



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270-2102

June 9, 2023

TRANSMITTED VIA E-MAIL

Reed Lamar Bowers, Owner
24524 State Highway 35 South
Palacios, Texas 77465
rbowers@homegrownseafood.com

Re: Administrative Order; Docket Number: CWA-06-2023-1758
Bowers Shrimp Farm
TPDES Permit Number: TX0112691

Dear Mr. Bowers:

Enclosed is an Administrative Order (AO) issued to Reed Lamar Bowers for violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.). Violations were identified during a review of the permit file and discharge monitoring reports submitted for the Bowers Shrimp Farm. The violations alleged are for failure to meet permit effluent limitations. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requests that you immediately confirm receipt of this e-mail and the attached order by a response e-mail to edelbrock.judy@epa.gov.

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 the effective date of the AO. EPA is committed to ensuring compliance with the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program and my staff will assist you in any way possible. Please reference AO Docket Number CWA-06-2023-1758 and TPDES Permit Number TX0112691 on your response.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Judy Edelbrock of my staff, at (214) 665-8582 or edelbrock.judy@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl T. Seager".

Digitally signed by
CHERYL SEAGER
Date: 2023.06.09 11:32:48
-05'00'

Cheryl T. Seager, Director
Enforcement and
Compliance Assurance Division

cc: kristy.deaver@tceq.texas.gov
cc: mhooper@homegrownseafood.com



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 6 • 1201 Elm St. Suite 500 • Dallas, TX 75270-2102

FINDINGS OF VIOLATION AND COMPLIANCE ORDER

Docket Number: CWA-06-2023-1758; TPDES Permit Number: TX0112691

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), 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 delegated this authority to the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division.

FINDINGS

1. Reed Lamar Bowers (Respondent) 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), Respondent owned or operated the Bowers Shrimp Farm, a shrimp and fish aquaculture facility (facility) located at 1073 Country Road 372, near the City of Palacios, Matagorda County, Texas 77465, and was, therefore, an “owner or operator” within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.
3. At all relevant times, the facility acted as a “point source” of a “discharge” of “pollutants” with its final wastewater discharge via Outfalls 001, 002 and 003 to Matagorda County Drainage District #3 Ditch, thence to an unnamed natural tidal channel, thence to Little Redfish Lake, thence to Tres Palacios/Turtle Bay and via Outfall 004 to an unnamed natural tidal channel, thence to Little Redfish Lake, thence to Tres Palacios/Turtle Bay in Segment No. 2452 of the Bays and Estuaries, which is a “water of the United States,” within the meaning of Section 502 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362, and 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.
4. Because Respondent owned or operated a facility that acted as a point source of discharges of pollutants to waters of the United States, Respondent and the facility were subject to the Act and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.
5. Under Section 301 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311, it is unlawful for any person to discharge any pollutant from a point source to waters of the United States, except with the authorization of, and in compliance with, an NPDES permit issued pursuant to Section 402 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.
6. Section 402(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(a), provides that the Administrator of EPA may issue permits under the NPDES program for the discharge of pollutants from point sources to waters of the United States. Any such discharge is subject to the specific terms and conditions prescribed in the applicable permit.
7. Section 402 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, authorizes states to request approval from EPA to administer their own permit programs for discharges into navigable waters within their jurisdiction. Pursuant to this provision, the State of Texas requested approval from EPA to administer its own permit program for discharges into navigable waters within Texas, and such approval was granted by EPA on September 14, 1998. Therefore, pursuant to the State’s permit program, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) issued Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permits. Violation of a TPDES permit is a violation of Section 301(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).
8. Respondent applied for and was issued TPDES Permit No. TX0112691 (permit) under Section 402 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, which was issued on November 15, 2021. At all relevant times, Respondent was authorized to discharge pollutants from the facility to waters of the United States only in compliance with the specific terms and conditions of the permit.
9. The permit includes “Monitoring and Reporting Requirements” that require Respondent to sample and test its effluent and monitor its compliance with permit conditions according to specific procedures, in order to determine the facility’s compliance or noncompliance with the permit and applicable regulations. The permit also requires Respondent to file with TCEQ certified Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) of the results of monitoring, and Noncompliance Reports when appropriate.
10. The permit contains “Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements” that place certain limitations on the quality and quantity of effluent discharged by Respondent. The relevant discharge limitations are specified in Attachment A, which is incorporated herein by reference.
11. Certified DMRs filed by Respondent with TCEQ in compliance with the permit show discharges of pollutants from the facility that exceed the permitted effluent limitations established in the permit, as specified in Attachment B, which is incorporated herein by reference.
12. Each instance in which Respondent discharged pollutants to waters of the United States in amounts exceeding the effluent limitations contained in the permit was a violation of the permit and Section 301 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311.

