



## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

05/16/2018

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED: 70140150000024061212

Randal G Andras  
Prime Coatings Inc.  
PO Box 1223  
Amelia, LA 70340

### **RE: Potential RCRA Violations and Opportunity for Settlement**

Dear Mr. Andras,

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 ("EPA"), through its investigation and records review, made certain determinations about Prime Coatings Inc. and its facility located at PO Box 1223, Amelia, LA. Specifically, EPA has identified potential violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA"), and the regulations promulgated thereunder. I therefore write to share with you: (1) the current areas of concern; (2) an option for resolution; and (3) a timeline for resolution.

#### **Current Areas of Concern**

As a generator of hazardous waste, Prime Coatings Inc. is subject to Sections 3002 and 3010 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6922 and 6930, and the regulations set forth at Title 33 of the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) Part V, Chapters 3-5, 7, and 11 [40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Parts 262 and/or 270]. Upon further investigation, EPA may determine that Prime Coatings Inc. is also subject to Sections 3004 and 3005 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6924 and 6925, and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

Based on EPA's current investigation and records review, Prime Coatings Inc. identified as a RCRA conditionally exempt small quantity generator status. However, at least once within the last five calendar years, the facility generated hazardous waste in quantities between 100 kilograms and 1,000 kilograms per calendar month, which qualified the facility as a small quantity generator as established under Title 33 of the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) Part V, Chapters 3-5, 7, and 11 [40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Parts 262 and/or 270].

At a minimum, EPA identified the following potential violations:

- i. Failure to meet RCRA notification requirements, in violation of RCRA § 3010(a), 42 U.S.C. § 6930(a); and,
- ii. Failure to operate within its stated generator status for at least one (1) year, in violation of LAC: Part V, Chapter 11, 40 C.F.R. Parts 262 and/or 270.

EPA is prepared to meet and discuss the potential violations, and other areas of concern, with Prime Coatings Inc., with the aim of resolving this matter through a timely settlement process.

### **An Option for Resolution**

Upon receipt of this letter, if Prime Coatings Inc. is interested in resolving the matter through settlement, Prime Coatings Inc. has until 05/28/2018, to inform EPA by letter or e-mail by contacting:

Tripti Thapa (6EN-H)  
Enforcement Officer  
Hazardous Waste Enforcement Branch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200  
Dallas, Texas 75202  
e-mail: [thapa.tripti@epa.gov](mailto:thapa.tripti@epa.gov)

Thereafter, Tripti Thapa will make arrangements to meet with Prime Coatings Inc. facility representatives either at the EPA office in Dallas, Texas, or via a conference call. During this meeting or conference, Prime Coatings Inc. may address the potential violations and present evidence that contravenes EPA's evidence. The main goal of this option is to bring the facility into timely compliance with the applicable environmental laws and regulations.

To the extent that Prime Coatings Inc. qualifies as a "small business" under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, enclosed is an Information for Small Businesses sheet that provides information on compliance assistance.

### **Timetable for Resolution**

Given the nature of the potential violations listed above and the current evidence that EPA has in support of these violations, EPA estimates that the parties could have an agreed upon Administrative Order on Consent by 07/16/2018. This is contingent on whether Prime Coatings Inc. avails itself of the settlement process now offered and works amicably with the EPA. It should be noted that if Prime Coatings Inc. decides not to accept this streamlined option for settlement, Prime Coatings Inc. should notify EPA of its decision in writing to Tripti Thapa by 05/28/2018. Thereafter, EPA will exercise its other options for ensuring Prime Coatings Inc.'s timely compliance with RCRA and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

Please direct questions to Tripti Thapa of the Hazardous Waste Enforcement Branch at 214-665-7563.  
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Potts', written over the printed name.

Mark Potts  
Chief  
Waste Enforcement Branch

Enclosure

CC: Craig Easley  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 4312  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312

## U.S. EPA Small Business Resources Information Sheet

The United States Environmental Protection Agency provides an array of resources to help small businesses understand and comply with federal and state environmental laws. In addition to helping small businesses understand their environmental obligations and improve compliance, these resources will also help such businesses find cost-effective ways to comply through pollution prevention techniques and innovative technologies.

### Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)

[www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-small-and-disadvantaged-business-utilization-osdbu](http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-small-and-disadvantaged-business-utilization-osdbu)

EPA's OSDBU advocates and advances business, regulatory, and environmental compliance concerns of small and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses.

### EPA's Asbestos Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO)

[www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/asbestos-small-business-ombudsman](http://www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/asbestos-small-business-ombudsman) or 1-800-368-5888

The EPA ASBO serves as a conduit for small businesses to access EPA and facilitates communications between the small business community and the Agency.

### Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

<https://nationalsbeap.org>

This program provides a "one-stop shop" for small businesses and assistance providers seeking information on a wide range of environmental topics and state-specific environmental compliance assistance resources.

### EPA's Compliance Assistance Homepage

[www.epa.gov/compliance](http://www.epa.gov/compliance)

This page is a gateway to industry and statute-specific environmental resources, from extensive web-based information to hotlines and compliance assistance specialists.

### Compliance Assistance Centers

[www.complianceassistance.net](http://www.complianceassistance.net)

EPA sponsored Compliance Assistance Centers provide information targeted to industries with many small businesses. They were developed in partnership with industry, universities and other federal and state agencies.

