



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

MAY 08 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED: 7011 3500 0000 0359 9212

Mr. Gary Feuerman, Managing Partner  
Taos Mesa Brewing Company  
P.O. Box 806  
Taos, NM 87571

Re: Administrative Order, Docket Number: CWA-06-2013-1760  
NPDES Facility Number: NMU001830

Dear Mr. Feuerman:

Enclosed is an Administrative Order (AO) issued to Taos Mesa Brewing Company for violation of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq.*). Violations were identified during a December 13, 2012, inspection of your beverages manufacturing facility, conducted by the New Mexico Environment Department on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The violation was discussed with you at the time of the inspection. The violations alleged include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Failure to install best management practices to control off-site storm water discharges;
- b) failure to develop and implement an adequate and complete Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan; and
- c) failure to submit a Notice of Intent prior to March 12, 2012, for coverage under the Storm Water Multi-Sector General Permit.

In addition, between July 1, 2012 and December, 30, 2012, there were four rain events of one-half inch or greater at the facility, which resulted in a discharge of pollutants from the site into waters of the United States. Discharge of pollutants without a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is a violation of Section 301 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311.

This AO does not assess a monetary penalty; however, it does require compliance with applicable federal regulations. The first compliance deadline is within thirty days of receipt of the AO. The AO also contains other compliance deadlines and information demands. The EPA is committed to ensuring compliance with the requirements of the NPDES program, and my staff will assist you in any way possible. Please reference AO Docket Number CWA-06-2013-1760 and NPDES Facility Number NMU001830 on your response.

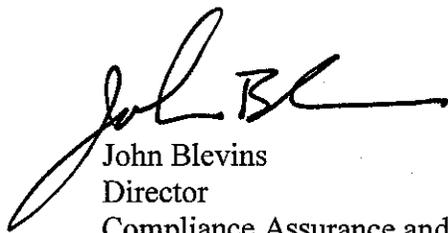
Also enclosed an "Information Sheet" relating to the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act and a "Notice of Registrant's Duty to Disclose" relating to the disclosure of environmental legal proceedings to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Re: Administrative Order  
Taos Mesa Brewing Company

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If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Linda Smith, of my staff,  
at (214) 665-6641.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Blevins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Blevins  
Director  
Compliance Assurance and  
Enforcement Division

Enclosure

cc: Mr. James Hogan  
Acting Bureau Chief  
Surface Water Quality Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, TX 75202**

Docket Number: CWA-06-2013-1760, NPDES Facility Number: NMU001830

**FINDINGS OF VIOLATION, COMPLIANCE ORDER, AND  
INFORMATION DEMAND**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The following findings are made and Order issued under the authority vested in the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), by Sections 308 and 309(a) of the Clean Water Act ("the Act"), 33 U.S.C. §§ 1318 and 1319(a). The Administrator delegated the authority to issue this Order to the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 6, who further delegated this authority to the Director of the Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division.

FINDINGS

1. Taos Mesa Brewing Company ("Respondent") is a "person," as defined by Section 502(5) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5).

2. At all times relevant to the violations alleged herein, Respondent owned or operated Taos Mesa Brewing Company, a beverages manufacturer facility, located at 29 ABC Road in El Prado, Taos County, New Mexico ("facility") and was, therefore, an "owner or operator." The mailing address for the Respondent is P.O. Box 263, Taos, NM 87571.

3. At all times relevant to this Order, the facility acted as a "point source" of a "discharge" of "pollutants" as defined by Section 502(12) & (14), 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12) & (14), into the receiving waters of the Rio Pueblo de Taos, thence to the Rio Grande, which is considered a "water of the United States," as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.2. As a result, Respondent and facility were subject to the Act and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") program.

4. The facility is an industry identified under 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14)(xi) operating in Sector U, under Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code 2082, and is subject to the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity issued by the EPA on September 29, 2008.

5. The facility began operations defined as industrial activity in 2012, which continued throughout the time period relevant to this action.

