

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*  
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*  
Jon Niermann, *Commissioner*  
Richard A. Hyde, P.E., *Executive Director*



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## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

April 24, 2017

The Honorable Keith Self, County Judge  
Collin County  
2300 Bloomdale Road, Suite 4192  
McKinney, Texas 75071-8517

COPY

Re: Proposed Agreed Order  
Collin County; RN101434256; TCEQ PST ID No. 69791  
Docket No. 2017-0478-PST-E; Enforcement Case No. 54236  
**FOR SETTLEMENT PURPOSES ONLY**

Dear Judge Self:

The Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("Commission" or "TCEQ") is pursuing an enforcement action against Collin County for violations of the Texas Water Code and/or Commission Rules. These violations were discovered during an investigation conducted on January 31, 2017, and documented in a letter dated March 31, 2017 from the University of Texas at Arlington, a TCEQ contractor.

Please find enclosed a proposed agreed order which we have prepared in an attempt to expedite this enforcement action. The order assesses an administrative penalty of \$3,750. We are proposing a one-time offer to defer \$750 of the administrative penalty if you satisfactorily comply with all the ordering provisions within the time frames listed. Therefore, the administrative penalty to be paid is \$3,000. The order also identifies the violations that we are addressing and identifies specific technical requirements necessary to resolve them.

Among the violations covered by the enclosed order are violations of release detection requirements. Such violations are considered extremely serious by this agency, due to the potential environmental damage associated with them. You should be aware that TEX. WATER CODE ch. 26 gives the TCEQ the authority to order the shut-down of underground storage tank systems for violations of release detection, spill and overfill, corrosion protection, and financial assurance requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, we are available to discuss them in a conference in Austin or over the telephone. If we reach agreement in a timely manner, the TCEQ will then proceed with the remaining procedural steps to settle this matter. These steps include publishing notice of the proposed order in the *Texas Register*, and scheduling the matter for approval by the Commission. We believe that handling this matter expeditiously could save Collin County and the TCEQ a significant amount of time, as well as the expense associated with litigation.

Enclosed for your convenience is a return envelope. If you agree with the order as proposed, please sign and return the original order **and** the penalty payment (check payable to "TCEQ" and referencing Collin County, Docket No. 2017-0478-PST-E) to:

Financial Administration Division, Revenue Operations Section  
Attention: Cashier's Office, MC 214  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13088  
Austin, Texas 78711-3088

Should you believe you are unable to pay the proposed administrative penalty, you may claim financial inability to pay part or all of the penalty amount. Please contact us immediately to obtain a list of financial disclosure documents that must be submitted within 30 days of the receipt of this letter. These documents, once properly completed and submitted, will be thoroughly reviewed to determine if we agree with the claim of financial inability. Please be aware that if financial inability is proven to the satisfaction of staff, discussions pertaining to the penalty amount adjustment will focus only on deferral and not on waiver of the penalty amount.

You may be able to perform or contribute to a Supplemental Environmental Project ("SEP"), which is a project that benefits the environment, to offset a portion of your penalty. **If you are interested in performing an SEP, you must agree to the penalty amount and submit an SEP proposal within 30 days of receipt of this proposed order.** If you are a local government you may have additional SEP options available to assist you with coming into compliance or remediating the harm caused by the violations. A local government is defined as a school district, county, municipality, junior college district, river authority, water district or other special district or other political subdivision created under the constitution or a statute of this state.

**For additional information about the types of SEPs available and eligibility criteria, please go to the TCEQ's web site link at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/legal/sep/> or contact the Enforcement Coordinator listed below.**

Please note that any agreements we reach are subject to final approval in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.10(a).

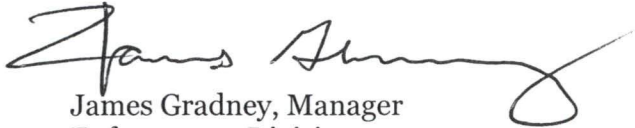
**If we cannot reach a settlement of this enforcement action or you do not wish to participate in this expedited process, we will proceed with enforcement under the Commission's Enforcement Rules, 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE ch. 70. Specifically, if the signed order and penalty are not mailed and postmarked within 60 days from the date of this letter, your case will be forwarded to the Litigation Division and this settlement offer, including the penalty deferral, will no longer be available.** The enforcement process described in 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE ch. 70 requires the staff to prepare and issue an Executive Director's Preliminary Report and Petition to the Commission. If you would like to obtain a copy of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE ch. 70, or any other TCEQ rules, the rules themselves and the agency brochure entitled *Obtaining TCEQ Rules* (GI-032) are located on our agency website at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov> for your reference. If you would like a hard copy of

The Honorable Keith Self  
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this brochure mailed to you, you may call and request one from the Central Office Publications Ordering Team at (512) 239-0028.

