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Stormwater Enforcement: Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality and Ridgeland Property Owner Enter into Agreed Order



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The Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality ("MCEQ") and CPJ, LLC ("CPJ") entered into a March 24th Agreed Order ("AO") addressing alleged violations of a stormwater permit. See Order No. 7468 25.

The AO provides that CPJ own property in Ridgeland, Mississippi where it has proposed to construct a car dealership – Porsche Ridgeland.

CPJ is stated to have submitted to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality a Large Construction Notice of Intent ("LCNOI") for construction under the Large Construction Stormwater General NPDES Permit at the Porsche Ridgeland construction site. The company is stated to have indicated on the LCNOI its intent to disturb approximately 8.6 acres of land for construction activities.

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is stated to have provided emails dated March 31, 2023, October 30, 2023, and November 7, 2023, that additional documentation was needed before the agency could issue permit coverage.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection at the construction site on September 10, 2024. The inspection is stated to have indicated that approximately 8 acres of land had been disturbed at the construction site. As a result, it was required to be covered under the Large Construction Stormwater General Permit for Land Disturbing Activities of Five (5) or More Acres.

The AO provides that the following violations have allegedly been identified:

- Discharge of waste (i.e., sediment) from the construction project in violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 49-17-29(2)(a).
- Conducting land disturbing activities without coverage under Mississippi's Large Construction Storm Water General Permit for Land Disturbing Activities of Five (5) or More Acres in violation of Miss.
 Code Ann. § 49-17-29 (2)(b).

CPJ is stated to have submitted documentation on October 1, 2024, and color photographs which asserted that the damaged silt fans and straw wattles at the site had been replaced.

On November 13, 2024, following the receipt of required documentation, Certificate No. MSR108902 was provided to CPJ for coverage under the Permit at the construction site.

A civil penalty of \$8,400.00 is assessed.

A copy of the AO can be downloaded <u>here</u>.