



# State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES  
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 19, 2023

**CERTIFIED MAIL #7019 1120 0000 4787 3947**

Mr. Lee Parker  
Consolidated Catfish Companies, LLC  
PO Box 271  
Isola, Mississippi 38754

**Re: Consolidated Catfish Companies LLC  
Agreed Order No. 7298 23**

Dear Mr. Parker:

Enclosed you will find a copy of Agreed Order No. 7298 23, which has been executed by the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Chris Wells, on behalf of the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality.

The enclosed Order assesses a civil penalty. The penalty payment, when due, should be made by check payable to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and returned in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope to the MDEQ Accounts Receivable at P.O. Box 2339, Jackson, MS 39225.

If you have any questions regarding your obligations under the enclosed order, please contact Geoffrey Martin at (601) 961-5024.

Sincerely,

Michelle Clark, P.E., BCEE, Chief  
Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Division

Enclosure  
cc: Geoffrey Martin

Agency Interest No. 897  
ENF20230003

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION  
ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

COMPLAINANT

VS.

ORDER NO.

**7298 23**

CONSOLIDATED CATFISH COMPANIES, LLC  
299 SOUTH STREET  
ISOLA, MISSISSIPPI 38754

RESPONDENT

AGREED ORDER

COME NOW the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality (Commission), acting through the staff and Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Complainant, and Consolidated Catfish Companies, LLC, Respondent, in the above captioned cause and agree as follows:

1.

Respondent owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility located at 299 South Street, Isola, Mississippi in Humphreys County. Respondent is permitted to discharge treated effluent from its farm-raised catfish processing operation by NPDES Permit No. MS0039659 (the Permit).

By letters dated April 6, 2023 and December 5, 2023, Respondent was contacted by Complainant and notified of the following violations of the discharge limitations required by the Permit:

- A. Respondent exceeded the monthly average Total Ammonia Nitrogen loading limitation (24 lbs/day) by 29% during the November 2022 monitoring period, 217% during the December 2022 monitoring period, 171% during the January 2023 monitoring period, and 342% during the February 2023 monitoring period.

- B. Respondent exceeded the daily maximum Total Ammonia Nitrogen loading limitation (36 lbs/day) by 14% during the November 2022 monitoring period, 114% during the December 2022 monitoring period, 83% during the January 2023 monitoring period, and 199% during the February 2023 monitoring period.
- C. Respondent exceeded the monthly average Total Ammonia Nitrogen concentration limitation (4.2 mg/L) by 36% during the November 2022 monitoring period, 233% during the December 2022 monitoring period, 262% during the January 2023 monitoring period, and 338% during the February 2023 monitoring period.
- D. Respondent exceeded the daily maximum Total Ammonia Nitrogen concentration limitation (6.3 mg/L) by 21% during the November 2022 monitoring period, 138% during the December 2022 monitoring period, 143% during the January 2023 monitoring period, and 195% during the February 2023 monitoring period.
- E. Respondent exceeded the monthly average E coli limitation (126 # of colonies/100mL) by 8% during the January 2023 monitoring period.
- F. Respondent reported NODI = P (Laboratory Error or Invalid Test) for Oil & Grease on the February 2023 Discharge Monitoring Report.
- G. Respondent exceeded the monthly average Total Suspended Solids concentration limitation (90.0 mg/L) by 10% during the September 2023 monitoring period.
- H. Respondent exceeded the monthly average Total Suspended Solids concentration limitation (135.0 mg/L) by 4% during the September 2023 monitoring period.

2.

In lieu of a formal enforcement hearing concerning the violations listed above, Complainant and Respondent agree to settle this matter as follows:

- A. Respondent agrees to pay and Complainant agrees to accept a civil penalty in the amount of \$24,000.00. Respondent shall pay this penalty to MDEQ within forty-five (45) days after this Agreed Order has been executed by the MDEQ Executive Director or his designee. The settlement payment shall be submitted to:

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality  
Attn: Accounts Receivable  
P.O. Box 2339

Jackson, MS 39225

- B. By no later than May 1, 2024, Respondent shall complete an analysis of the current wastewater treatment system and develop a plan with an associated timeline to return the wastewater treatment system to compliance with the discharge limitations in the Permit. The results of the analysis and the timeline shall be submitted to:

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Attn: Manager, ECED Enforcement Branch

P.O. Box 2261

Jackson, MS 39225

- C. Upon written approval from MDEQ, the plan and associated timeline required by Paragraph 2.B. will become enforceable conditions of this Agreed Order.
- D. If Respondent fails to comply with any part of Paragraphs 2.B. or 2.C, Respondent agrees to pay a stipulated penalty payable to Complainant in the amount of \$1,000.00. Respondent agrees to pay an additional stipulated penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00 per month until compliance is met. The stipulated penalty will be due within forty-five (45) days of written notification by Complainant that such payment became due.
- E. Until Respondent completes the project to return the facility to compliance with the Permit but no later than December 31, 2025, Respondent shall comply with the following interim discharge limitations:

No.	Parameter	Limit	Frequency	Sample Type	Which Months
1.	Ammonia Nitrogen, Total (as N) Effluent	114.2 pounds per day Monthly Average	Twice per Month	Grab Sampling	Nov-Apr
2.	Ammonia Nitrogen, Total (as N) Effluent	171.4 pounds per day Daily Maximum	Twice per Month	Grab Sampling	Nov-Apr
3.	Ammonia Nitrogen, Total (as N) Effluent	20 mg/L Monthly Average	Twice per Month	Grab Sampling	Nov-Apr
4.	Ammonia Nitrogen, Total (as N) Effluent	30 mg/L Daily Maximum	Twice per Month	Grab Sampling	Nov-Apr

- F. During the period that the interim discharge limitations are applicable, Respondent agrees to pay Complainant a stipulated penalty of \$250.00 for each violation of an interim limitation. The stipulated penalty will be payable to Complainant, due within forty-five (45) days of written notification by MDEQ that such payment is due.

3.

Nothing in this Agreed Order shall limit the rights of MDEQ or the Commission in the event Respondent fails to comply with this Agreed Order. The Agreed Order shall be strictly construed to apply to those matters expressly resolved herein.

4.

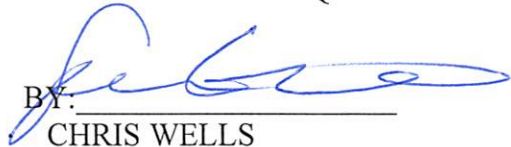
Nothing contained in this Agreed Order shall limit the rights of MDEQ or the Commission to take enforcement or other actions against Respondent for violations not addressed herein and for future violations of environmental laws, rules, and regulations.

5.

Respondent understands and acknowledges that it is entitled to an evidentiary hearing before the Commission pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 49-17-31, and that it has made an informed waiver of that right.

ORDERED, this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.


MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BY: 

CHRIS WELLS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AGREED, this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

CONSOLIDATED CATFISH COMPANIES, LLC

BY:   
LEE PARKER  
VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCTION

STATE OF Mississippi  
COUNTY OF Humphreys

PERSONALLY appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named LEE PARKER, who first being duly sworn, did state upon his oath and acknowledge to me that he is the VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCTION of CONSOLIDATED CATFISH COMPANIES, LLC and is authorized to sign and enter this Agreement.

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires: January 29, 2025