For any questions or comments about this matter or to arrange a meeting, please contact Mr. Carlos Molina of my staff at (512) 239-2557.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Gradney", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

James Gradney, Manager  
Enforcement Division  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

JG/cm

Enclosures: Proposed Agreed Order, Return Envelope, Penalty Calculation Worksheet, Site Compliance History



# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



**IN THE MATTER OF AN  
ENFORCEMENT ACTION  
CONCERNING  
COLLIN COUNTY  
RN101434256**

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**BEFORE THE  
TEXAS COMMISSION ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

## **AGREED ORDER DOCKET NO. 2017-0478-PST-E**

### **I. JURISDICTION AND STIPULATIONS**

On \_\_\_\_\_, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("the Commission" or "TCEQ") considered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement action regarding Collin County (the "Respondent") under the authority of TEX. WATER CODE chs. 7 and 26. The Executive Director of the TCEQ, through the Enforcement Division, and the Respondent together stipulate that:

1. The Respondent owns and operates, as defined in 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.2(73) and (70), an underground storage tank ("UST") system and an emergency generator facility located at 4600 Community Avenue in McKinney, Collin County, Texas (the "Facility"). The UST system at the Facility is not exempt or excluded from regulation under the Texas Water Code or the rules of the Commission, and contains or contained a regulated petroleum substance as defined in the rules of the TCEQ.
2. The Executive Director and the Respondent agree that the TCEQ has jurisdiction to enter this Order pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE §§ 7.002, 7.051, and 7.073, and that the Respondent is subject to TCEQ's jurisdiction. The TCEQ has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE § 5.013 because it alleges violations of TEX. WATER CODE ch. 26 and the rules of the TCEQ.
3. The occurrence of any violation is in dispute and the entry of this Order shall not constitute an admission by the Respondent of any violation alleged in Section II ("Allegations"), nor of any statute or rule.
4. An administrative penalty in the amount of \$3,750 is assessed by the Commission in settlement of the violations alleged in Section II ("Allegations"). The Respondent paid \$3,000 of the penalty and \$750 is deferred contingent upon the Respondent's timely and satisfactory compliance with all the terms of this Order. The deferred amount shall be waived only upon full compliance with all the terms and conditions contained in this Order. If the Respondent fails to timely and satisfactorily comply with any of the terms or requirements contained in this Order, the Executive Director may demand payment of all or part of the deferred penalty amount.

5. The Executive Director and the Respondent agree on a settlement of the matters alleged in this enforcement action, subject to final approval in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.10(a). Any notice and procedures, which might otherwise be authorized or required in this action, are waived in the interest of a more timely resolution of the matter.
6. The Executive Director may, without further notice or hearing, refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas ("OAG") for further enforcement proceedings if the Executive Director determines that the Respondent has not complied with one or more of the terms or conditions in this Order.
7. This Order represents the complete and fully-integrated agreement of the parties. The provisions of this Order are deemed severable and, if a court of competent jurisdiction or other appropriate authority deems any provision of this Order unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be valid and enforceable.
8. This Order shall terminate five years from its effective date or upon compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Order, whichever is later.

## II. ALLEGATIONS

During an investigation conducted on January 31, 2017, an investigator documented that the Respondent failed to provide release detection for the pressurized piping associated with the UST system, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50(b)(2) and TEX. WATER CODE § 26.3475(a). Specifically, the Respondent had not conducted the annual piping tightness and line leak detector tests.

## III. DENIALS

The Respondent generally denies each allegation in Section II ("Allegations"),

*UST system is not a pressurized piping system and cannot be tested for annual piping tightness.*

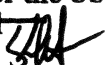
## IV. ORDERING PROVISIONS

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ORDERS that:

1. The Respondent is assessed a penalty as set forth in Section I, Paragraph 4. The payment of this penalty and the Respondent's compliance with all of the requirements set forth in this Order resolve only the allegations in Section II. The Commission shall not be constrained in any manner from requiring corrective action or penalties for violations which are not raised here. Penalty payments shall be made payable to "TCEQ" and shall be sent with the notation "Re: Collin County, Docket No. 2017-0478-PST-E" to:

Financial Administration Division, Revenue Operations Section  
Attention: Cashier's Office, MC 214  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13088  
Austin, Texas 78711-3088

2. The Respondent shall undertake the following technical requirements:

- a. Within 30 days after the effective date of this Order, conduct release detection monitoring for the UST system's piping, ~~in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50, and~~ 
- b. Within 45 days after the effective date of this Order, submit written certification, and include detailed supporting documentation including photographs, receipts, and/or other records to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provision No. 2a. The certification shall be signed by the Respondent and shall include the following certification language:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted and all attached documents, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the submitted information is true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing violations."

