



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

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

August 22, 2011

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED: 7011 0110 0001 3590 7114

Mr. Stephen Ragas, Area Manager  
Plaquemines Parish Government  
106 Avenue G  
Belle Chasse, LA 70037

Re: Administrative Order Docket Number: CWA-06-2011-1854  
NPDES Permit Number: LAL044041

Dear Mr. Ragas:

Enclosed is an Administrative Order (AO) issued to the Plaquemines Parish Government for violation of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq.*). The violation was identified during our April 2011, review of your National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program file for the Buras Wastewater Treatment Plant. The AO is for failure to submit your annual sludge report for calendar year 2010, which is a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 503.18(a).

The AO does not assess a monetary penalty; however, it does require compliance with applicable federal regulations. The compliance deadline is within thirty (30) days of receipt of this AO. The Environmental Protection Agency 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-06-2011-1854 and NPDES Permit Number LAL044041 with your response.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Nancy Williams, of my staff, at (214) 665-7179.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Blevins", written over a horizontal line.

John Blevins  
Director  
Compliance Assurance and  
Enforcement Division

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Joette Kenaley  
Environmental Supervisor  
Louisiana Department of  
Environmental Quality



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region 6 • 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200 • Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
FINDINGS OF VIOLATION and ORDER FOR COMPLIANCE  
Docket Number: CWA-06-2011-1854, NPDES Permit Number: LAL044041

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 Section 309(a) of the Clean Water Act ("the Act"), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(a). The Administrator of EPA 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. The Permittee, Plaquemines Parish Government, is a "person," as that term is defined at Section 502(5) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5), and 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.

2. At all times relevant to this Order ("all relevant times"), the Permittee owned or operated a wastewater treatment plant, located at 120 El Dorado Drive, in Buras, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana ("facility"), and was, therefore, an "owner or operator" within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 122.2. The mailing address for the Permittee is 106 Avenue G, Belle Chasse, LA 70037.

3. At all relevant times, the facility was a "treatment works" and a "publicly-owned treatment works" ("POTW") within the meaning of Section 212(2) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1292(2), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.2 and 403.3. As a result, Permittee and the facility were subject to the Act and federal regulations governing the use and disposal of domestic sewage sludge set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 503.

4. Pursuant to the authority of Section 405(d) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1345(d), EPA promulgated federal regulations for the use and disposal of sewage sludge, which became effective on February 19, 1994. These regulations are specified at 40 C.F.R. Part 503 and consist of general requirements, pollutant limits, management practices, and operational standards for the final use or disposal of sewage sludge generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works.

5. Pursuant to Section 405(e) of the Act, U.S.C. § 1345(e), it is unlawful for any person to dispose of sludge from a POTW, or any other type of treatment works treating domestic sewage for any use for which regulations have been established under Section 405(d) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1345(d), except in accordance with such regulations.

6. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 503.18(a), Class I sludge management facilities, POTWs with a design flow rate equal to or greater than one million gallons per day, and POTWs that serve 10,000 people or more, shall submit to EPA an annual sludge report on February 19<sup>th</sup> regarding the sludge operations conducted during the previous calendar year, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 503.17(a).

7. At all relevant times, the facility was a POTW serving 10,000 people or more.

8. A review of the EPA official files and records which track submittals required under 40 C.F.R. § 503.18(a) established that the Permittee failed to submit an annual sludge report for calendar year 2010, which the Permittee was required to submit to EPA by February 19, 2011.

9. By failing to submit to EPA an annual sludge report for calendar year 2010, the Permittee violated 40 C.F.R. §§ 503.18(a) and 405(e) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1345(e).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings and pursuant to the authority of Section 309 of the Act, EPA hereby orders the Permittee to take the following action:

A. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, the Permittee shall submit a completed annual sludge report for sludge operations during calendar year 2010, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 503.18(a).

B. Any information or correspondence submitted by the Permittee to EPA under this Order shall be addressed to the following:

Ms. Nancy Williams  
Water Enforcement Branch (6EN-WC)  
EPA, Region 6  
1445 Ross Ave., Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Issuance of this Order shall not be deemed an election by EPA to waive any administrative or judicial, civil or criminal action to seek penalties, fines, or any other relief appropriate under the Act for the violations cited herein, or other violations that become known. EPA reserves the right to seek any remedy available under the law that it deems appropriate. Failure to comply with this Order or the Act can result in further administrative action, or a civil judicial action initiated by the United States Department of Justice.

This Order does not constitute a waiver or modification of the terms or conditions of the Permittee's NPDES permit, which remain in full force and effect. Compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order does not relieve the Permittee of its obligation to comply with any applicable federal, state, or local law or regulation.

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

8.22.11

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Blevins

Director

Compliance Assurance and  
Enforcement Division