

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

In the Matter of Violations of
Article 17 of New York State Environmental
Conservation Law

ORDER ON CONSENT

- by -

File No. R4-2008-0616-90
PBS # 4-133558

Town of Otsego Highway Department
807 County Highway 26
Fly Creek, NY 13337

Respondent

WHEREAS:

JURISDICTION

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, Town of Otsego Highway Department, owns and/or operates a Petroleum Bulk Storage (“PBS”) facility (#4-133558), located in Otsego County (“facility”).
3. On May 21, 2008, Department staff inspected the facility and observed the following violations:

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|-------------------------|--|
| 6 NYCRR 612.2 | Facility is/was not properly registered |
| 6 NYCRR 612.2(e) | Registration is/was not posted at the facility |
| 6 NYCRR 613.3(b) | Fill Port color coding is missing or incorrect (both above and underground tanks) |
| 6 NYCRR 613.3(c)(3) | AST does/did not have a gauge, high level alarm or overfill prevention valve |
| 6 NYCRR 613.3(c)(3)(ii) | AST and/or gauge is/was not properly labeled with design capacity, working capacity and ID number |
| 6 NYCRR 613.3(d) | Inadequate maintenance of spill prevention equipment (water in sumps, inoperable alarms, sensors, etc) |

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 6 NYCRR 613.6 (a) & (c) | Monthly inspection of AST not performed and no records maintained |
| 6 NYCRR 613.8 | Observed and unreported spill on the property (surface spills, contaminated soil) |

4. Respondent has failed to fully address the identified violations.
5. 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 thru 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.
6. Respondent has affirmatively waived its right to notice and hearing in the manner provided by law, and has consented to the issuing and entering of this Order and it agrees to be bound by the terms, provisions and conditions contained herein.

REMEDIES

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

I. Penalty

In respect of the aforesaid violations, a civil penalty in the amount of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) is hereby assessed against the Respondent. ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000) of the civil penalty is due upon the return of a signed and notarized copy of this Order to the Department. The civil penalty shall be paid by certified or bank check made payable to the NYS DEC.

The balance of the penalty, TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000), is suspended and shall not be payable, provided that Respondent fully complies with the requirements of this Order in a timely fashion. 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.

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

II. Schedule of Compliance

The attached Schedule of Compliance and any plans approved thereunder are incorporated into the Order on Consent and enforceable thereunder. Any records submitted to the Department shall have the owner's name, facility name and address, contact and phone number and the PBS registration identification number.

III. Force Majeure

Respondent shall not be in default of compliance with this Order if it is unable to comply with any provision of this Order solely because of an action of a national government or court, or an act of nature, war, strike, riot or catastrophe, as to any of which the negligence or willful misconduct of Respondent was not a proximate cause. Respondent shall notify DEC in writing immediately upon obtaining knowledge of any such event. Relief under this clause shall not be available if Respondent fails to timely comply with the notice requirement set out in this paragraph.

IV. Communications

All communications required herein shall be made to: Department -- DEC Region 4 , 1130 North Westcott Road, Schenectady, NY 12306, Attn: Regional Spill Engineer. All submittals shall have the following information: owner's name, facility name and address, and the PBS Identification number.

V. Access

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

VI. Summary Abatement

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.

VII. Indemnification

Respondent shall indemnify and hold DEC, New York State, and their representatives and employees harmless for all claims, suits, 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, its directors, officers, employees, servants, agents, successors or assigns.

VIII. Review of Submittals

1. All documents which Respondent must submit pursuant to this Order are subject to Department approval.

2. The Department shall review each of the submittals Respondent makes pursuant to this Order 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 generally

accepted technical and scientific principles. The Department shall notify Respondent in writing of its approval or disapproval of the submittal. All Department-approved submittals shall be incorporated into and become an enforceable part of this Order; and Respondent shall implement them in accordance with their respective schedules and terms, as approved.

3. a. If the Department disapproves a submittal, it shall so notify Respondent in writing and shall specify the reasons for its disapproval. Within the time frame set forth in that written notification, Respondent shall make a revised submittal to the Department that addresses and resolves all of the Department's stated reasons for disapproving the first submittal.

b. After receipt of the revised submittal, the Department shall notify Respondent in writing of its approval or disapproval. If the revised submission is not approvable as submitted, the Department, at its option, may disapprove it or may approve it on condition that Respondent accept such modifications as may be specified by Department to make it approvable. If Respondent does not accept such modifications, the revised submission will be disapproved. If the Department disapproves the revised submittal, Respondent shall be in violation of this Order. If the Department approves the revised submittal, it shall be incorporated into and become an enforceable part of this Order.

4. Respondent shall modify and/or amplify and expand a submittal upon the Department's direction to do so if the Department determines, as a result of reviewing data generated by an activity required under this Order or as a result of reviewing any other data or facts, that further work is necessary. The Department agrees that any modifications it specifies will be reasonable and consistent with customary engineering standards.

IX. Binding Effect

The provisions of this Order shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Department and Respondent and its successors (including successors in title) and assigns.

X. Modification

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.

XI. Entire Order

The provisions of this Order constitute the complete and entire Order issued to the Respondent concerning resolution of the violations identified herein. No term, condition, understanding or agreement purporting to modify or vary any term hereof shall be binding unless made in writing and subscribed by the party to be bound, pursuant to Paragraph X of this Order. No informal oral or written advice, guidance, suggestion or comment by the Department regarding any report, proposal, plan, specification, schedule, comment or statement made or submitted by Respondent shall be construed as relieving Respondent of its obligations to obtain such formal approvals as may be required by this Order.

XII. Effective Date and Duration

The effective date of this Order shall be the date it is signed by the Regional Director and this Order shall expire when Respondent has fully complied with the requirements of this Order.

XIII. Reservation of Rights

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.

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, its officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, successors and assigns;

C. Whatever right the Department has to bring any action or proceeding against Respondent and/or any of Respondent's directors, officers, 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.

DATED: _____, 2009
Rotterdam, New York

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

BY:

Eugene J. Kelly
Regional Director
Region 4

CONSENT BY RESPONDENT

Respondent hereby consents to the issuing and entering of this Order, waives its rights to notice and hearing herein and agrees to be bound by the provisions, terms and conditions contained herein.

Town of Otsego Highway Department

SIGNED: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

STATE OF)

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)ss.:

COUNTY OF)

On the ___ day of _____ in the year ____ before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State, personally appeared _____, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument, the individual, or the person upon behalf of which the individual acted, executed the instrument.

Notary Public
Qualified in the County of:
My Commission Expires:

SCHEDULE OF COMPLIANCE

1. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall submit to the Department the last 3 months of properly reconciled inventory records, the most recent cathodic protection test report, piping tightness test reports, and records of monitoring the interstitial spaces.
2. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall submit to the Department photos and documentation certifying that the fill ports have been color coded, the tanks are properly labeled, and the facility operator is conducting monthly inspections and maintaining records of those inspections.
3. In lieu of the requirements in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, Respondent shall permanently close the underground tanks. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall identify to the Department the contractor hired to permanently close the underground tanks. If Respondent chooses to close the tanks, such closure must be completed within 45 days of the effective date of this Order. The site assessment closure report shall be submitted to the Department by the contractor within 60 days of the effective date of this Order.

To allow for Department review and processing, all submittals to the Department shall be clearly identified with the owner's name, facility name and address, contact name and telephone number, and the PBS registration identification number.