

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII

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KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY-REGION VII
REGIONAL HEARING CLERK

BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

IN THE MATTER OF

)

) Docket No. CWA-07-2004-0065

)

Ward Feedyard, Inc.

)

Pawnee County, Kansas

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Respondent

)

FINDINGS OF VIOLATION
ORDER FOR COMPLIANCE

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Proceedings under

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Section 309(a)(3)

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of the Clean Water Act,

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33 U.S.C. § 1319(a)(3)

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Preliminary Statement

1. The following Findings of Violation and Order for Compliance (Order) are made and issued pursuant to the authority of Section 309(a)(3) of the Clean Water Act (CWA or Act), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(a)(3). This authority has been delegated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Regional Administrator, EPA Region VII, and redelegated to the Director of Region VII's Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division.
2. The Respondent is Ward Feedyard, Inc., which owns and operates an animal feeding operation located in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 10, Township 22S, Range 16W in Pawnee County, Kansas.

Statutory and Regulatory Framework

3. Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), prohibits the discharge of pollutants except in compliance with, *inter alia*, Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.
4. Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, provides that pollutants may be discharged only in accordance with the terms of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued pursuant to that Section.

5. Section 504(12) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12), defines the term “discharge of pollutant” to include “any addition of any pollutant to navigable waters from any point source.”
6. To implement Section 402 of the CWA, EPA promulgated regulations codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 122. Under C.F.R. Part 122.1, a NPDES permit is required for the discharge of pollutants from any point source into waters of the United States.
7. “Pollutant” is defined by Section 502(6) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362 to include, *inter alia*, biological materials and agricultural waste discharged to water.
8. “Point source” is defined by Section 502(14) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362 to include “any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation . . . from which pollutants are or may be discharged.”
9. “Animal feeding operation” is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(1) as a lot or facility where animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any twelve month period, and where crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility.
10. “Concentrated animal feeding operation” is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(3) as “an ‘animal feeding operation’ which meets the criteria in Appendix B of this part.”
11. Appendix B to 40 C.F.R. § 122.23 states that an animal feeding operation is a concentrated animal feeding operation for purposes of § 122.23 if the animal feeding operation confines more than 1,000 slaughter and feeder cattle.
12. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations are by definition point sources subject to the NPDES permit program. 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(a).
13. “Waters of the United States” are defined in 40 C.F.R. Part 122.2 to include intrastate rivers and streams, and tributaries thereto.
14. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is the agency within the State of Kansas with the delegated authority to administer the federal NPDES Program pursuant to Section 402 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, and a Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and KDHE. The EPA maintains concurrent enforcement authority with delegated state NPDES programs for violations of the CWA.

Factual Background and Findings of Violation

15. Respondent is a corporation and is therefore a person as defined by Section 502(5) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5).
16. Respondent owns and operates a cattle feeding operation (Facility) located in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 10, Township 22S, Range 16W of Pawnee County, Kansas. Respondent's facility consists of approximately 205 acres of open pen lots and appurtenant structures. Runoff from the lots is collected in eight wastewater retention ponds.
17. On August 12, 2003, EPA conducted an NPDES inspection of Respondent's animal feeding operation.
18. At the time of the inspection, the Facility confined at least 1,000 cattle, which is equivalent to at least 1,000 "animal units" as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. Part 122, Appendix B.
19. The Facility confines and feeds or maintains cattle for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period.
20. Neither crops, vegetation, forage growth, nor post-harvest residues were sustained over any portion of the confined feeding areas at the Facility at the time of the inspection.
21. The Facility is a "concentrated animal feeding operation" as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(3), and is therefore a "point source" as defined by CWA Section 502(14), 33 U.S.C. § 1362(14).
22. KDHE granted a NPDES Permit, No. KS 0096487, effective September 12, 2002, to Respondent.
23. Respondent's NPDES permit states that water pollution retention structures(s) shall be maintained with adequate freeboard to insure structural stability and sufficient available storage capacity to retain future dry weather wastewater accumulations from a two (2) week period plus the runoff from all contributing drainage areas from a 25-year, 24-hour storm event.
24. Between March 2001 and July 2003, Ward Feedyard, Inc. failed to maintain adequate freeboard in all of its lagoons.
25. Respondent's NPDES states that whenever the available storage capacity is less than the amount required within each storage structure dewatering shall be initiated and conducted

on all days suitable for land application of waste until the required storage capacity is again available.

26. Between March 2001 and July 2003, Respondent failed to timely dewater storage structures as required by Respondent's NPDES permit.
27. Respondent's NPDES permit states that liquid livestock wastes shall not be land applied during a precipitation event, or when the ground is frozen, snow covered, or saturated.
28. Respondent's operating reports indicate that between April 2001 and May 2003 Respondent applied solid and/or liquid livestock wastes on days that were not suitable for land application because precipitation had occurred on the day of application, the application was not preceded by at least three successive days with less than 0.05 inch of precipitation per day, the waste application occurred on frozen ground, and/or the air temperature did not exceed 32° F.

Order For Compliance

Based on the Findings of Violation set forth above, and pursuant to Section 309(a)(3) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(a)(3), Respondent is herereby ORDERED to take the following actions to eliminate its violations of permit conditions and the CWA:

29. Respondent shall ensure that wastewater levels in storage structures are in compliance with the storage structure operating levels of Respondent's NPDES permit. On an ongoing basis, Respondent shall remove wastewater from the storage structures in a timely manner, so that the Facility remains in continuous compliance with storage structure operating level requirements. When removing wastewater from the storage structures, Respondent shall comply with all applicable requirements regarding proper land application of wastewater.
30. On a quarterly basis for one year, Respondent shall submit to EPA copies of all lagoon level, precipitation, and land application records that Respondent is required to keep pursuant to Respondent's NPDES permit. The first quarterly report shall be submitted to EPA on April 1, 2004, and subsequent reports shall be submitted on July 1, 2004, October 1, 2004, and January 1, 2005.


Effect of Order

31. Compliance with the terms of this Order shall not relieve Respondent of liability for, or preclude EPA from initiating an administrative or judicial enforcement action to recover penalties for any violations of the CWA, or seek additional injunctive relief, pursuant to Section 309 of the CWA, 42 U.S.C. § 1319.

civil action in federal court for injunctive relief, pursuant to Section 309(b) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(b).

39. The terms of this Order shall be effective and enforceable against Respondent upon its receipt of the Order.

Date 12-30-03


for Leo M. Alderman
Director
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division


J. Daniel Breedlove
Assistant Regional Counsel

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the date noted below I filed the original and one true and correct copy of the signed original Findings of Violation and Order of Compliance with the Regional Hearing Clerk, Region VII. I further certify that I sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, a true and correct copy of the signed original Findings of Violation and Order for Compliance, a cover letter, information regarding compliance with Spill Control and Countermeasure requirements of the Clean Water Act, small business assistance information, and a copy of the Part 22 Consolidated Rules of Practice to the following registered agent for Ward Feedyard, Inc.:

Leon H. Borck
Ward Feedyard, Inc.
RT 2
Larned, Kansas 67550-0000

I further certify that on the date noted below I sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, a true and correct copy of the signed original Findings of Violation and Order for Compliance to the following representative of the State of Kansas:

John Harsch, Chief
Livestock Waste Management Program
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
1000 S.W. Jackson
Topeka, Kansas 66612

12.31.2003
Date

Debby White