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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



IN THE MATTER OF AN
ENFORCEMENT ACTION
CONCERNING
POLK COUNTY
RN102668654

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BEFORE THE
TEXAS COMMISSION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AGREED ORDER
DOCKET NO. 2007-0298-MSW-E

I. JURISDICTION AND STIPULATIONS

At its _____ agenda, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("the Commission" or "TCEQ") considered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement action regarding Polk County ("the County") under the authority of TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ch. 361 and TEX. WATER CODE ch. 7. The Executive Director of the TCEQ, through the Enforcement Division, and Polk County appear before the Commission and together stipulate that:

1. The County owns a municipal solid waste Type I landfill at 3477 Farm-to-Market Road 942 West in Polk County, Texas (the "Facility").
2. The Facility involves the management of municipal solid waste as defined in TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ch. 361.
3. The Commission and the County agree that the Commission has jurisdiction to enter this Agreed Order, and that the County is subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.
4. The County received notice of the violations alleged in Section II ("Allegations") on or about November 16, 2006.
5. The occurrence of any violation is in dispute and the entry of this Agreed Order shall not constitute an admission by the County of any violation alleged in Section II ("Allegations"), nor of any statute or rule.
6. An administrative penalty in the amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) is assessed by the Commission in settlement of the violations alleged in Section II ("Allegations"). One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) is deferred contingent upon the County's timely

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- and satisfactory compliance with all the terms of this Agreed Order. The deferred amount will be waived upon full compliance with the terms of this Agreed Order. If the County fails to timely and satisfactorily comply with all requirements of this Agreed Order, the Executive Director may require the County to pay all or part of the deferred penalty. Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) shall be conditionally offset by the County's completion of a Supplemental Environmental Project.
7. Any notice and procedures, which might otherwise be authorized or required in this action, are waived in the interest of a more timely resolution of the matter.
 8. The Executive Director of the TCEQ and the County have agreed on a settlement of the matters alleged in this enforcement action, subject to the approval of the Commission.
 9. The Executive Director recognizes that the County has implemented the following corrective measures at the Facility:
 - a. Submitted an updated Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to the TCEQ on October 16, 2006;
 - b. Submitted a request for modification of the Facility's Site Operating Plan to clarify the language that only high volume onsite roads in the vicinity of the working face of the landfill will be constructed of crushed rock or equivalent to the TCEQ on October 26, 2006; and
 - c. Obtained an enclosed trailer to store used and/or scrap tires, and submitted documentation to the TCEQ on November 8, 2006.
 10. The Executive Director may, without further notice or hearing, refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas ("OAG") for further enforcement proceedings if the Executive Director determines that the County has not complied with one or more of the terms or conditions in this Agreed Order.
 11. This Agreed Order shall terminate five years from its effective date or upon compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreed Order, whichever is later.
 12. The provisions of this Agreed Order are deemed severable and, if a court of competent jurisdiction or other appropriate authority deems any provision of this Agreed Order unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be valid and enforceable.

II. ALLEGATIONS

As owner of the Facility, the County is alleged to have:

1. Failed to provide financial assurance for closure, post closure, or corrective action, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 37.111 and 37.271(5), as documented during an investigation conducted on August 30, 2006. Specifically, the County did not submit an annual update of the local government financial test for Fiscal Year 2006 by the March 29, 2006 deadline.

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2. Failed to construct internal roads in accordance with the MSW Permit, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 330.121(a) and Municipal Solid Waste ("MSW") Permit No. 1384A, Section VIII., Paragraph S, as documented during an investigation conducted on August 30, 2006. Specifically, the Facility's Site Operating Plan ("SOP") states that all onsite roads should be constructed of crushed rock or equivalent. Only the road leading to the active disposal area meets this requirement.
3. Failed to conduct vector monitoring and control measures in areas where scrap tires are stored outside, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 330.151 and MSW Permit No. 1384A, Section VIII., Paragraph M, as documented during an investigation conducted on August 30, 2006. Specifically, approximately 560 scrap tires stored at the landfill were not being monitored for vectors.

