

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

In the Matter of:	)	
	)	
Cornerstone Chemical Company	)	EPA Docket No. CAA-06-2022-3357
Waggaman, Louisiana	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE ORDER ON CONSENT

The following Administrative Compliance Order on Consent (“Consent Order”) is issued pursuant to the authority of Section 113(a)(1)(A) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C.

§ 7413(a)(1)(A) (hereinafter referred to as “CAA” or “the Act”). Section 113(a)(1) of the Act authorizes the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) to issue an order requiring compliance to any person whom the Administrator finds to be in violation of the Act. The authority to issue this Consent Order has been delegated to the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 6 and re-delegated to the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, EPA Region 6.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY BACKGROUND

1. The Act is designed to protect and enhance the quality of the nation’s air so as to promote public health and welfare and the productive capacity of its population. CAA § 101(b)(1), 42 U.S.C. § 7401(b)(1).

2. Section 109(a) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7409(a), requires the Administrator of EPA to publish national ambient air quality standards (“NAAQS”) for certain pollutants. The NAAQS establish primary air quality standards to protect public health and secondary standards to protect public welfare.

3. To achieve the objectives of the NAAQS and the CAA, Section 110(a) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7410(a), requires each State to adopt a state implementation plan (“SIP”) that provides for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of the NAAQS, and submit it to the Administrator of the EPA for approval.

4. The State of Louisiana has adopted a SIP that has been approved by EPA. *See* 40 C.F.R. Part 52, Subpart T.

5. The provisions of LAC 33: III.919 of the federally approved Louisiana SIP govern the state emissions inventory and provide requirements for facility owners and operators to report emissions inventory data to the appropriate office of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (“LDEQ”). The provisions of LAC 33:III.919 of the Louisiana SIP relevant to this Consent Order were approved by EPA on July 5, 2011. *See* 76 Fed. Reg. 38977 (July 5, 2011).

- a. LAC 33:III.919.A.1–5 of the Louisiana SIP provides that the owner or operator of any facility located in Louisiana must submit emissions inventory data to LDEQ if the facility: is located in an 8-hour ozone nonattainment parish or listed adjoining parishes and emits or has the potential to emit at or above threshold levels; is located in an attainment parish and emits or has the potential to emit at or above threshold levels; is defined as a major stationary source of hazardous air pollutants (“HAPs”) in Section 112(a)(1) of the CAA; is defined as a major stationary source of toxic air pollutants in LAC 33:III.51; and/or that has a 40 C.F.R. Part 70 (Title V) Operating Permit (regardless of emissions limits).
- b. LAC 33:III.919.B.1 of the Louisiana SIP requires that the identified facilities submit an Annual Emissions Statement (“AES”) containing “an inventory of actual emissions and the allowable (permitted) emissions limits” of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrous oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), lead (Pb), particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), and ammonia. *Id.* This emissions inventory “may be an initial emissions inventory for facilities submitting their first emissions inventory, or an annual emissions inventory update for facilities that have previously submitted an emissions inventory.” *Id.*

- c. In the emissions inventory, “[a]ctual emissions shall be reported for all sources of emissions at a facility, including fugitive emissions, flash gas emissions, insignificant sources . . . , and excess emissions occurring during maintenance, start-ups, shutdowns, upsets, and downtime.” *Id.* (emphasis added). Actual emissions are to be calculated or estimated in accordance with LAC 33:III.919.C for the calendar year. *Id.*
- d. LAC 33:III.919.B.1 of the Louisiana SIP further requires that the AES include an annual Certification Statement. *Id.* Pursuant to LAC 33:III.919.B.5.a, the Certification Statement “shall accompany each emissions inventory to attest that the information contained in the inventory is true and accurate to the best knowledge of the certifying official.”

6. EPA is authorized by Section 113 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413, to take action to ensure that air pollution sources comply with all federally applicable air pollution control requirements. These include requirements promulgated by EPA and those contained in federally enforceable SIPs or permits.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

7. Cornerstone Chemical Company (“Cornerstone” or “Respondent”) is a corporation doing business in the state of Louisiana. Respondent is a “person” within the meaning of Section 113(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a), and as defined in Section 302(e) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e).

8. At all times relevant to this Consent Order, Respondent has owned and/or operated a chemical manufacturing facility located at 10800 River Road, Waggaman, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana 70094 (hereinafter “the Facility”).

9. The Facility is a “major source” within the meaning of Section 112(a)(1) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(a)(1); the Act’s Title V program, Section 501(2) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7661(2); 40 C.F.R. § 70.2; and LAC 33:III.502, 81 Fed. Reg. 51341 (August 4, 2016).

10. The Facility is a “stationary source” within the meaning of Section 112(a)(3) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(a)(3), and LAC 33:III.502.

11. At all times relevant to the Consent Order, the Facility operated under a Title V Permit (No. Permit 1981-V6) that was issued by LDEQ on or about June 11, 2018.

