

STATE OF LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF:

SANDALWOOD EXPLORATION, L.P.

AI # 128629

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE LOUISIANA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
LA. R.S. 30:2001, ET SEQ.

* Settlement Tracking No.
* SA-AE-12-0004
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* Enforcement Tracking No.
* AE-CN-08-0241
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SETTLEMENT

The following Settlement is hereby agreed to between Sandalwood Exploration, L.P. (“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 partnership that owns and/or operates an oil and gas production facility located northwest of Cameron, Cameron Parish, Louisiana (“the Facility”).

II

On September 17, 2010, the Department issued to Respondent a Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement No. AE-CN-08-0241, which was based upon the following findings of fact:

The Respondent owns and/or operates the J A & Martha Davis #1 Facility, an oil and gas production facility located 4.5 miles north northwest of Cameron in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. On or about May 26, 2005, Standard Oil and Gas Air (SOGA) Permit No. 0560-00233-00 was issued for the facility.

On or about August 14, 2008, an inspection of the Respondent's facility was conducted to determine the degree of compliance with the Act and the Air Quality Regulations.

The following violations were noted during the course of the inspection:

- A. During the course of the inspection, the inspector noted that the facility's glycol dehydrator is subject to 40 CFR 63 Subpart HH - National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from Oil and Natural Gas Production Facilities. Facilities subject to any federal requirements contained in 40 CFR Part 63 are excluded from coverage under SOGA permits. According to LAC 33:III.513.A.4, any source which is issued the general permit shall, notwithstanding a permit shield, be subject to enforcement action for operation without a permit if the source is later determined not to qualify for the general permit; therefore, the facility was operating without a permit since the applicability date of January 3, 2007. Operating the facility since January 3, 2007, without a permit is a violation of LAC 33:III.501.C.2, and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(1) and 30:2057(A)(2).
- B. During the course of the inspection, the inspector noted a compressor engine and a gas exchanger on site which were not included in the emissions inventory received by the Department on April 27, 2005. Each incident of the Respondent's failure to submit a permit application and receive approval from the permitting authority prior to construction, modification, or operation of a facility which ultimately may result in an initiation or increase in air contaminants is a violation of LAC 33:III.501.C.2 and La. R.S. 30:2057(A)(1) and 30:2057(A)(2).
- C. During the course of the inspection, the inspector noted a compressor engine and a gas exchanger on site which were not included in the emissions inventory received by the Department on April 27, 2005. Each incident of the Respondent's failure to submit a permit application prior to construction, reconstruction, or modification is a violation of LAC 33:III.501.C.1 and La. R.S. 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 THREE HUNDRED THIRTEEN AND 53/100 DOLLARS (\$4,313.53), of which Three Hundred Thirteen and 53/100 Dollars (\$313.53) 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), 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

The Respondent has caused a public notice advertisement to be placed in the official journal of the parish governing authority in Cameron 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 from the newspaper 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.

IX

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).

X

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

XI

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.

SANDALWOOD EXPLORATION, L.P.

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: _____
Cheryl Sonnier Nolan, 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: 
Cheryl Sonnier Nolan, Assistant Secretary