III. DENIALS

The County generally denies each allegation in Section II ("Allegations").

IV. ORDERING PROVISIONS

1. It is, therefore, ordered by the TCEQ that the County pay an administrative penalty as set forth in Section I, Paragraph 6 above. The payment of this administrative penalty and the County's compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreed Order resolve only the allegations in Section II. The Commission shall not be constrained in any manner from requiring corrective action or penalties for violations, which are not raised here.
2. The County shall implement and complete a Supplemental Environmental Project ("SEP") in accordance with TEX. WATER CODE § 7.067. As set forth in Section I, Paragraph 6 above, Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) of the assessed administrative penalty shall be offset with the condition that the County implement the SEP defined in Attachment A, incorporated herein by reference. The County's obligation to pay the conditionally offset portion of the administrative penalty assessed shall be discharged upon final completion of all provisions of the SEP agreement.
3. It is further ordered that the County shall undertake the following technical requirements:
 - a. Respond completely and adequately, as determined by the TCEQ, to all letter requests for information concerning the modification of the Facility's SOP within 30 days after the date of such letters, or by any other deadline specified in writing; and
 - b. Within 10 days after obtaining approval of the modification of the Facility's SOP, submit written certification that the modification of the Facility's SOP was approved. The certification shall include detailed supporting documentation including receipts, and/or other records to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provision Nos. 2.a. and 2.b.

The certification shall be notarized by a State of Texas Notary Public and include the following certification language:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted and all attached documents, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the submitted information is 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."

The certification shall be submitted to:

Order Compliance Team
Enforcement Division, MC 149A
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

with a copy to:

Waste Section Manager
Beaumont Regional Office
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
3870 Eastex Freeway
Beaumont, Texas 77703-1892

4. The provisions of this Agreed Order shall apply to and be binding upon the County. The County is ordered to give notice of the Agreed Order to personnel who maintain day-to-day control over the Facility operations referenced in this Agreed Order.
5. If the County fails to comply with any of the Ordering Provisions in this Agreed Order within the prescribed schedules, and that failure is caused solely by an act of God, war, strike, riot, or other catastrophe, the County's failure to comply is not a violation of this Agreed Order. The County shall have the burden of establishing to the Executive Director's satisfaction that such an event has occurred. The County shall notify the Executive Director within seven days after the County becomes aware of a delaying event and shall take all reasonable measures to mitigate and minimize any delay.
6. The Executive Director may grant an extension of any deadline in this Agreed Order or in any plan, report, or other document submitted pursuant to this Agreed Order, upon a written and substantiated showing of good cause. All requests for extensions by the County shall be made in writing to the Executive Director. Extensions are not effective until the County receives written approval from the Executive Director. The determination of what constitutes good cause rests solely with the Executive Director.
7. This Agreed Order, issued by the Commission, shall not be admissible against the County in a civil proceeding, unless the proceeding is brought by the OAG to: (1) enforce the terms of this Agreed Order; or (2) pursue violations of a statute within the Commission's jurisdiction, or of a rule adopted or an order or permit issued by the Commission under such a statute.

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8. This agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, which together shall constitute a single original instrument. Any executed signature page to this Agreement may be transmitted by facsimile transmission to the other parties, which shall constitute an original signature for all purposes.
9. Under 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.10(b), the effective date is the date of hand-delivery of the Order to the County, or three days after the date on which the Commission mails notice of the Order to the County, whichever is earlier. The Chief Clerk shall provide a copy of this Agreed Order to each of the parties.

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SIGNATURE PAGE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

For the Commission

For the Executive Director

Date

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the attached Agreed Order. I am authorized to agree to the attached Agreed Order on behalf of the entity, if any, indicated below my signature, and I do agree to the terms and conditions specified therein. I further acknowledge that the TCEQ, in accepting payment for the penalty amount, is materially relying on such representation.