12. At all times relevant to the Consent Order, Respondent was required by LAC 33:III.919.B.1 of the Louisiana SIP to submit annual emissions inventories to LDEQ stating the Facility's actual emissions of VOC, NO_x, CO, SO₂, Pb, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, and ammonia for all sources of emissions at the Facility.

13. As part of an Emission Inventory Permit Consistency Review, EPA reviewed the Facility's emissions inventory for criteria pollutant and HAP emission totals for reporting year 2019, as reported to LDEQ.

14. On October 22, 2021, EPA sent Respondent a preliminary letter regarding this review and stating that the Facility's reported annual emission totals exceeded its permit authorization limits.

15. On November 8, 2021, Respondent sent a letter to EPA providing further information regarding the annual emission totals.

16. Based on its review of the data reported to LDEQ and the information provided by Respondent, EPA Region 6 notified Respondent and LDEQ of a violation of the Louisiana SIP on February 24, 2022.

17. On March 10, 2022, Respondent and EPA Region 6 conferred regarding the Louisiana SIP violation.

18. EPA has conducted a comprehensive review of the information referenced above in paragraphs 13 and 15. Based on its review, EPA finds that Respondent violated LAC 33:III.919.B.1 of the Louisiana SIP by failing to report the Facility's actual emissions in the

annual emissions inventory for ammonia for reporting year 2019 as to emission sources EQT022 (Melamine Flare FS-1) and EQT023 (Melamine Central Flare VH-3) at the Facility.

19. On November 8, 2021, Respondent provided information to EPA that the use of an incorrect emissions rate caused the incorrect reporting of ammonia emissions from emission sources EQT022 and EQT023 for reporting year 2019. An accounting perspective was used for estimating these emissions rather than actual recorded process data and engineering calculations.

20. More than thirty (30) days before the issuance of this Consent Order, Respondent was notified of the violations alleged herein. On February 24, 2022, Respondent and the State of Louisiana were notified of the violations alleged herein, in accordance with Section 113(a)(1) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a)(1).

21. All parties to this Consent Order agree that an opportunity to confer has been satisfied in accordance with Section 113(a)(4) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a)(4).

22. The parties further agree that in order to avoid protracted litigation, and in the best interest of all the parties and the environment, this Administrative Compliance Order will be entered into on Consent and by mutual agreement of the parties.

23. Only for the purposes of this proceeding, including any subsequent proceeding by EPA to enforce this document, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations contained herein; however, Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific findings of fact and conclusions of law contained in this Consent Order.

24. Respondent also consents to and agrees not to contest EPA's jurisdiction to either issue this Consent Order or enforce its terms. Further, Respondent will not contest EPA's jurisdiction to either compel compliance with this Consent Order in any subsequent enforcement proceedings, whether administrative or judicial, or require Respondent's full compliance with the

terms of this Consent Order or impose sanctions for violations of this Consent Order.

Respondent consents to the terms of this Consent Order.

ORDER ON CONSENT

25. Section 113(a)(1) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a)(1), provides in pertinent part that the Administrator may issue an Order requiring compliance with any requirement of a state implementation plan. Pursuant to this authority, EPA has decided to issue this Consent Order after investigating all relevant facts, taking into account Respondent's compliance history and efforts made by Respondent to comply with applicable regulations, and based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law herein.

26. Respondent has consented to, and is hereby ordered to satisfy, the following requirements regarding the Facility:

- a. Within sixty (60) days of the Effective Date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall confirm that it has submitted corrected annual emissions inventories to LDEQ for reporting year 2019. The corrected annual emissions inventories shall include the Facility's actual emissions for the pollutants listed in Paragraph 18 above.
- b. Within ninety (90) days of the Effective Date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall review its procedures for submitting annual emissions inventories to LDEQ under the Louisiana SIP requirements and update the procedures as necessary to ensure future accurate emissions reporting. If Respondent does not have such procedures, it shall create such procedures.
- c. Within ninety (90) days of the Effective Date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall submit to EPA:
 - i. A copy of Respondent's signed Certification Statement submitted to LDEQ for each corrected annual emissions inventory.
 - ii. Microsoft Excel workbook file(s) containing the corrected annual emissions inventory data downloaded from the Emissions Reporting and Inventory Center website, with all revised data cells highlighted in the Microsoft Excel workbook.

- iii. Certification of completion of the actions described in Paragraph 26, sub-paragraphs a. and b. The signing representative shall be fully authorized by Respondent to make such certification. The certification should include the following statement:

“I certify under penalty of law that I have examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is, to the best of my knowledge, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for knowingly submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment.”

- d. Within one year of the Effective Date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall submit to EPA a copy of Respondent’s signed Certification Statement submitted to LDEQ for reporting year 2021.

