

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

In the Matter of:

American Earth Management, Inc. dba
American Oil Co.
13736-13740 Saticoy Street
Van Nuys, CA 91402

ID No. CAD981427669

Respondent.

Docket HWCA20177333

ENFORCEMENT ORDER

Health and Safety Code
Section 25187

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Parties. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (Department) issues this Enforcement Order (Order) to American Earth Management, Inc. dba American Oil Co. (Respondent).

1.2. Site. Respondent manages and stores hazardous waste at the following site: 13736-13740 Saticoy Street, Van Nuys, California, 91402 (Site).

1.3. Permit Status. The Department authorized Respondent to manage hazardous waste by permit, issued on October 19, 2007.

1.4. Jurisdiction. Section 25187 of the Health and Safety Code authorizes the Department to order action necessary to correct violations and assess a penalty when the Department determines that any person has violated specified provisions of the Health and Safety Code or any permit, rule, regulation, standard, or requirement issued or adopted pursuant thereto.

DETERMINATION OF VIOLATIONS

2. The Department has determined that:

2.1. The Respondent violated Health and Safety Code 25185(a)(1), California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66270.30(i)(1-4), and Standardized Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit), Part III, General Conditions, in that Respondent failed to allow inspectors access to conduct an inspection during normal business hours.

Respondent failed to provide the Department with access to conduct the inspection on three separate occasions.

2.2. The Respondent violated Health and Safety Code section 25202(a), California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66270.30., and Permit, Part V, Special Conditions I, 2, a, (2) in that Respondent failed to properly perform PCB analysis. The Department determined that the Respondent's PCB analysis reports contained incomplete chromatograms; did not show if solvent extraction was performed; did not show proper use and analysis of QC samples; and did not show proper calibration.

2.3 The Respondent violated California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.173, in that Respondent failed to keep hazardous waste in closed, covered containers. The Department observed two containers holding hazardous waste used oil. One was a basin around a metal crushing unit and the other was a plastic bucket on a table. Both containers were uncovered.

2.4 The Respondent violated California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.16(d)(1-4), in that Respondent failed to maintain adequate training records for employees. The Department reviewed the training records submitted and determined these records did not satisfy the regulatory requirements as they were incomplete.

2.5 The Respondent violated California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.73(b)(1-2), in that Respondent failed to implement and follow an operating record. The Department reviewed the operating records that were available at the time of the inspection and found that they did not allow for the coherent tracking of incoming and outgoing hazardous waste.

SCHEDULE FOR COMPLIANCE

3. The Respondent shall immediately comply with all applicable laws concerning the management of hazardous waste.

3.1. Submittals. All submittals from Respondent pursuant to this Order shall be sent to:

Glenn Forman
Hazardous Waste Management Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control
9211 Oakdale Ave
Chatsworth, CA 91311

3.3. Communications. All approvals and decisions of the Department made regarding submittals and notifications will be communicated to Respondent in writing by the Branch Chief, Department of Toxic Substances Control, or his/her designee. No informal advice, guidance, suggestions, or comments by the Department regarding reports, plans, specifications, schedules, or any other writings by Respondent shall be construed to relieve Respondent of the obligation to obtain such formal approvals as may be required.

3.4. Department Review and Approval. If the Department determines that any report, plan, schedule, or other document submitted for approval pursuant to this Order fails to comply with the Order or fails to protect public health or safety or the

environment, the Department may:

a. Modify the document as deemed necessary and approve the document as modified, or

b. Return the document to Respondent with recommended changes and a date by which Respondent must submit to the Department a revised document incorporating the recommended changes.

3.5. Compliance with Applicable Laws: Respondent shall carry out this Order in compliance with all local, State, and federal requirements, including but not limited to requirements to obtain permits and to assure worker safety.

3.6. Endangerment during Implementation: In the event that the Department determines that any circumstances or activity (whether or not pursued in compliance with this Order) are creating an imminent or substantial endangerment to the health or welfare of people on the site or in the surrounding area or to the environment, the Department may order Respondent to stop further implementation of this Order for such period of time as needed to abate the endangerment. Any deadline in this Order directly affected by a Stop Work Order under this section shall be extended for the term of the Stop Work Order.

