

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

In the Matter of the
Violations of Environmental
Conservation Law Article 17:

- by -

ORDER ON CONSENT
File No. R4-2009-0615-105

Joan McCooey

Respondent

WHEREAS:

1. The Department of Environmental Conservation ("Department") is an agency of the State charged with jurisdiction over the protection of water quality of the State pursuant to Article 17 of the ECL and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.
2. Respondent, Joan McCooey, owns property located at 9 Plank Road, in Feura Bush, New York ("site").
3. Respondent is a "person," as defined in 6 NYCRR § 360-1.2(b)(108).
4. Regulations at 6 NYCRR 608.1(p) defines a protected stream as: "any stream or particular portion of a stream for which there has been adopted by the department or any of its predecessors any of the following classifications or standards: AA, AA(t), A, A(t), B, B(t) or C(t). Streams designated (t)(trout) also include those more specifically designated (ts)(trout spawning)."
5. On June 7, 2009, Department staff inspected the facility and observed a discharge point consisting of white PCV pipes running from Respondent's kitchen sink to the Onesquethaw Creek.
6. The Onesquethaw Creek is a Class C (ts) waterbody.
7. Regulations at ECL §17-0505 prohibit the operation of a disposal system into the waters of the State without a valid SPDES permit.
8. Respondent did not have a SPDES permit authorizing the discharge of water from her kitchen sink to the Onesquethaw Creek.
9. Respondent violated regulations at ECL §17-0505 by discharging sewage water from her kitchen sink to the Onesquethaw Creek, without a valid SPDES permit.

10. Regulations at ECL Section 71-1929 provides for a civil penalty of up to \$37,500 per day for a violation of any provision of Titles 1 through 11 inclusive and title 19 of Article 17, or the rules, regulations, orders or determinations of the Commissioner promulgated thereto. Injunctive relief is also available.

11. Respondent has affirmatively waived her right to notice and hearing in the manner provided by law, and has consented to the issuing and entering of this Order and agree to be bound by the terms, provisions and conditions contained herein. Respondent admits to the violations set forth herein.

NOW, having considered this matter and being duly advised, it is ORDERED that:

I. With respect to the aforesaid alleged violations, a civil penalty in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500) of which TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250) shall be payable to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation by money order, or certified check at the time this Order is signed, notarized and returned to the Department.

The balance of the penalty, TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250), shall be suspended, and shall not be payable, provided that Respondent complies with the requirements in the Schedule of Compliance.

Payment of the above penalties shall not in any way alter Respondent's obligation to complete performance under the terms of this Order.

In the event that Respondent fails to comply with the requirements of this Order the entire suspended portion of the penalty shall become due and payable upon written notice to Respondent without prejudicing the Department from seeking further appropriate penalties for violations of this Order by Respondent.

II. The provisions of this Order shall be deemed to bind Respondent, his agents, employees, and all persons, firms, corporations acting under or for it.

III. The terms of this Order shall not be construed to prohibit the Commissioner or his duly authorized representative from exercising any summary abatement powers, either at common law or as granted pursuant to statute or regulation.

IV. Respondent shall indemnify and hold harmless the Department, the State of New York, and their representatives and employees for all claims, suits, actions, damages and costs of every name and description arising out of or resulting from the fulfillment or attempted fulfillment of the provisions hereof by Respondent, his directors, officers, employees, servants, agents, successors or assigns.

V. No change in this Order shall be made or become effective except as set forth by a written order of the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee.

VI. Respondent shall allow duly authorized representatives of the DEC access to the site without proper notice, at such times as may be desirable or necessary in order for the DEC to inspect and determine the status of Respondent's compliance with this Order, the ECL and regulations promulgated thereunder.

VII. The Schedule of Compliance is incorporated into the Order and is enforceable thereunder.

VIII. All communications except where otherwise specifically directed should be sent to:

For Department:
Regional Water Engineer
New York State Department
of Environmental Conservation
Region 4
1130 N. Westcott Road
Schenectady, New York 12306

IX. This Order is deemed effective on the date signed by the Department.

X. Except as specifically provided in this Order, nothing contained in this Order shall be construed as barring, diminishing, adjudicating or in any way affecting:

A. Any legal or equitable rights or claims, actions, proceedings, suits, causes of action or demands whatsoever that the State may have against Respondent for any other violations of the ECL, rules or regulations promulgated thereunder or permits issued thereunder;

B. Any legal or equitable rights or claims, actions, proceedings, suits, causes of action or demands whatsoever that the State may have against anyone other than Respondent, his agents, his servants, his employees, his successors and his assigns;

C. Whatever right the Department has to bring any action or proceeding against Respondent and/or any of Respondent's employees, servants, agents, successors, and assigns with respect to claims for natural resource damages; and

D. Respondent's right to assert all available defenses to any claims, actions, proceedings, suits, causes of actions or demands made or commenced by the State or the Department provided, however, that Respondent waives all legal or equitable rights claims, actions, proceedings, appeals, suits, causes of action, defenses or demands whatsoever that it may have to a judicial review of the validity and binding effect of this Order and whether or not this Order has been entered into voluntarily by Respondent.

XI. A. Whenever the Department's approval of a submittal under the terms of this Order is required, the Department shall review such submittal to determine whether it was prepared, and whether the work done to generate the data and other information in the submittal was done, in accordance with this Order and applicable state and federal regulations and laws and generally accepted technical and scientific principles. The Department shall notify Respondent in writing of its approval or disapproval of the submittal. All Department-approved plans and reports shall be incorporated into and become an enforceable part of this Order.

B. 1. If the Department disapproves a submittal, its notice shall specify the reasons for disapproval. Respondent shall make a revised submittal to the Department within thirty (30) days after receiving written notice of disapproval that specifically addresses all of the Department's stated reasons for disapproving the first submittal.

2. After receipt of the revised submittal from Respondent, the Department shall notify Respondent in writing of its approval or disapproval. If the Department approves the revised submittal, it shall be incorporated into and become an enforceable part of this Order. If the Department disapproves the revised submittal, it shall notify the Respondent in writing and specify its reasons. The Department reserves its right to take whatever action it deems necessary after the second disapproval of a submittal.

XII. Compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order, including the Schedule of Compliance, shall be in full civil settlement of the violations alleged in this Order.

DATED: , 2009
Rotterdam, New York

Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation

BY:

Eugene J. Kelly
Regional Director
Region 4

SCHEDULE OF COMPLIANCE

1. Respondent shall immediately cease all direct discharges from the pipe into the creek and cap the pipe.
2. Within 10 days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall submit to the Department, a schedule of planned work and personnel hired. The work must provide a permanent solution to treat the waste and permanently remove the pipe from use in accordance with applicable regulations and/or codes.
3. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall complete the work outlined in #2 above. Immediately upon completion of the work, Respondent shall notify this office and Tom Brady at the Albany County Health Department (447-4620; Albany County, Department of Health, 175 Green Street, Albany, NY 12202).