STATE OF LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	**Settlement Tracking No.**
	*	**SA-AE-15-0011**
COLUMBIA GULF TRANSMISSION, LLC	*	
	*	**Enforcement Tracking No.**
AI # 84664	*	**AE-CN-12-00888**
	*	
PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE LOUISIANA	*	
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT	*	
LA. R.S. 30:2001, ET SEQ.	*	

SETTLEMENT

The following Settlement is hereby agreed to between Columbia Gulf Transmission, LLC ("Respondent") and the Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ" or "the Department"), under authority granted by the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act, La. R.S. 30:2001, et seq. ("the Act").

I

Respondent is a limited liability company that owns and/or operates a natural gas facility located in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana ("the Facility").

II

On August 27, 2012, the Department issued to Respondent a Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement No. **AE-CN-12-00888**, which was based upon the following findings of fact:

"The Respondent owns and/or operates Centerville Station (the facility), a crude oil and natural gas facility located at 174 Truckline Gas Lane in Franklin, Saint Mary Parish, Louisiana. The facility currently does not operate under an air permit. On or about July 27, 2012, the

Respondent submitted a letter to the Department requesting interim authorization to operate the facility.

On or about July 30, 2012, a file review of the Respondent's facility was conducted to determine the degree of compliance with the Act and Air Quality Regulations.

While the Department's investigation is not yet complete, the following violations were noted during the course of the file review:

A. In a letter dated July 27, 2012, and subsequent correspondence dated August 8, 2012, the Respondent stated that the facility no longer qualifies for an Act 547 Exemption, and requires an air permit. Specifically, the facility exceeded the five (5) tons per year (tpy) threshold for the 2011 and 2012 calendar years. The Respondent reported the following VOC emissions:

Time Period	Emissions (tpy)
2011	91.4
2012 (January – July)	30.35

As of July 31, 2012, the Department has not received a permit application from the Respondent. The Respondent's failure to submit a timely and complete permit application after losing the exemption status is a violation of LAC 33:III.501 .C. 1, and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(2).

B. The Respondent is currently operating the facility without an appropriate air permit. Specifically, in a letter dated July 27, 2012, and subsequent correspondence dated August 8, 2012, the Respondent stated that the facility no longer qualifies for an Act 547 Exemption, and requires an air permit. The Respondent stated that the facility exceeded the five (5) tons per year (tpy)

threshold for the 2011 and 2012 calendar years and reported the following VOC emissions:

Time Period	Emissions (tpy)
2011	91.4
2012 (January – July)	30.35

The Respondent's failure to obtain approval from the Department prior to operation of the facility after losing the exemption status is a violation of LAC 33:111.501.C.2, La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(l) and 30:2057(A)(2)."

III

Respondent denies it committed any violations or that it is liable for any fines, forfeitures and/or penalties.

IV

Nonetheless, Respondent, without making any admission of liability under state or federal statute or regulation, agrees to pay, and the Department agrees to accept, a payment in the amount of FOUR THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS ($4,000.00), of which Four Hundred Forty-Eight and 46/100 Dollars ($448.46) represents the Department's enforcement costs, in settlement of the claims set forth in this agreement. The total amount of money expended by Respondent on cash payments to the Department as described above, shall be considered a civil penalty for tax purposes, as required by La. R.S. 30:2050.7(E)(1).

V

Respondent further agrees that the Department may consider the inspection report(s)/permit record(s), the Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty and this Settlement for the purpose of determining compliance history in connection with any future enforcement or permitting action by the Department against Respondent, and in any such action Respondent shall be

estopped from objecting to the above-referenced documents being considered as proving the violations alleged herein for the sole purpose of determining Respondent's compliance history.

VI

This agreement shall be considered a final order of the Secretary for all purposes, including, but not limited to, enforcement under La. R.S. 30:2025(G)(2), and Respondent hereby waives any right to administrative or judicial review of the terms of this agreement, except such review as may be required for interpretation of this agreement in any action by the Department to enforce this agreement.

VII

This settlement is being made in the interest of settling the state's claims and avoiding for both parties the expense and effort involved in litigation or an adjudicatory hearing. In agreeing to the compromise and settlement, the Department considered the factors for issuing civil penalties set forth in La. R. S. 30:2025(E) of the Act.

VIII

As required by law, the Department has submitted this Settlement Agreement to the Louisiana Attorney General for approval or rejection. The Attorney General's concurrence is appended to this Settlement Agreement.

IX

The Respondent has caused a public notice advertisement to be placed in the official journal of the parish governing authority in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. The advertisement, in form, wording, and size approved by the Department, announced the availability of this settlement for public view and comment and the opportunity for a public hearing. Respondent has submitted an original proof-of-publication affidavit and an original public notice to the Department and, as of the

date this Settlement is executed on behalf of the Department, more than forty-five (45) days have elapsed since publication of the notice.

X

Payment is to be made within ten (10) days from notice of the Secretary's signature. If payment is not received within that time, this Agreement is voidable at the option of the Department. Payments are to be made by check, payable to the Department of Environmental Quality, and mailed or delivered to the attention of Accountant Administrator, Financial Services Division, Department of Environmental Quality, Post Office Box 4303, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70821-4303. Each payment shall be accompanied by a completed Settlement Payment Form (Exhibit A).

XI

In consideration of the above, any claims for penalties are hereby compromised and settled in accordance with the terms of this Settlement.

XII

Each undersigned representative of the parties certifies that he or she is fully authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of his or her respective party, and to legally bind such party to its terms and conditions.

COLUMBIA GULF TRANSMISSION, LLC

BY: _____
(Signature)

_____
(Printed)

TITLE: _____

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this _____ day of _____, 20 _____, at _____.

_____
NOTARY PUBLIC (ID #_____)

_____
(stamped or printed)

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Peggy M. Hatch Secretary

BY: _____
D. Chance McNeely, Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Compliance

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

_____
NOTARY PUBLIC (ID # _____)

_____
(stamped or printed)

Approved: _____
D. Chance McNeely, Assistant Secretary