SECTION 309(a)(3) COMPLIANCE ORDER

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

A. Take such measures as are necessary to comply with all permit conditions, including Effluent Limitations and Monitoring and Reporting Requirements, no later than thirty (30) days from the effective date of the Order.

B. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall submit a list of the specific actions taken to correct the Total Copper, pH, and Selenium.

C. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall provide written certification to EPA Region 6 that the violations cited herein have been corrected and the facility is compliant with the requirements of the permit.

D. In the event the Respondent believes complete correction of the violations cited herein is not possible within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, submit a comprehensive written plan for the elimination of the cited violations within the shortest possible time. Such plan shall describe in detail the specific corrective actions to be taken and why such actions are sufficient to correct the violations. The plan shall include a detailed schedule for the elimination of the violations within the shortest possible time, as well as measures to prevent these or similar violations from recurring.

E. Any information or correspondence submitted by Respondent to EPA under this Order shall be addressed, via e-mail, to the following:

Ms. Judy Edelbrock
edelbrock.judy@epa.gov

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.

Issuance of this Section 309(a)(3) Compliance Order shall not be deemed an election by EPA to waive any administrative, 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 Act may result in further administrative action, or a civil judicial action initiated by the United States Department of Justice.

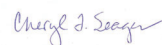
For purposes of the identification requirement in Section 162(f)(2)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 162(f)(2)(A)(ii), and 26 C.F.R. § 1.162-21(b)(2), performance of Paragraph 13 is restitution, remediation, or required to come into compliance with the law.

This Order does not constitute a waiver or modification of the terms or conditions of Respondent's NPDES permit, which remain in full force and effect. Compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order does not relieve Respondent 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 Respondent.

June 9, 2023

Date



Digitally signed by
CHERYL SEAGER
Date: 2023.06.09
11:32:03 -05'00'

Cheryl T. Seager, Director
Enforcement and
Compliance Assurance Division

Attachment A
Reed Lamar Bowers - TX0112691
Permit Limits

Effluent Characteristics	Discharge Limitations	
	Daily Avg. mg/L (lbs/day)	Daily Max. mg/L
<u>Outfall 001, 002, 003, 004</u>		
Copper, total	0.00368	0.00779
Selenium, total	0.016	0.035

The pH must not be less than 6.0 standard units nor greater than 9.0 standard units and shall be monitored 1/day (when discharging) by grab sample.

Attachment B
Reed Lamar Bowers - TX0112691

Monitoring Period End Date	Outfall	Parameter Desc	Monitoring	Unit	Limit Value	DMR Value
07/31/2022	001	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.00368	.0141
07/31/2022	001	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.00779	.0146
07/31/2022	001	pH	MAXIMUM	SU	9.	9.1
07/31/2022	001	Selenium, total [as Se]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.016	.0803
07/31/2022	001	Selenium, total [as Se]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.035	.182
07/31/2022	002	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.00368	.0137
07/31/2022	002	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.00779	.0169
07/31/2022	002	pH	MAXIMUM	SU	9.	9.1
07/31/2022	002	Selenium, total [as Se]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.016	.031
07/31/2022	002	Selenium, total [as Se]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.035	.04
07/31/2022	003	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.00368	.0143
07/31/2022	003	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.00779	.0191
07/31/2022	003	pH	MAXIMUM	SU	9.	9.3
07/31/2022	003	Selenium, total [as Se]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.016	.0502
07/31/2022	003	Selenium, total [as Se]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.035	.0808
07/31/2022	004	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.00368	.0201
07/31/2022	004	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.00779	.0332
07/31/2022	004	pH	MAXIMUM	SU	9.	9.3
07/31/2022	004	Selenium, total [as Se]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.016	.0432
07/31/2022	004	Selenium, total [as Se]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.035	.0835
09/30/2022	001	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.00368	.0136
09/30/2022	001	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.00779	.016
09/30/2022	001	Selenium, total [as Se]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.016	.0243
09/30/2022	002	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.00368	.0122
09/30/2022	002	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.00779	.0144
09/30/2022	002	Selenium, total [as Se]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.016	.0243
09/30/2022	003	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.00368	.0112
09/30/2022	003	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.00779	.0123
09/30/2022	003	Selenium, total [as Se]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.016	.0243
09/30/2022	004	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.00368	.0172
09/30/2022	004	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.00779	.0213
09/30/2022	004	Selenium, total [as Se]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.016	.0243
10/31/2022	001	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.00368	.0127
10/31/2022	001	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.00779	.0276
10/31/2022	002	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY AV	mg/L	.00368	.0093
10/31/2022	002	Copper, total [as Cu]	DAILY MX	mg/L	.00779	.013