The certification shall be submitted to:

Order Compliance Team  
Enforcement Division, MC 149A  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

with a copy to:

Waste Section Manager  
Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Office  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
2309 Gravel Drive  
Fort Worth, Texas 76118-6951

3. All relief not expressly granted in this Order is denied.
4. The duties and provisions imposed by this Order shall apply to and be binding upon the Respondent. The Respondent is ordered to give notice of this Order to personnel who maintain day-to-day control over the Facility operations referenced in this Order.
5. If the Respondent fails to comply with any of the Ordering Provisions in this Order within the prescribed schedules, and that failure is caused solely by an act of God, war, strike, riot, or other catastrophe, the Respondent's failure to comply is not a violation of this Order. The Respondent shall have the burden of establishing to the Executive Director's satisfaction that such an event has occurred. The Respondent shall notify the Executive Director within seven days after the Respondent becomes aware of a delaying event and shall take all reasonable measures to mitigate and minimize any delay.

6. The Executive Director may grant an extension of any deadline in this Order or in any plan, report, or other document submitted pursuant to this Order, upon a written and substantiated showing of good cause. All requests for extensions by the Respondent shall be made in writing to the Executive Director. Extensions are not effective until the Respondent receives written approval from the Executive Director. The determination of what constitutes good cause rests solely with the Executive Director. Extension requests shall be sent to the Order Compliance Team at the address listed above.
7. This Order, issued by the Commission, shall not be admissible against the Respondent in a civil proceeding, unless the proceeding is brought by the OAG to: (1) enforce the terms of this Order; or (2) pursue violations of a statute within the Commission's jurisdiction, or of a rule adopted or an order or permit issued by the Commission under such a statute.
8. This Order may be executed in separate and multiple counterparts, which together shall constitute a single instrument. Any page of this Order may be copied, scanned, digitized, converted to electronic portable document format ("pdf"), or otherwise reproduced and may be transmitted by digital or electronic transmission, including but not limited to facsimile transmission and electronic mail. Any signature affixed to this Order shall constitute an original signature for all purposes and may be used, filed, substituted, or issued for any purpose for which an original signature could be used. The term "signature" shall include manual signatures and true and accurate reproductions of manual signatures created, executed, endorsed, adopted, or authorized by the person or persons to whom the signatures are attributable. Signatures may be copied or reproduced digitally, electronically, by photocopying, engraving, imprinting, lithographing, electronic mail, facsimile transmission, stamping, or any other means or process which the Executive Director deems acceptable. In this paragraph exclusively, the terms: electronic transmission, owner, person, writing, and written, shall have the meanings assigned to them under TEX. BUS. ORG. CODE § 1.002.
9. The effective date of this Order is the date it is signed by the Commission. A copy of this fully executed Order shall be provided to each of the parties.

## SIGNATURE PAGE

### TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Executive Director

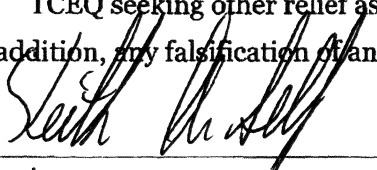
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the attached Order. I am authorized to agree to the attached Order, and I do agree to the terms and conditions specified therein. I further acknowledge that the TCEQ, in accepting payment for the penalty amount, is materially relying on such representation.

I also understand that failure to comply with the Ordering Provisions, if any, in this Order and/or failure to timely pay the penalty amount, may result in:

- A negative impact on compliance history;
- Greater scrutiny of any permit applications submitted;
- Referral of this case to the Attorney General's Office for contempt, injunctive relief, additional penalties, and/or attorney fees, or to a collection agency;
- Increased penalties in any future enforcement actions;
- Automatic referral to the Attorney General's Office of any future enforcement actions; and
- TCEQ seeking other relief as authorized by law.

In addition, any falsification of any compliance documents may result in criminal prosecution.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

7/17/17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Keith A. Self  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Printed or typed)  
Authorized Representative of  
Collin County

County Judge  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

☐ If mailing address has changed, please check this box and provide the new address below: