



6. The 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 EPA pursuant to RCRA § 3008(a), 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 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b), 22.18(b)(2)-(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 limited partnership formed under the laws of the State of Texas, and owns and operates a coupling manufacturing plant located at 1835 Holzwarth, Spring, TX 77388.

10. Respondent is a "person" within the meaning of RCRA § 1004(15), 42 U.S.C. § 6903(15); and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 3.2(25) (40 C.F.R. § 260.10).

11. The facility is a "facility" within the meaning of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 335.1(59) (40 C.F.R. § 260.10).

12. The primary business at the facility is the manufacturing of American Petroleum Institute couplings.

13. Respondent is a “generator” of “hazardous wastes” at the facility, as those terms are defined in RCRA §§ 1004(5), (6), 42 U.S.C. §§ 6903(5), (6), and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 335.1(65), (69) (40 C.F.R. § 260.10).

14. As a generator of hazardous waste, Respondent is subject to RCRA §§ 3002 and 3010, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6922 and 6930, and the regulations set forth at 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 335(C), (F) (40 C.F.R. §§ 262 and/or 270).

15. From April 2016 through September 2016, EPA conducted an investigation and record review of Respondent’s performance as a generator of hazardous waste.

**Claim 1: Failure to file an adequate or accurate initial or subsequent notification as required by Section 3010 (a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. 6930(a).**

16. The allegations in Paragraphs 1-15 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.

17. Pursuant to Section 3010(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930(a), any person generating a characteristic or listed waste shall file with the Administrator or authorized State a notification stating the location and general description of such activity and the identified or listed hazardous wastes handled by such person.

18. In 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, Respondent generated hazardous waste in an amount exceeding large quantity generator (LQG) criteria.

19. Respondent listed itself as a conditionally exempt small quantity generator (CESQG) in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015.

20. At the time of the Investigation, Respondent had not filed with the Administrator or with the authorized state an adequate notification of hazardous waste activities, in violation of Section 3010(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930(a).

**Claim 2: Failure to meet the requirements of a Large Quantity Generator**

21. The allegations in Paragraphs 1-15 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.

22. A generator of hazardous waste is subject to the requirements of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 335(C)-(II), (O) (40 C.F.R. §§ 124, 262-68, 270).

23. In 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, Respondent declared its generator status as a CESQG.

24. In 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, Respondent generated hazardous wastes exceeding the SQG threshold established in 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §335.78 and therefore operated as a large quantity generator.

25. While operating as a large quantity generator in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, Respondent failed to comply with one or more of the requirements for large quantity generators under 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 335(C) and/or (F) (40 C.F.R. § 262 and/or 270), including but not limited to failing to have an adequate contingency plan.

**IV. COMPLIANCE ORDER**

26. Pursuant to RCRA § 3008(a), 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), Respondent is hereby ordered to take the following actions, and within ninety (90) calendar days of the effective date of this CAFO, Respondent shall provide in writing the following:

- A. Respondent shall certify that it is operating in compliance with RCRA and the regulations promulgated thereunder, including, but not limited to, procedures for:
  - i. making hazardous waste determinations;
  - ii. managing hazardous wastes; and
  - iii. reporting, transporting, and disposing of hazardous waste.

27. 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 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.”

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

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division  
Waste Enforcement Branch  
Waste Compliance III Section (6EN-H3)  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
Attn: Dale Thrush

## V. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

### A. Penalty Provisions

29. 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 upon Respondent's good faith efforts to comply with the applicable regulations and ability to pay a civil penalty pursuant to EPA's "RCRA Civil Penalty Policy" dated June 2003, it is ordered that Respondent be assessed a civil penalty of **ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)**.

30. The penalty shall be paid within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of this CAFO and made payable to Treasurer, United States of America.

31. The following are Respondent's options for transmitting the penalties:

Checks sent via U.S. Postal Mail (including certified mail) or U.S. Postal Service Express

Mail should be remitted to:

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

Checks sent via Overnight Mail (non-U.S. Postal Service) 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, MO 63101  
314-418-1028

Wire Transfers should be remitted to:

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 Texas Couplings LP, Docket No. RCRA-06-2017-0916**) shall be documented on or within your 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 (6RC-D)  
U.S. EPA, Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Mark Potts, Chief  
Waste Enforcement Branch (6EN-H)  
Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Your 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. § 1311, 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). Moreover, the costs of the Agency's administrative handling of 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 that 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. 40 C.F.R. § 901.9(d). Other penalties for failure to make a payment may also apply.

**B. Costs**

34. 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**

35. 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 IV (Compliance Order), Paragraph 28. 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**


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



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


FOR THE RESPONDENT:

Date: 1.17.2017

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Coy Reece  
President  
Texas Couplings, L.P.

FOR THE COMPLAINANT:

Date: 2-1-17

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacey B. Dwyer, P.E.  
Acting Director  
Compliance Assurance and  
Enforcement Division

**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.

Date: 2/7/17



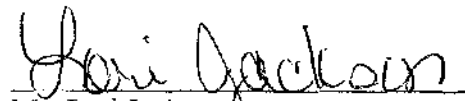
Thomas Rucki  
Regional Judicial Officer

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017, 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 below:

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED** 70021036 D000366 749800

Coy Reece  
President  
Texas Couplings, L.P.  
1835 Holzwarth  
Spring, Texas 77388

  
Ms. Lori Jackson  
Paralegal