

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX



In the matter of:)	U.S. EPA Docket No.
)	
)	RCRA 09-2022-0084
SAFETY-KLEEN OF CALIFORNIA, INC.)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	
Newark Branch)	
6880 Smith Ave.)	Proceeding under Section 3008(a)
Newark, CA 94560)	of the Resource Conservation and
)	Recovery Act, as amended,
)	42 U.S.C. Section 6928(a)

CONSENT AGREEMENT

A. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is a civil administrative enforcement action instituted pursuant to Section 3008(a)(1) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (“RCRA”), as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(1), and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits, as codified at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 22 (“Consolidated Rules”).
2. Complainant is the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX (“EPA”).
3. Respondent is Safety-Kleen of California, Inc., the owner/operator of the facility located at 6880 Smith Ave, Newark, California (“Newark Facility”).
4. This Consent Agreement and Final Order (“CA/FO”), pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13 and 22.18, simultaneously commences and concludes this proceeding, wherein EPA alleges that Respondent violated state regulations adopted pursuant to the approved California hazardous waste management program.
5. The Parties agree that settling this action without the filing of a complaint or the adjudication of any issue of fact or law is in their respective interest and in the public interest.

B. STATUTORY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

6. Subtitle C of RCRA requires the EPA Administrator to promulgate regulations establishing a hazardous waste management program. Section 3006 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6926, provides, *inter alia*, that authorized state hazardous waste management programs are carried out under Subtitle C of RCRA. Therefore, a violation of any requirement of law under an authorized state hazardous waste program is a violation of a requirement of Subtitle C of RCRA.
7. The State of California (“State”) received authorization to administer the hazardous waste management program in lieu of the federal program pursuant to Section 3006 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6926, and 40 C.F.R. Part 271, on August 1, 1992. This authorization was updated on September 26, 2001 (*see* 66 Fed. Reg. 49118), on October 7, 2011 (*see* 76 Fed. Reg. 62303) and again on January 14, 2020 (*see* 85 Fed. Reg. 2038 as corrected [*see* 86 Fed. Reg. 29207, June 1, 2021]).
8. The authorized hazardous waste program is established pursuant to the Hazardous Waste Control Law, Chapter 6.5 of Division 20 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the regulations promulgated thereunder at Title 22, Division 4.5 of the California Code of Regulations, 22 C.C.R. §§ 66001 *et seq.* The State has been authorized for all the hazardous waste management regulations referenced in this CA/FO.

C. EPA’S GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

9. Respondent owns and operates the Newark Facility. The Facility’s EPA ID No. is CAD 980 887 418. At the Facility, the Respondent operates a wastewater treatment process and a used oil collection site and terminal where the collected used oil and spent antifreeze are loaded into railcars and sent to the Safety-Kleen used oil refinery in Fallon, Nevada.
10. On September 9 – 10, 2019, EPA conducted a compliance evaluation inspection (“CEI”) at the Facility.
11. The Facility is a RCRA-permitted Treatment, Storage and Disposal facility, operated pursuant to a RCRA permit issued by the Department of Toxic Substances Control on September 3, 2021 (“RCRA Permit”). At the time of the CEI the Facility operated pursuant to the RCRA permit in effect at that time, 04-GLN-10.
12. Based upon the findings EPA made during the CEI, and additional information obtained subsequent to the inspection, EPA determined that Respondent violated California Health & Safety Code § 25100 *et seq.* and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto, as approved and authorized by the United States.

13. Respondent is a "person" as defined in 22 C.C.R. § 66260.10 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 260.10].¹
14. Respondent is the "owner" of a facility as defined in 22 C.C.R. § 66260.10 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
15. Respondent is the "operator" of a facility as defined in 22 C.C.R. § 66260.10 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
16. Respondent is a "generator" of hazardous waste as defined in 22 C.C.R. § 66260.10 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
17. Respondent is or has been engaged in "treatment," "storage," or "disposal" of "hazardous waste" as defined in 22 C.C.R. §§ 66260.10 and 66261.3 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 260.10 and 261.3]. These hazardous wastes include, but are not limited to characteristic hazardous wastes, listed hazardous wastes from non-specific sources and specific sources (F- and K-listed wastes), and commercial chemical products (P- and U-listed wastes).
18. Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928, authorizes the EPA Administrator to issue orders assessing a civil penalty or requiring compliance immediately or within a specified time for violation of any requirement of Subtitle C of RCRA, Section 3001 of RCRA *et seq.*, 42 U.S.C. § 6921 *et seq.* The Administrator has delegated enforcement authority under Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928, to the EPA Regional Administrators, with delegation 8-9-A, last revised February 4, 2016. The Regional Administrator, EPA Region IX, in turn, redelegated that authority to the EPA signatory below.

D. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

COUNT I

**Failure to Comply with Permit Conditions
Regarding Hazardous Waste Characterization**

19. Paragraphs 1 through 18 above are incorporated herein by this reference as if they were set forth here in their entirety.
20. 22 C.C.R. § 66270.30 states that a permittee shall comply with all conditions of the permit [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 270.30].

¹ All citations to the "C.C.R." refer to Division 4.5 of Title 22 of the current California Code of Regulations. EPA is enforcing California hazardous waste management program requirements as approved and authorized by the United States. As a convenience, corresponding Federal citations are provided in brackets.

21. The permit in effect at the time of EPA's inspection, Permit 04-GLN-10, incorporates the Part A and Part B permit application dated January 2004 by reference.
22. The Part B permit application, Section III Characterization of Hazardous Wastes Handled at the Facility, Section III.B. Waste Analysis Parameters states that "[p]rior to acceptance of any waste at [the Facility], it must first go through the pre-approval process... The pre-approval process centers around the Generator's Waste Profile Worksheet (GWPW) and a representative sample of the waste... The GWPW includes information concerning the generator, the waste stream, lab analysis, and a certification by the generator."
23. Based on EPA's review of the GWPWs, EPA determined that Safety-Kleen failed to consistently use lab analysis as a component of the GWPW and waste characterization process, as required by the Permit.
24. In addition, 22 C.C.R. § 66262.11 requires that a person who generates a hazardous waste shall determine if that waste is hazardous [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 262.11].
25. EPA alleges that Safety-Kleen failed to accurately characterize the contents of tanker IILX 190445.
26. Therefore, EPA alleges that Respondent failed to adequately characterize hazardous waste, a violation of 22 C.C.R. §§ 66262.11 and 66270.30(a) [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 262.11 and 270.30(a)].

COUNT II

Failure to Comply with Hazardous Waste Manifest Requirements

27. Paragraphs 1 through 26 above are incorporated herein by this reference as if they were set forth here in their entirety.
28. 22 C.C.R. § 66262.20(b) requires that a generator must designate on the manifest one facility which is permitted to handle the waste described on the manifest [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 262.20(b)].
29. Based on manifest information, EPA determined that Safety-Kleen shipped a canister of D018 RCRA waste to a facility not authorized to receive hazardous waste.
30. Therefore, EPA alleges that Respondent failed to comply with hazardous waste manifest requirements, a violation of 22 C.C.R. § 66262.20(b) [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 262.20(b)].

E. CIVIL PENALTY

31. The Complainant proposes that Respondent be assessed, and Respondent agrees to pay SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND AND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$73,200) as the civil penalty for the violations alleged herein.
32. The civil penalty is based upon EPA's consideration of a number of factors, including the penalty criteria set forth in Section 3008(a)(3) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(3), including the following: the seriousness of the violation and any good faith efforts to comply with applicable requirements. These factors were applied to the particular facts and circumstances of this case with specific reference to EPA's "June 2003 RCRA Civil Penalty Policy," and adjusted for inflation in accordance with the Civil Monetary Inflation Adjustment Rule, 40 C.F.R. Part 19.

F. ADMISSIONS AND WAIVERS OF RIGHTS

33. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2) and for the purpose of this proceeding, Respondent: (i) admits that EPA has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this CA/FO and over Respondent; (ii) neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations contained in this CA/FO; (iii) consents to any and all conditions specified in this CA/FO and to the assessment of the civil administrative penalty under Section E of this CA/FO; (iv) waives any right to contest the allegations contained in Section C of the CA/FO; and (v) waives the right to appeal the proposed final order attached to this Consent Agreement and made part of this CA/FO.

G. PARTIES BOUND

34. This CA/FO shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and its agents, successors and assigns, until the civil penalty required under Section E has been paid in accordance with Section I and Respondent has met the Conditions of Settlement set out in Section H. Respondent's full compliance with this CA/FO shall only resolve Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts alleged herein.
35. No change in ownership relating to the Facility will in any way alter Respondent's obligations and responsibilities under this CA/FO.
36. The undersigned representative of Respondent hereby certifies that he or she is fully authorized by Respondent to enter into this CA/FO, to execute it and to legally bind Respondent to it.