6. On December 13, 2012, the facility was inspected by New Mexico Environment Department storm water inspectors on behalf of EPA. As a result of this inspection,

the facility was found to be in violation of Section 301 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311.

7. According to the EPA Storm Water Processing Center database that records all applications for storm water general permit coverage, Respondent did not submit a Notice of Intent ("NOI") for permit coverage for its activities at the facility, and was not covered by an NPDES permit at the relevant times for the relevant activities. During the time period of July 1, 2012 through December 30, 2012, there were four (4) rain events of one-half (" $\frac{1}{2}$ ") inch or greater at the facility. Discharge of pollutants without NPDES permit coverage is a violation of Section 301 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311.

SECTION 309(a)(3) COMPLIANCE ORDER

Based on these findings and pursuant to the authority of Section 309(a)(3) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(a)(3), EPA hereby orders the Respondent to take the following actions:

A. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall apply for NPDES permit coverage, either by filing an individual permit application or an NOI to be covered by an applicable NPDES general permit for discharges from the facility or cease and prevent all unpermitted discharges from the facility. The NOI should be submitted by one of the following methods:

1) By regular mail to:  
Storm Water Notice Processing Center  
U.S. EPA, MC 4203M  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

2) By overnight/express mail to:  
Storm Water Notice Processing Center  
U.S. EPA, Room 7420  
1201 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20004

3) Via the internet at:  
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/npdesnoi.cfm>

For a status update on your NOI, call the NOI Center at (866) 352-7755.

B. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall submit to EPA a certified copy of the NOI for coverage under the Permit submitted to the EPA NOI Processing Center.

C. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, the Respondent shall develop and implement site-specific best management practices ("BMPs") to prevent additional discharges of pollutants to the Rio Grande.

D. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall develop and implement an adequate and complete Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan ("SWPPP") tailored specifically for the site located at 20 ABC Road, El Prado, New Mexico. The SWPPP should detail BMPs, inspections, benchmark sampling and analysis, and other measures taken to reduce or eliminate the discharge of pollutants. Respondent shall submit a copy of the SWPPP to EPA for review. Guidance in developing the SWPPP may be found via the internet at:

[www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swppp](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swppp).

#### SECTION 308 INFORMATION DEMAND

Based on the foregoing Findings and pursuant to the authority of Section 308 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1318, Respondent is required to do the following:

A. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, the Respondent shall submit a written certification of compliance with this Order to the EPA, Region 6. All correspondence should be addressed to:

Mrs. Linda Smith  
Water Enforcement Branch (6EN-WM)  
U.S. EPA, Region 6  
1445 Ross Ave., Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

Respondent may seek federal judicial review of the Order pursuant to Chapter 7 of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-706. Section 706, which is set forth at <http://uscode.house.gov/download/pls/05C7.txt>, states the scope of such review.

Issuance of this Section 309(a)(3) Compliance Order and the Section 308 Information Demand shall not be deemed an election by EPA to waive any administrative or judicial, civil, or criminal action to seek penalties, fines, or other relief under the Act for the violations cited herein, or other violations that become known to EPA. EPA reserves the right to seek any remedy available under the law that it deems appropriate.

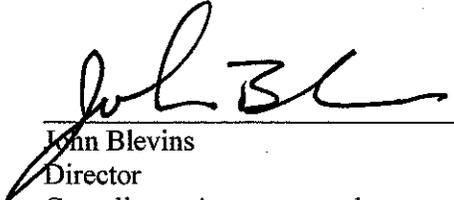
Failure to comply with this Section 309(a)(3) Compliance Order, or the Section 308 Information Demand, or the Act can result in further administrative action, or a civil judicial action initiated by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order does not relieve the Respondent of its obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

The effective date of this Order is the date it is received by the Respondent.

5-8-13

Date

  
John Blevins

Director

Compliance Assurance and  
Enforcement Division