3.7. Liability: Nothing in this Order shall constitute or be construed as a satisfaction or release from liability for any conditions or claims arising as a result of past, current, or future operations of Respondent. Notwithstanding compliance with the terms of this Order, Respondent may be required to take further actions as are necessary to protect public health or welfare or the environment.

3.8. Site Access: Access to the site shall be provided at all reasonable times to

employees, contractors, and consultants of the Department, and any agency having jurisdiction. Nothing in this Order is intended to limit in any way the right of entry or inspection that any agency may otherwise have by operation of any law. The Department and its authorized representatives shall have the authority to enter and move freely about all property at the Site at all reasonable times for purposes including but not limited to: inspecting records, operating logs, and contracts relating to the Site; reviewing the progress of Respondent in carrying out the terms of this Order; and conducting such tests as the Department may deem necessary. Respondent shall permit such persons to inspect and copy all records, documents, and other writings, including all sampling and monitoring data, in any way pertaining to work undertaken pursuant to this Order.

3.9. Data and Document Availability. Respondent shall permit the Department and its authorized representatives to inspect and copy all sampling, testing, monitoring, and other data generated by Respondent or on Respondent's behalf in any way pertaining to work undertaken pursuant to this Order. Respondent shall allow the Department and its authorized representatives to take duplicates of any samples collected by Respondent pursuant to this Order. Respondent shall maintain a central depository of the data, reports, and other documents prepared pursuant to this Order. All such data, reports, and other documents shall be preserved by Respondent for a minimum of six years after the conclusion of all activities under this Order. If the Department requests that some or all of these documents be preserved for a longer period of time, Respondent shall either comply with that request, deliver the documents to the Department, or permit the Department to copy the documents prior to destruction.

Respondent shall notify the Department in writing at least six months prior to destroying any documents prepared pursuant to this Order.

3.10. Government Liabilities: The State of California shall not be liable for injuries or damages to persons or property resulting from acts or omissions by Respondent or related parties in carrying out activities pursuant to this Order, nor shall the State of California be held as a party to any contract entered into by Respondent or its agents in carrying out activities pursuant to the Order.

3.11. Incorporation of Plans and Reports. All plans, schedules, and reports that require Department approval and are submitted by Respondent pursuant to this Order are incorporated in this Order upon approval by the Department.

3.12. Extension Request: If Respondent is unable to perform any activity or submit any document within the time required under this Order, the Respondent may, prior to expiration of the time, request an extension of time in writing. The extension request shall include a justification for the delay.

3.13. Extension Approvals: If the Department determines that good cause exists for an extension, it will grant the request and specify in writing a new compliance schedule.

OTHER PROVISIONS

4.1. Additional Enforcement Actions: By issuance of this Order, the Department does not waive the right to take further enforcement actions.

4.2. Penalties for Noncompliance: Failure to comply with the terms of this Order may also subject Respondent to costs, penalties, and/or punitive damages for any costs incurred by the Department or other government agencies as a result of such failure, as

provided by Health and Safety Code section 25188 and other applicable provisions of law.

4.3. Parties Bound: This Order shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent, and its officers, directors, agents, employees, contractors, consultants, receivers, trustees, successors, and assignees, including but not limited to individuals, partners, and subsidiary and parent corporations.

4.4. Time Periods. "Days" for purposes of this Order means calendar days.

PENALTY

5. Based on the foregoing DETERMINATION OF VIOLATIONS, the Department sets the amount of Respondent's penalty at \$53,000. Payment is due within 30 days from the effective date of the Order. Respondent's check shall be made payable to the Department of Toxic Substances Control, and shall identify the Respondent and Docket Number, as shown in the heading of this case. Respondent shall deliver the penalty payment to:

Glenn Forman
Senior Environmental Scientist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth CA 91311

RIGHT TO A HEARING

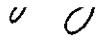
6. Respondent may request a hearing to challenge the Order. Appeal procedures are described in the attached Statement to Respondent.

EFFECTIVE DATE

7. This Order is final and effective twenty days from the date of mailing, which is the date of the cover letter transmitting the Order to Respondent, unless Respondent requests a hearing within the twenty-day period.

Date of Issuance 12/8/2021

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jessica Rodriguez  _____
Department of Toxic Substances Control