H. CONDITIONS OF SETTLEMENT

37. As a condition of settlement, within 60 days Respondent agrees to provide documentation that demonstrates that current financial assurance is intended to meet the requirements of 22 C.C.R. § 66264.147 (40 C.F.R. § 264.147), and clarifies that:
- a. it is the intent of the insurer and the insured that the Policy provide coverage that meets the minimum requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 66264.147; and
 - b. the policy covers bodily injury and property damage to third parties that arises during the period of closure plan implementation.
38. Respondent acknowledges that future policies must also be consistent with these regulatory requirements.

I. PAYMENT OF CIVIL PENALTY

39. Respondent consents to the assessment of and agrees to pay a civil penalty of SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND AND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$73,200) in full settlement of the federal civil penalty claims set forth in this CA/FO.
40. Respondent shall submit payment of SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND AND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$73,200) within thirty (30) calendar days of the Effective Date of this CA/FO, in accordance with one of the options set forth below. The Effective Date of this CA/FO is the date the Final Order, signed by the Regional Judicial Officer, is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk. All payments shall indicate the name of the Facility, the Respondent's name and address, and the EPA docket number of this action.

Regular Mail:

Payment shall be made by certified or cashier's check payable to "Treasurer, United States of America," and sent as follows:

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

Overnight Mail:

Payment shall be made by certified or cashier's check payable to "Treasurer, United States of America," and sent as follows:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Government Lockbox 979077

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1005 Convention Plaza
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, MO 63101
Contact: Craig Steffen (513) 487-2091

Wire Transfers:

Wire transfers must be sent directly to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City with the following information:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York

ABA = 021030004

Account = 68010727

SWIFT address = FRNYUS33

33 Liberty Street

New York, NY 10045

Beneficiary: US Environmental Protection Agency

*Note: Foreign banks **must** use a United States Bank to send a wire transfer to the US EPA.

ACH (also known as REX or remittance express):

US Treasury REX/Cashlink ACH Receiver

ABA: 051036706

Account Number: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency

CTX Format Transaction Code 22 – checking

Physical location of US Treasury Facility:

5700 Rivertech Court

Riverdale, MD 20737

Remittance Express (REX): 1-866-234-5681

On Line Payment:

Payers can use their credit or debit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express & Discover) as well as checking account information to make payments.

This payment option can be accessed from the information below:

www.pay.gov

Enter “sfo1.1” in the search field

Open form and complete required fields

If clarification regarding a particular method of payment remittance is needed, contact the EPA Cincinnati Finance Center at 513-487-2091.

41. At the time payment is made, Respondent shall send a PDF copy of the notification that the payment has been made by one of the methods listed above including proof of the date payment was made, to the following email addresses:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9
R9HearingClerk@epa.gov

And to:

Sharon Lin
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9
Lin.Sharon@epa.gov

42. Each payment must be received by the due date set forth in this CA/FO to avoid additional charges. If payment is not received by the due date, interest will accrue from the Effective Date of this CA/FO at the current rate published by the United States Treasury as described at 40 C.F.R. § 13.11. In addition, a 6% per annum penalty assessed monthly will further apply on any principal amount not paid within ninety (90) calendar days of its due date. Respondent further will be liable for stipulated penalties as set forth below for any payment not received by its due date.
43. The penalties specified in this CA/FO shall represent civil penalties assessed by EPA and shall not be deducted by Respondent or any other person or entity for federal, state, or local taxation purposes.

J. DELAY IN PERFORMANCE/STIPULATED PENALTIES

44. In the event Respondent fails to (a) submit a payment to EPA by the time required in this CA/FO, or (b) complete Conditions of Settlement required by Section H above, Respondent shall pay stipulated penalties up to: FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500) per day for first to fifteenth day of delay; ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500) per day for sixteenth to thirtieth day of delay; and THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) per day for each day of delay thereafter. Compliance by Respondent shall include completion of any activity under this CA/FO in a manner acceptable to EPA and within the specified time schedules in and approved under this CA/FO.
45. Nothing herein shall prevent the simultaneous accrual of separate penalties for separate violations.
46. All stipulated penalties owed to EPA under this Section shall be due within thirty (30) days of receipt by Respondent of a notification of noncompliance. Such notification shall describe the noncompliance and shall indicate the amount of penalties due. Interest at the current rate published by the United States Treasury, as described at 40 C.F.R. §13.11, shall begin to accrue on the unpaid balance at the end of the thirty-day period.

