

TENNESSEE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:

MTD CONSUMER GROUP INC

RESPONDENT

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DIVISION OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

CASE NO. APC20-0063

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.

MTD Consumer Group Inc (“Respondent”) is a foreign corporation formed in Ohio and authorized to do business in the State of Tennessee. Respondent’s facility address is 136 Industrial Park, Martin, Tennessee. Respondent’s registered agent for service of process is C T Corporation System, 300 Montvue Road, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919-5546.

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 January 19, 2018, the Technical Secretary issued Title V construction permit number 972433 (“Permit 972433”) to Respondent for an outdoor equipment manufacturing operation. On May 24, 2018, the Technical Secretary amended Permit 972433.

IX.

Condition E6-1 of Permit 972433 states, in pertinent part:

The stated design heat input capacity for the Burn-Off Oven is 15.0 MMBtu/hr. The permittee shall apply for a construction permit should the burners need to be physically modified to exceed this capacity.

X.

On March 13, 2020, the Division received via e-mail from Respondent a construction/modification permit application (“Application”) dated March 13, 2020, for the replacement of five burners associated with the burn-off oven (source 14). The Application indicated that the replacement of the five burners, which increased the heat input capacity to 30 MMBtu/hr, occurred in July 2019, during a facility shutdown.

XI.

On April 7, 2020, the Division issued a Notice of Violation to Respondent for replacing the five burners prior to applying for and receiving a construction permit.

XII.

By failing to comply with condition E6-1 of Permit 972433, Respondent violated Division Rule 1200-03-09-.01(1)(d), which states, in pertinent part:

Construction of a new air contaminant source or the modification of an air contaminant source which may result in the discharge of air contaminants must be in accordance with the approved construction permit application or notice of intent; the provisions and stipulations set forth in the construction permit, notice of coverage, or notice of authorization[.]

VIOLATION

XIII.

By constructing/modifying an air contaminant source not specifically exempted by Division Rule 1200-03-09-.04 without first applying for and receiving the necessary construction permit, Respondent violated Division Rule 1200-03-09-.01(1)(a), which states:

Except as specifically exempted in Rule 1200-03-09-.04, no person shall begin the construction of a new air contaminant source or the modification of an air contaminant source which may result in the discharge of air contaminants without first having applied for and received from the Technical Secretary a construction permit or, if applicable, submitted a notice of intent and obtained a notice of coverage or authorization, for the construction or modification of such air contaminant source.

RELIEF

XIV.

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, **APC20-0063**, 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

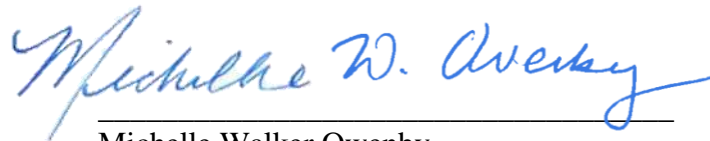
Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 68-201-108(a) and 68-201-116(b), allow Respondent to appeal this Order and Assessment. To do so, a written petition setting forth the grounds (reasons) for requesting a hearing must be RECEIVED by the Technical Secretary within 30 DAYS of the date Respondent received this Order and 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. An appeal may also be filed by sending the petition to the following email address: 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, APC20-0063, 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 6th day of August, 2020.



Michelle Walker Owenby
Technical Secretary
Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board

Reviewed by:

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