 2019, EPA sent LKQ an information request letter under authority of Section 308(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1318(a), requesting that LKQ provide certain additional information to EPA within 30 days of receipt.

32. On November 26, 2019, EPA granted an extension of the 30-day deadline.

33. On February 6, 2020, LKQ provided the requested information to EPA.

34. On July 21, 2020 EPA issued an administrative compliance order to LKQ Northeast addressing noncompliance with stormwater requirements at its Leominster facility.

35. From September 9, 2015 through the present, Respondent has discharged “storm water associated with industrial activities” within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 122.26, from outfalls on the property into both Fall and Wekepeke Brooks which ultimately flow into the Nashua River.

36. By discharging stormwater from outfalls into waters of the U.S. in violation of certain terms and conditions of a permit issued pursuant to Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, or discharging stormwater without coverage of a NPDES permit issued pursuant to Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, Respondent violated Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a) from September 2, 2015 through to the date of this CAFO.

37. EPA and Respondent agree that settlement of this cause of action is in the public interest and that entry of this CAFO without further litigation is the most appropriate means of resolving this matter. Therefore, before taking any testimony, upon the pleadings, without adjudication of any issue of fact or law, and upon consent and agreement of the parties, it is hereby ordered and adjudged as follows:

38. Consistent with 40 C.F.R. 22.18(b)(2), Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth in this CAFO, and neither admits nor denies the factual or non-jurisdictional allegations set forth in this CAFO.

39. Respondent waives the right to a hearing under Section 309(g)(2)(B) and CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(B), and to any appeal of the Final Order in this matter under Sections 309(g)(8)(B) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(8)(B).

40. EPA proposes, and Respondent consents to, the assessment of a civil penalty of \$83,000 for all violations alleged in this CAFO through the effective date of the CAFO.

41. Respondent shall pay the total penalty of \$83,000 within ten (10) calendar days of the date this CAFO becomes final.

42. In agreeing to the penalty set forth in the previous paragraph, EPA has taken into account the statutory penalty factors at Section 309(g)(3) CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(3). The payment shall be remitted as follows:

If remitted by regular U.S. mail:

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

If remitted by any overnight commercial carrier:

U.S. Bank
Government Lockbox 979077
1005 Convention Plaza
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

If remitted by wire transfer: Any wire transfer must be sent directly to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City using the following information:

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

If remitted through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) for receiving US currency:

U.S. Treasury REX / Cashlink ACH Receiver
ABA: 051036706
Account Number: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency
CTX Format Transaction Code 22 -- checking
Physical location of U.S. Treasury facility:
5700 Rivertech Court
Riverdale, Maryland 20737

43. At the time of payment, Respondent shall simultaneously send notice of the payments or copies of the check to:

Wanda Santiago
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (Mail Code ORC 04-6)
Boston, MA 02109-3912

and

Tonia Bandrowicz
Senior Enforcement Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (Mail Code 04-3)
Boston, MA 02109-3912

44. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(9) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(9), a failure by Respondent to pay the penalty assessed by this CAFO in full by its due date shall subject Respondent to a civil action to collect the assessed penalty, plus interest at the prevailing rates, from the date this Consent Agreement becomes final. The rate of interest assessed shall be at the rate set forth in 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(b), promulgated under 31 U.S.C. § 3717. Any person who fails to pay on a timely basis the amount of an assessed penalty shall be required to pay, in addition to such amount and interest, attorney's fees, costs for collection proceedings, and a quarterly non-penalty payment for each quarter during which such failure to pay persists. Such nonpayment penalty shall be in an amount equal to twenty percent of the aggregate amount of such person's penalties and nonpayment penalties that are unpaid as of the beginning of such quarter. In any such collection action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of the penalty shall not be subject to review.

General Provisions

45. The provisions of this CAFO shall apply to, and be binding on, Respondent, and Respondent's officers, directors, and successors or assigns. The civil penalty provided under this CAFO, and any interest, nonpayment penalties, and charges described in this CAFO, shall represent penalties assessed by EPA within the meaning of 26 U.S.C. § 162(f) and are not tax deductible for purposes of federal, state, or local law. Accordingly, Respondent agrees to treat all payments made pursuant to this CAFO as penalties within the meaning of 26 C.F.R. § 1.162-21, and further agrees not to use those payments in any way as, or in furtherance of, a tax

deduction under federal, state, or local law.

46. This CAFO does not constitute a waiver, suspension, or modification of the requirements of the CWA or any regulations or permits promulgated thereunder. Payment of the penalty pursuant to this CAFO resolves only Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts alleged herein through the effective date of this CAFO.

47. This CAFO in no way relieves Respondent or its employees of any criminal liability, and EPA reserves all its other criminal and civil enforcement authorities, including the authority to seek injunctive relief and the authority to undertake any action against Respondent in response to conditions which may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, welfare, or the environment.

48. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as prohibiting, altering, or in any way limiting the ability of EPA to seek any other remedies or sanctions available by virtue of Respondent's violation of this CAFO or of the statutes and regulations upon which this CAFO is based, or for Respondent's violation of any applicable provision of law.

49. Except as described in paragraph 44 above, the parties shall bear their own costs and fees in this action, including attorney's fees, and specifically waive any right to recover such costs from the other party pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 5 U.S.C § 504, or other applicable laws.

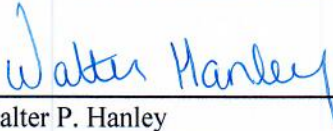
50. Respondent's obligations under the CAFO shall end when it has paid in full the scheduled civil penalty, and any interest or nonpayment penalties, and submitted the documentation required by this CAFO.

51. The terms, conditions, and requirements of this CAFO may not be modified or amended except upon the written agreement of all parties, and approval of the Regional

Administrator or his or her properly authorized delegee.

52. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this Consent Agreement certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and to execute and legally bind that party to it.

FOR LKQ NORTHEAST, INC.:



Walter P. Hanley
Senior Vice President
LKQ Corporation
c/o axandreasik@LKQCORP.com

Date: December 15, 2020

FOR U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:

Karen McGuire, Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1

Date: _____

FINAL ORDER

1. EPA has provided a thirty-day opportunity for public notice and comment on this proposed CAFO, pursuant to Section 309(g)(4)(A) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(4)(A), and 40 C.F.R. § 22.45(b).

2. The foregoing Consent Agreement is incorporated by reference into this Final Order and is hereby ratified.

3. Respondent is hereby ordered to comply with the terms of the above Consent Agreement, which will become final 30 days from the date it is signed by the Regional Judicial Officer unless a petition to set aside the order is filed by a commenter pursuant to Section 309(g)(4)(C) and of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(4)(C) , and 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

Date: _____

Sharon Wells
Acting Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1