I also understand that my failure to comply with the Ordering Provisions, if any, in this order and/or my failure to timely pay the penalty amount, may result in:

- A negative impact on my compliance history;
- Greater scrutiny of any permit applications submitted by me;
- Referral of this case to the Attorney General's Office for contempt, injunctive relief, additional penalties, and/or attorney fees, or to a collection agency;
- Increased penalties in any future enforcement actions against me;
- Automatic referral to the Attorney General's Office of any future enforcement actions against me;
- and
- TCEQ seeking other relief as authorized by law.

In addition, any falsification of any compliance documents may result in criminal prosecution.

Signature

Date

Name (Printed or typed)
Authorized Representative of
Polk County

Title

Instructions: Send the original, signed Agreed Order with penalty payment to the Financial Administration Division, Revenues Section at the address in Section IV, Paragraph 1 of this Agreed Order.

Attachment A
Docket Number: 2007-0298-MSW-E

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

Respondent:	Polk County
Payable Penalty Amount:	Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000)
SEP Amount:	Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000)
Type of SEP:	Pre-approved
Third-Party Recipient:	Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc. ("RC&D")- Wastewater Treatment Assistance
Location of SEP:	Polk County

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ") agrees to offset a portion of the administrative Penalty Amount assessed in this Agreed Order for the Respondent to contribute to a Supplemental Environmental Project ("SEP"). The offset is equal to the SEP Amount set forth above and is conditioned upon completion of the project in accordance with the terms of this Attachment A.

1. **Project Description**

A. Project

The Respondent shall contribute to the Third-Party Recipient pursuant to the agreement between the Third-Party Recipient and the TCEQ. Specifically, the contribution will be used to provide low income rural homeowners with assistance to enable the repair or replacement of their failing on-site wastewater systems. SEP monies will be used to pay for the labor and materials costs related to repairing or replacing the failing systems. The recipients will not be charged for the cost of replacing or repairing the failing systems.

The Respondent certifies that there is no prior commitment to do this project and that it is being performed solely in an effort to settle this enforcement action.

B. Environmental Benefit

This SEP will provide a discernible environmental benefit by protecting water sources for drinking, recreation, and wildlife from contamination from failing treatment systems.

C. Minimum Expenditure

The Respondent shall contribute at least the SEP Amount to the Third-Party Recipient and comply with all other provisions of this SEP.

Polk County
Agreed Order – Attachment A

2. Performance Schedule

Within 30 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, the Respondent must contribute the SEP Amount to the Third-Party Recipient. The Respondent shall mail the contribution, with a copy of the Agreed Order, to:

Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc.
1716 Briarcrest Drive
Bryan, Texas 77802-2700

3. Records and Reporting

Concurrent with the payment of the SEP Amount, the Respondent shall provide the TCEQ SEP Coordinator with a copy of the check and transmittal letter indicating full payment of the SEP Amount to the Third-Party Recipient. The Respondent shall mail a copy of the check and transmittal letter to:

Enforcement Division
Attention: SEP Coordinator, MC 219
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

4. Failure to Fully Perform

If the Respondent does not perform its obligations under this SEP in any way, including full payment of the SEP Amount and submittal of the required reporting described in Section 3 above, the Executive Director may require immediate payment of all or part of the SEP Amount.

The check for any amount due shall be made out to "Texas Commission on Environmental Quality" and mailed to:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Financial Administration Division, Revenues
Attention: Cashier, MC 214
P.O. Box 13088
Austin, Texas 78711-3088

The Respondent shall also mail a copy of the check to the TCEQ SEP Coordinator at the address in Section 3 above.

5. Publicity

Any public statements concerning this SEP made by or on behalf of the Respondent must include a clear statement that the project was performed as part of the settlement of an enforcement action brought by the TCEQ. Such statements include advertising, public relations, and press releases.

Polk County
Agreed Order - Attachment A

6. Clean Texas Program

The Respondent shall not include this SEP in any application made to TCEQ under the "Clean Texas" (or any successor) program(s). Similarly, the Respondent may not seek recognition for this contribution in any other state or federal regulatory program.

7. Other SEPs by TCEQ or Other Agencies

The SEP identified in this Agreed Order has not been, and shall not be, included as an SEP for the Respondent under any other Agreed Order negotiated with the TCEQ or any other agency of the state or federal government.

