

TENNESSEE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:

BEMIS GIN AND WAREHOUSE COMPANY

RESPONDENT

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DIVISION OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

CASE NO. APC20-0045

TECHNICAL SECRETARY’S ORDER AND ASSESSMENT OF CIVIL PENALTY

Comes now, Michelle Walker Owenby, Technical Secretary of the Air Pollution Control Board, and states that:

PARTIES

I.

Michelle Walker Owenby is the Technical Secretary of the Air Pollution Control Board (“Board”) and Director of the Division of Air Pollution Control (“Division”), Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (“Department”).

II.

Bemis Gin and Warehouse Company (“Respondent”) is a domestic corporation authorized to do business in the State of Tennessee. Respondent’s facility address is 50 Gin Street, Jackson, Tennessee. Respondent’s registered agent for service of process is L. C. Edwards, 1 Gin Street, Jackson, Tennessee 38301-7551.

AUTHORITY

III.

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated (“Tenn. Code Ann.”) § 68-201-116, the Technical Secretary may assess a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day for each day of violation of the Tennessee Air Quality Act (“Act”) or any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder (“Division Rules”) against any person who violates said Act or Division Rules, and/or the Technical Secretary may issue an order for

correction to the responsible person when provisions of the Act or Division Rules are violated. In addition, such person may also be liable for any damages to the State resulting therefrom.

IV.

Respondent is a “person” within the meaning of Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-201-102 and has violated the Division Rules as hereinafter stated.

V.

“Air contaminant” means particulate matter, dust, fumes, gas, mist, smoke, vapor, or any combinations thereof, as stated in Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-201-102.

VI.

“Air contaminant source” means any and all sources of emission of air contaminants, whether privately or publicly owned or operated, as stated in Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-201-102.

VII.

Respondent operates an “air contaminant source” within the meaning of Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-201-102.

FACTS

VIII.

On September 15, 2017, the Technical Secretary issued operating permit number 071795 (“Permit 071795”), identified as emission source reference number 57-0048-01, to Respondent for a cotton gin.

IX.

Condition 2 of Permit 071795 states:

Capacity of this cotton gin shall not exceed 48 bales per hour based on the following gin stand capacity: four (4) Lummus Model 158 gin stands each rated at 12 bales per hour. The number of

bales processed per ginning season shall not exceed 40,000 bales based on the application dated March 4, 2016.

X.

On or about March 30, 2020, the Division received Respondent's annual bales process report ("Report") for the 2019 ginning season. The Report indicated that 48,467 bales were processed by Respondent during the 2019 ginning season. Therefore, Respondent violated condition 2 of Permit 071795.

XI.

On March 31, 2020, the Division issued a Notice of Violation to Respondent for the violation discussed in paragraph X.

VIOLATION

XII.

By failing to comply with condition 2 of Permit 071795, Respondent violated Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1200-03-09-.02(6), which states, in pertinent part:

Operation of each air contaminant source shall be in accordance with the provisions and stipulations set forth in the operating permit, all provisions of these regulations, and all provisions of the Tennessee Air Quality Act.

RELIEF

XIII.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, I, Michelle Walker Owenby, Technical Secretary, under the authority vested in me, hereby order as follows:

1. Respondent is assessed a Civil Penalty in the amount of **\$1,500** for the violation of Division Rules, as discussed herein.
2. Respondent shall pay the assessed Civil Penalty in full as follows: Payments of the civil penalty and/or damages shall be made payable to the "Treasurer, State of Tennessee" and sent to the

Division of Fiscal Services - Consolidated Fees Section, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 10th Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243. The case number, **APC20-0045**, should be clearly shown on the check or money order to ensure that the payment is properly credited. Payment shall be made on or before the 31st day after receipt of this Order and Assessment.

DEPARTMENT'S RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

In issuing this Order and Assessment, the Department does not implicitly or expressly waive any provision of the Act or the regulations promulgated thereunder or the authority to assess costs, civil penalties, and/or damages incurred by the State against the Respondent. The Department expressly reserves all rights it has at law and in equity to order further corrective action, assess civil penalties and/or damages, and to pursue further enforcement action including, but not limited to, monetary and injunctive relief. Compliance with this Order will be considered as a mitigating factor in determining the need for future enforcement action(s).

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 68-201-108(a) and 68-201-116(b), allow Respondent to appeal this Order and Assessment. To do so, a written petition setting forth the grounds (reasons) for requesting a hearing must be RECEIVED by the Technical Secretary within 30 DAYS of the date Respondent received this Order and Assessment or this Order and Assessment becomes final (not subject to review).

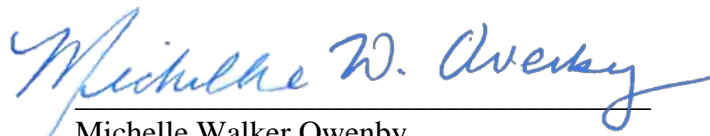
If an appeal is filed, an initial hearing of this appeal will be conducted by an Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") as a contested case hearing pursuant to the provisions of Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-201-108(a), Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-301 *et seq.* (the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act), and Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1360-04-01 *et seq.* (the Department of State's Uniform Rules of Procedure for Hearing Contested Cases Before State Administrative Agencies). Such hearings are legal proceedings in the nature of a trial. Individual respondents may represent themselves or be represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee. **Artificial respondents (corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, etc.) cannot engage in the practice of law and therefore may only pursue an appeal through an**

attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee. Low-income individuals may be eligible for representation at reduced or no cost through a local bar association or legal aid organization.

At the conclusion of any initial hearing, the ALJ has the authority to affirm, modify, or deny this Order and Assessment. This includes the authority to modify (decrease or increase) the penalty within the statutory confines of Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-201-116 (up to \$25,000 per day per violation). Furthermore, the ALJ on behalf of the Board has the authority to assess additional damages incurred by the Department including, but not limited to, all docketing expenses associated with the setting of the matter for a hearing and the hourly fees incurred due to the presence of the ALJ and a court reporter.

Any petition for review (appeal) must be directed to the Technical Secretary, Tennessee Division of Air Pollution Control, c/o Jenny L. Howard, General Counsel, Department of Environment and Conservation, William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 2nd Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 or at TDEC.Appeals@tn.gov. Payments of the civil penalty and/or damages shall be made payable to the “Treasurer, State of Tennessee” and sent to the Division of Fiscal Services - Consolidated Fees Section, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 10th Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243. Technical questions and other correspondence involving compliance issues should be sent to Attn: Tammy Gambill, Division of Air Pollution Control, William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 15th Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 or via e-mail to air.pollution.control@tn.gov. Attorneys should contact the undersigned counsel of record. **The case number, APC20-0045, should be written on all correspondence regarding this matter.**

Issued by the Technical Secretary, Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board, Department of Environment and Conservation, on this 14th day of July, 2020.



Michelle Walker Owenby
Technical Secretary
Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board

Reviewed by:



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