#### Agriculture

[www.epa.gov/agriculture](http://www.epa.gov/agriculture)

#### Automotive Recycling

[www.ecarcenter.org](http://www.ecarcenter.org)

#### Automotive Service and Repair

[www.ccar-greenlink.org](http://www.ccar-greenlink.org) or 1-888-GRN-LINK

#### Chemical Manufacturing

[www.chemalliance.org](http://www.chemalliance.org)

#### Construction

[www.cicacenter.org](http://www.cicacenter.org)

#### Education

[www.campuserc.org](http://www.campuserc.org)

#### Food Processing

[www.fpeac.org](http://www.fpeac.org)

#### Healthcare

[www.hercenter.org](http://www.hercenter.org)

#### Local Government

[www.lgean.org](http://www.lgean.org)

#### Surface Finishing

<http://www.sterc.org>

#### Paints and Coatings

[www.paintcenter.org](http://www.paintcenter.org)

#### Printing

[www.pneac.org](http://www.pneac.org)

#### Ports

[www.portcompliance.org](http://www.portcompliance.org)

### Transportation

[www.tercenter.org](http://www.tercenter.org)

### U.S. Border Compliance and Import/Export Issues

[www.bordercenter.org](http://www.bordercenter.org)

### EPA Hotlines and Clearinghouses

[www.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines](http://www.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines)

EPA sponsors many free hotlines and clearinghouses that provide convenient assistance regarding environmental requirements. Examples include:

#### Clean Air Technology Center

(CATC) Info-line [www.epa.gov/cate](http://www.epa.gov/cate) or 1-919-541-0800

#### Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP, and Oil Information Center

1-800-424-9346

#### EPA Imported Vehicles and Engines Public Helpline

[www.epa.gov/otaq/imports](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/imports) or 1-734-214-4100

#### National Pesticide Information Center

[www.npic.orst.edu](http://www.npic.orst.edu) or 1-800-858-7378

National Response Center Hotline to report oil and hazardous substance spills - <http://nrc.uscg.mil> or 1-800-424-8802

#### Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC) -

[www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-resources#ppic](http://www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-resources#ppic) or 1-202-566-0799

#### Safe Drinking Water Hotline -

[www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline) or 1-800-426-4791

#### Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Hotline

[tsc hotline@epa.gov](mailto:tsc hotline@epa.gov) or 1-202-554-1404

## U.S. Small Business Resources

### Small Entity Compliance Guides

<https://www.epa.gov/reg-flex/small-entity-compliance-guides>

EPA publishes a Small Entity Compliance Guide (SECG) for every rule for which the Agency has prepared a final regulatory flexibility analysis, in accordance with Section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA).

### Regional Small Business Liaisons

[www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/epa-regional-office-small-business-liaisons](http://www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/epa-regional-office-small-business-liaisons)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Small Business Liaison (RSBL) is the primary regional contact and often the expert on small business assistance, advocacy, and outreach. The RSBL is the regional voice for the EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO).

### State Resource Locators

[www.envcap.org/statetools](http://www.envcap.org/statetools)

The Locators provide state-specific contacts, regulations and resources covering the major environmental laws.

### State Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs)

<https://nationalsbeap.org/states/list>

State SBEAPs help small businesses and assistance providers understand environmental requirements and sustainable business practices through workshops, trainings and site visits.

### EPA's Tribal Portal

[www.epa.gov/tribalportal](http://www.epa.gov/tribalportal)

The Portal helps users locate tribal-related information within EPA and other federal agencies.

### EPA Compliance Incentives

EPA provides incentives for environmental compliance. By participating in compliance assistance programs or voluntarily disclosing and promptly correcting violations before an enforcement action has been initiated, businesses may be eligible for penalty waivers or reductions. EPA has two such policies that may apply to small businesses:

#### EPA's Small Business Compliance Policy

[www.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement](http://www.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement)

#### EPA's Audit Policy

[www.epa.gov/compliance/epas-audit-policy](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/epas-audit-policy)

### Commenting on Federal Enforcement Actions and Compliance Activities

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) established a SBREFA Ombudsman and 10 Regional Fairness Boards to receive comments from small businesses about federal agency enforcement actions. If you believe that you fall within the Small Business Administration's definition of a small business (based on your North American Industry Classification System designation, number of employees or annual receipts, as defined at 13 C.F.R. 121.201; in most cases, this means a business with 500 or fewer employees), and wish to comment on federal enforcement and compliance activities, call the SBREFA Ombudsman's toll-free number at 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Every small business that is the subject of an enforcement or compliance action is entitled to comment on the Agency's actions without fear of retaliation. EPA employees are prohibited from using enforcement or any other means of retaliation against any member of the regulated community in response to comments made under SBREFA.

### Your Duty to Comply

If you receive compliance assistance or submit a comment to the SBREFA Ombudsman or Regional Fairness Boards, you still have the duty to comply with the law, including providing timely responses to EPA information requests, administrative or civil complaints, other enforcement actions or communications. The assistance information and comment processes do not give you any new rights or defenses in any enforcement action. These processes also do not affect EPA's obligation to protect public health or the environment under any of the environmental statutes it enforces, including the right to take emergency remedial or emergency response actions when appropriate. Those decisions will be based on the facts in each situation. The SBREFA Ombudsman and Fairness Boards do not participate in resolving EPA's enforcement actions. Also, remember that to preserve your rights, you need to comply with all rules governing the enforcement process.

*EPA is disseminating this information to you without making a determination that your business or organization is a small business as defined by Section 222 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act or related provisions.*