

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

IN THE MATTER OF:

**Qualawash Holdings, LLC
Bessemer, Jefferson County, Alabama
USEPA ID Number ALD983168089**

Consent Order No. 22-XXX-CHW

PREAMBLE

This Special Order by Consent is made and entered into by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (“the Department” or “ADEM”) and Qualawash Holdings, LLC (“Qualawash”) pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-17, as amended, and the Alabama Hazardous Wastes Management and Minimization Act (“AHWMMA”), Ala. Code §§ 22-30-1 to 22-30-24, as amended, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

STIPULATIONS

1. Qualawash operates a commercial truck wash (the “Facility”) with EPA Identification Number ALD983168089, located at 2420 18th Avenue North in Bessemer, Jefferson County, Alabama. Qualawash, as a result of its operations at the Facility, was a large quantity generator of hazardous waste, as that term is defined in ADEM Admin. Code Div. 14, at all times relevant to this action.

2. The Department is a duly constituted department of the State of Alabama pursuant to Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-17, as amended.

3. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-4(n), the Department is the state agency responsible for the promulgation and enforcement of solid and hazardous waste regulations in accordance with the federal Solid Waste Disposal Act §§ 1002 to 11012, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6901 to 6992k, as amended. In addition, the Department is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the AHWMMA, Ala. Code §§ 22-30-1 to 22-30-24, as amended.

DEPARTMENT'S CONTENTIONS

4. On February 15, 2022, a representative of the Department's Industrial Hazardous Waste Branch conducted a compliance evaluation inspection ("CEI") of Qualawash. The CEI and a review of Qualawash's compliance showed the following:

(a) Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-3-.01(7)(a)7.(iii), facility personnel must take part in an annual review of the initial training required in 335-14-3-.01(7)(a)7.(i). Under ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-3-.01 (7)(a)7.(iv)d., the large quantity generator must maintain records that document that the training required under 335-14-3-.01(7)(a)7.(i) – (iii) has been given to and completed by facility personnel.

Qualawash failed to provide for review documentation of annual reviews of hazardous waste training for two employees.

(b) Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-3-.14(10)(b), a large quantity generator must submit a quick reference guide of the contingency plan to the local emergency responders or, as appropriate, the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Qualawash failed to submit a quick reference guide of its contingency plan dated June 5, 2019, to the local emergency responders.

(c) Pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-3-.01(5)(a)6.(ii), a generator who accumulates either acute hazardous waste listed in 335-14-2-.04(2) or 335-14-2-.04(4)(e) or non-acute hazardous waste in excess of the amounts listed in 335-14-3-.01(5)(a) at or near the point of generation must remove the excess amount from the satellite accumulation area within three consecutive calendar days to either a central accumulation area operated in accordance with the applicable requirements in 335-14-3-.01(6)(b) or (7)(a), an on-site interim status facility or permitted treatment, storage, or disposal facility, or an off-site designated facility.

Qualawash failed to move one container of hazardous waste in satellite accumulation to the central hazardous waste accumulation area within three consecutive calendar days. The 55-gallon drum of hazardous waste had an accumulation start date of October 15, 2021.

(d) ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-3-.01(7)(a) provides in pertinent part that a large quantity generator may accumulate hazardous waste on-site without a permit or interim status provided the generator accumulates hazardous waste on site for no more than 90 days, unless it has been granted an extension to the 90-day period. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-14-8-.01(1)(c) requires a permit for the "treatment", "storage", and "disposal" of any "hazardous waste" as identified or listed in Chapter 335-14-2.

Qualawash stored one container of hazardous waste on-site longer than 90 days without a permit or an extension. The 55-gallon drum of hazardous waste had an accumulation start date of October 15, 2021.

5. On February 24, 2022, the Department issued a Notice of Violation to Qualawash, which cited violations of the hazardous waste regulations that were discovered during the CEI.

6. On March 31, 2022, the Department received Qualawash's response to the aforementioned Notice of Violation.

7. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18), as amended, in determining the amount of any penalty, the Department must give consideration to the seriousness of the violation(s), including any irreparable harm to the environment and any threat to the health or safety of the public; the standard of care manifested by such person; the economic benefit which delayed compliance may confer upon such person; the nature, extent, and degree of success of such person's efforts to minimize or mitigate the effects of such violation(s) upon the environment; such person's history of previous violations; and the ability of such person to pay such penalty. Any civil penalty assessed pursuant to this authority shall not exceed \$25,000.00 for each violation, provided however, that the total penalty assessed in an order issued by the department shall not exceed \$250,000.00. Each day such a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation. In arriving at this civil penalty, the Department has considered the following:

(a) **SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATIONS:** In arriving at the civil penalty, the Department considered the general nature and magnitude of the violations along with the available evidence of irreparable harm to the environment and threat to the health or safety of the public.

(b) STANDARD OF CARE: In considering the standard of care manifested by Qualawash, the Department noted that the violations described above were non-technical and easily avoidable. Consequently, Qualawash failed to exhibit a standard of care commensurate with the applicable regulatory standards.

(c) ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED: The Department has determined that there was no significant economic benefit gained by Qualawash as a result of the violations referenced herein.

(d) EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT: There are no known environmental effects to mitigate as a result of the alleged violations.

(e) HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: Based on a review of Department records, Qualawash does not have a history of similar violations.

(f) ABILITY TO PAY: The Department does not have any evidence indicating that Qualawash is unable to pay the civil penalty.

(g) OTHER FACTORS: It should be noted that this Special Order by Consent is a negotiated settlement and, therefore, the Department has compromised the amount of the penalty that is warranted in the spirit of cooperation and the desire to resolve this matter amicably without incurring the unwarranted expense of litigation (see Attachment A, which is made a part of the Department's Contentions).