27. Any information or correspondence submitted by Respondent to EPA under this

Consent Order shall be addressed to the following:

Colleen McCarthy
Enforcement Officer (ECDAT)
Air Toxics Enforcement Section
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite #500
Dallas, Texas 75270-2102
Phone: (214) 665-7334
Email: McCarthy.Colleen01@epa.gov

28. To the extent this Consent Order requires Respondent to submit any information to EPA, Respondent may assert a business confidentiality claim covering part or all of that information, but only to the extent and only in the manner described in 40 C.F.R. § 2.203. EPA will disclose information submitted under a confidentiality claim only as provided in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. *See* 41 Fed. Reg. 36,902 (Sept. 1, 1976). If Respondent does not assert a confidentiality claim, EPA may make the submitted information available to the public without further notice to Respondent. Emission data provided under Section 114 of the Act, 42 U.S.C.

§ 7414, is not entitled to confidential treatment under 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. “Emission data” is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 2.301.

29. By signing this Consent Order, Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order will be available to the public and agrees that this Consent Order does not contain any confidential business information.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

30. Pursuant to Section 113(a)(4) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a)(4), this Consent Order shall be effective when fully executed, as set forth below in Paragraph 48, shall not exceed a term of one year, and shall be nonrenewable.

31. The provisions of this Consent Order shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent, its officers, directors, agents, and employees solely in their capacity of acting on behalf of Respondent.

32. Respondent neither admits nor denies any of the factual or legal determinations made by EPA in this Consent Order.

33. The provisions of this Consent Order shall be transferable to any other party, upon sale or other disposition of the Facility. Upon such action, the provisions of this Consent Order shall then apply to and be binding upon any new owner/operator, its officers, directors, agents, employees, and any successors in interest.

34. By signing this Consent Order, the undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she is fully authorized by Respondent to execute and enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Order and has the legal capacity to bind Respondent to the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.

35. Nothing in this Consent Order shall be construed to prevent or limit EPA's civil and criminal authorities, or that of other Federal, State, or local agencies or departments to obtain compliance, penalties, or injunctive relief under any applicable Federal, State, or local laws or regulations, including 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.

36. Nothing contained in this Consent Order shall affect the responsibility of Respondent to comply with all other applicable Federal, State, or local laws or regulations, including Section 303 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7603.

37. EPA does not waive any rights or remedies available to EPA for any violations by Respondent of Federal laws, regulations, statutes, or permitting programs.

38. Any and all information required to be maintained or submitted pursuant to this Consent Order is not subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501 et seq., because it seeks to collect information from specific entities to assure compliance with this administrative action.

39. By signing this Consent Order, Respondent certifies that the information it has supplied concerning this matter was at the time of submission, and is, to the best of its knowledge and belief, truthful, accurate, and complete for each submission, response, and statement. Respondent acknowledges that there are significant penalties for submitting false or misleading information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing submission of such information, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

40. EPA and Respondent agree to the use of electronic signatures for this matter. EPA and Respondent further agree to electronic service of this Consent Order by email to the

following addresses:

To EPA: zequeira.c@epa.gov

To Respondent: shawn.ward@cornerstonechemco.com

41. EPA 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 Consent Order. This Consent Order shall not be construed as a covenant not to sue, release, waiver, or limitation of any rights, remedies, powers, and/or authorities, civil or criminal, which EPA has under any statutory, regulatory, or common law authority of the United States.

42. This Consent Order does not resolve any civil or criminal claims of the United States for the violations alleged in this Consent Order; nor does it limit the rights of the United States to obtain penalties or injunctive relief under the Act or other applicable federal law or regulations.

43. Respondent has entered into this Consent Order in good faith without trial or adjudication of any issue of fact or law.

44. Respondent waives any and all remedies, claims for relief and otherwise available rights to judicial or administrative review that Respondent may have with respect to any issue of fact or law set forth in this Consent Order, including any right of judicial review under Section 307(b)(1) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7607(b)(1).

45. The parties shall bear their own costs and fees in this action, including attorneys' fees.

46. For purposes of the identification requirement of Section 162(f)(2)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 162(f)(2)(A)(ii), and 26 C.F.R. § 162-21(b)(2), performance

of Paragraph 26, sub paragraph a., is restitution, remediation, or required to come into compliance with law.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

47. Failure to comply with this Consent Order may result in an enforcement action for appropriate injunctive relief as well as civil penalties pursuant to Section 113(b) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(b) or, in appropriate cases, criminal penalties.

EFFECTIVE DATE

48. This Consent Order shall become effective upon the later of the two signatures below.

8/17/2022
Date


Shawn Ward, Director, Corporate HSSE&S
Cornerstone Chemical Company
10800 River Road
Waggaman, LA 70094

Cheryl T. Seager,
Director
Enforcement and
Compliance Assurance Division
U. S. EPA, Region 6

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing Administrative Compliance Order on Consent was sent to the following by the method indicated below:

COPY VIA E-MAIL TO RESPONDENT:

Shawn Ward
Director, Corporate HSSE&S
Cornerstone Chemical Company
Shawn.Ward@cornerstonechemco.com

COPY VIA E-MAIL TO ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT

Kyle B. Beall, Attorney at Law
628 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
kyle@beall.law

U.S. EPA, Region 6
Dallas, Texas