47. All penalties shall be made payable by certified or cashier's check to "Treasurer of the United States" and shall be remitted as described in Paragraph 40.
48. The payment of stipulated penalties shall not alter in any way Respondent's obligation to complete the performance required hereunder.
49. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, EPA may, in its unreviewable discretion, waive any portion of stipulated penalties that have accrued pursuant to this CA/FO.

K. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

50. In executing this CA/FO, Respondent certifies under penalty of law to EPA that it has fully complied with RCRA and its implementing regulations that formed the basis for the violations alleged in Section D, above.
51. This certification of compliance is based upon true, accurate, and complete information, which the signatory can verify personally or regarding which the signatory has inquired of the person or persons directly responsible for gathering the information.

L. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

52. EPA hereby reserves all of its statutory and regulatory powers, authorities, rights and remedies, both legal and equitable, including the right to require that Respondent perform tasks in addition to those required by this CA/FO. EPA further reserves all of its statutory and regulatory powers, authorities, rights and remedies, both legal and equitable, which may pertain to Respondent's failure to comply with any of the requirements of this CA/FO, including without limitation, the assessment of penalties under Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928. This CA/FO shall not be construed as a covenant not to sue, release, waiver or limitation of any rights, remedies, powers or authorities, civil or criminal, which EPA has under RCRA, or any other statutory, regulatory or common law enforcement authority of the United States. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the power of the EPA to undertake any action against Respondent or any person in response to conditions that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, welfare, or the environment.
53. Compliance by Respondent with the terms of this CA/FO shall not relieve Respondent of its obligations to comply with RCRA or any other applicable local, State or federal laws and regulations.
54. The entry of this CA/FO and Respondent's consent to comply shall not limit or otherwise preclude EPA from taking additional enforcement actions should EPA determine that

such actions are warranted except as they relate to Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the alleged violations and facts as set forth in Section D of this CA/FO.

55. This CA/FO is not intended to be nor shall it be construed as a permit. This CA/FO does not relieve Respondent of any obligation to obtain and comply with any required local, State or federal permits.

M. OTHER CLAIMS

56. Nothing in this CA/FO shall constitute or be construed as a release from any other claim, cause of action or demand in law or equity by or against any person, firm, partnership, entity or corporation for any liability it may have arising out of or relating in any way to the generation, storage, treatment, handling, transportation, release, or disposal of any hazardous constituents, hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, pollutants, or contaminants found at, taken to, or taken from the Facility.

N. MISCELLANEOUS

57. This CA/FO may be amended or modified only by written agreement executed by both EPA and Respondent.
58. The headings in this CA/FO are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect interpretation of this CA/FO.
59. Each party to this action shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees.
60. EPA and Respondent consent to entry of this CA/FO without further notice.
61. If Respondent is unable to complete any of the Conditions of Settlement required in Section H, Respondent shall submit a written request for a modification, including the basis for the request, to EPA. Respondent shall submit this request within seven (7) days of identifying a need for a modification. Based on this request, EPA shall in its discretion grant or deny, in full or in part, the request for modification.

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O. EFFECTIVE DATE

62. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18(b)(3) and 22.31(b), this CA/FO shall be effective on the date that the Final Order contained in this CA/FO, having been approved and issued by the Regional Judicial Officer, is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

IT IS SO AGREED.

FOR RESPONDENT SAFETY-KLEEN: *cf California, Inc.*



FOR COMPLAINANT U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 9:

AMY MILLER- Digitally signed by AMY
BOWEN MILLER-BOWEN
Date: 2022.09.26
08:42:53 -07'00'

Amy C. Miller-Bowen, Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

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FINAL ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Consent Agreement and Final Order pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Sections 22.13 and 22.18 (U.S. EPA Docket No. RCRA 09-2022-0084) be entered and that Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND AND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$73,200), and complete the Conditions of Settlement in Section H, in accordance with the terms of this CA/FO.

This Final Order shall be effective upon filing by the Regional Hearing Clerk.

Steven L. Jawgiel Date
Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. EPA - Region IX