8. The Department neither admits nor denies Qualawash's contentions, which are set forth below. The Department has agreed to the terms of this Special Order by Consent in an effort to resolve the alleged violations cited herein without the unwarranted expenditure of State resources in further prosecuting the alleged violations. The Department has determined that the terms contemplated in this Special Order by Consent are in the best interest of the citizens of Alabama.

FACILITY'S CONTENTIONS

9. Qualawash neither admits nor denies the Department's contentions. Qualawash

consents to abide by the terms of this Special Order by Consent and to pay the civil penalty assessed herein.

ORDER

Therefore, without admitting that it has violated any statutes or regulations, Qualawash, along with the Department, desires to resolve and settle the alleged violations cited above. The Department has carefully considered the facts available to it and has considered the six penalty factors enumerated in Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., as amended, as well as the need for timely and effective enforcement. The Department believes that the following conditions are appropriate to address the violations alleged herein. Therefore, the Department and Qualawash agree to enter into this Special Order by Consent with the following terms and conditions:

A. Qualawash agrees to pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$9,920 in settlement of the violations alleged herein within forty-five days of the effective date of this Special Order by Consent. Failure to pay the civil penalty within forty-five days from the effective date may result in the Department's filing a civil action in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County to recover the civil penalty.

B. Qualawash agrees that all penalties due pursuant to this Special Order by Consent shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management by certified or cashier's check or other payment methods acceptable to the Department and shall be remitted to:

Office of General Counsel

Alabama Department of Environmental Management

P.O. Box 301463

Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

Any payment submitted to the Department pursuant to this Special Order by Consent shall reference Qualawash's name and address, and the ADEM Administrative Order number of this action.

C. Qualawash agrees that, independent of this Special Order by Consent, Qualawash shall comply with all terms, conditions, and limitations of the AHWMMMA, Ala. Code §§ 22-30-1 to 22-30-24, as amended, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

D. The Department and Qualawash ("parties") agree that this Special Order by Consent shall apply to and be binding upon both parties, their directors, officers, and all persons or entities acting under or for them. Each signatory to this Special Order by Consent certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party he or she represents to enter into the terms and conditions of this Special Order by Consent, to execute the Special Order by Consent on behalf of the party represented, and to legally bind such party.

E. The parties agree that, subject to the terms of these provisions and subject to provisions otherwise provided by statute, this Special Order by Consent is intended to operate as a full resolution of the alleged violations cited herein.

F. Qualawash agrees that it is not relieved from any liability if it fails to comply with any provision of this Special Order by Consent.

G. For purposes of this Special Order by Consent only, Qualawash agrees that the Department may properly bring an action to compel compliance with the terms and conditions contained herein in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County.

H. The parties agree that the sole purpose of this Special Order by Consent is to resolve and dispose of all allegations and contentions stated herein concerning the factual circumstances referenced herein. Should additional facts and circumstances be discovered in the future which would constitute possible violations not addressed in this Special Order by Consent, then such future violations may be addressed in orders as may be issued by the Director, litigation initiated by the Department, or such other enforcement actions as may be appropriate. Qualawash agrees not to object to such future orders, litigation, or enforcement actions based on the issuance of this Special Order by Consent if future orders, litigation, or other enforcement actions address new matters not raised in this Special Order by Consent.

I. The parties agree that this Special Order by Consent shall be considered final and effective immediately upon signature of all parties. This Special Order by Consent shall not be

appealable, and Qualawash does hereby waive any hearing on the terms and conditions of this Special Order by Consent.

J. The parties agree that this Special Order by Consent shall not affect Qualawash's obligation to comply with any federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

K. The parties agree that final approval and entry into this Special Order by Consent are subject to the requirements that the Department give notice of proposed orders to the public, and that the public have at least thirty days within which to comment on the order.

L. The parties agree that, should any provision of this Special Order by Consent be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction or the Environmental Management Commission to be inconsistent with federal or State law and therefore unenforceable, the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

M. The parties agree that any modifications of this Special Order by Consent must be agreed to in writing signed by both parties.

N. The parties agree that, except as otherwise set forth herein, this Special Order by Consent is not and shall not be interpreted to be a permit or modification of an existing permit under federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to waive or relieve Qualawash of its obligations to comply in the future with any permit.

Executed in duplicate, with each part being an original.

QUALAWASH HOLDINGS, LLC

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

(Signature of Authorized Representative)

Charles D. Boyd
(Printed Name)

Director of Environmental
(Printed Title)

6/1/2022
(Date Signed)

Lance R. LeFleur
Director

(Date Executed)

Attachment A

Qualawash Holdings, LLC
 Bessemer, Jefferson County
 Facility ID No. ALD983168089

Violation	Number of Violations*	Seriousness of Violation*	Standard of Care*	History of Previous Violation*	
Failure to provide documentation of annual hazardous waste refresher training	1	\$100	\$50	\$0	
Failure to submit a quick reference guide to emergency responders	1	\$100	\$50	\$0	
Failure to remove containers from satellite accumulation areas within three days of exceeding 55 gallons	1	\$1,000	\$100	\$0	
Storage of hazardous waste without a permit	1	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$0	Total of Three Factors
TOTAL PER FACTOR		\$11,200	\$1,200	\$0	\$12,400

Adjustments to Amount of Initial Penalty

Economic Benefit (+)	\$0	Amount of Initial Penalty	\$12,400
Mitigating Factors (-)	\$0	Total Adjustments (+/-)	\$2,480
Ability to Pay (-)	\$0	FINAL PENALTY	\$9,920
Other Factors (+/-)	\$2,480		

Footnotes

* See the "FINDINGS" portion of the Order for a detailed description of each violation and the penalty factors.