

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

IN THE MATTER OF: )
Chilton County )
Clanton, Chilton County, Alabama ) \*\*\*\*\*Proposed\*\*\*\*\*
) CONSENT ORDER NO: 20- -AP
)

PREAMBLE

This Special Order by Consent is made and entered into by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (hereinafter, "the Department" and/or "ADEM") and Chilton County (hereinafter, "Chilton"), pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Ala. Code, §§22-22A-1 through 22-22A-17, as amended, the Alabama Air Pollution Control Act, Ala. Code §§22-28-1 to 22-28-23, as amended, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

- 1. Chilton County owns real property located at 272 Airport Lane in Clanton, Chilton County, Alabama (hereinafter, the "Site").
2. The Department is a duly constituted department of the State of Alabama pursuant to Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-17, as amended.
3. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-4(n), as amended, the Department is the state air pollution control agency for the purposes of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401 to 7671q, as amended. In addition, the Department is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the Alabama Air Pollution Control Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-28-1 to 22-28-23, as amended.
4. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1 states that "...open burning must take place on the property on which the combustible fuel originates."

5. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)4 states that “Only vegetation and untreated wood may be burned. It is unauthorized to open burn heavy oils, asphalt products, plastics, vinyl materials, insulation, paper, cardboard, natural or synthetic rubber, salvage or scrap materials, chemicals, garbage, treated or painted wood, or any trash.”

DEPARTMENT'S CONTENTIONS

6. On April 21, 2020, the Department received a complaint of frequent unauthorized open burning by Chilton at the Site.

7. During the April 21, 2020 complaint investigation, Department personnel observed unauthorized open burning of imported vegetation at the Site.

8. On April 28, 2020, the Department issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Chilton regarding the unauthorized open burning.

9. In the May 12, 2020 response to the NOV, Chilton admitted to burning imported vegetation at the Site.

10. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., *as amended*, in determining the amount of any penalty, the Department must give consideration to the seriousness of the violation, including any irreparable harm to the environment and any threat to the health or safety of the public; the standard of care manifested by such person; the economic benefit which delayed compliance may confer upon such person; the nature, extent and degree of success of such person's efforts to minimize or mitigate the effects of such violation upon the environment; such person's history of previous violations; and the ability of such person to pay such penalty. Any civil penalty assessed pursuant to this authority shall not exceed \$25,000.00 for each violation, provided however, that the total penalty assessed in an order issued by the Department shall not exceed \$250,000.00. Each day such violation continues shall constitute

a separate violation. In arriving at this civil penalty, the Department has considered the following:

A. SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATION: Chilton conducted unauthorized open burning of imported vegetation. The Department considers this violation to be serious.

B. THE STANDARD OF CARE: There appeared to be no care taken by Chilton to comply with the applicable requirements of the ADEM Admin. Code rs. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1 and 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)2.

C. ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED: Chilton likely derived an economic benefit by not legally disposing of the imported vegetation.

D. EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT: At the time of the violation, there were no efforts by Chilton to mitigate the possible effects upon the environment.

E. HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: Chilton does not have a prior history of violations with the Department for illegal open burning.

F. THE ABILITY TO PAY: Chilton has not alleged an inability to pay the civil penalty.

G. OTHER FACTORS: Due to the economic down turn caused by COVID 19 the Department has agreed to reduce the penalty.

11. The Department has carefully considered the six statutory penalty factors enumerated in Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., *as amended*, as well as the need for timely and effective enforcement, and has concluded that a civil penalty herein is appropriate (*See* “Attachment A”, which is hereby incorporated into these Contentions).

12. The Department neither admits nor denies Chilton’s contentions, which are set forth below. The Department has agreed to the terms of this Consent Order in an effort

to resolve the alleged violations cited herein without unwarranted expenditure of State resources in prosecuting the above violations. The Department has determined that the terms contemplated in this Consent Order are in the best interests of the citizens of Alabama.

CHILTON'S CONTENTIONS

13. Chilton neither admits nor denies the Department's contentions.

14. The open burn occurrence reported on April 21, 2020 was directly related to Chilton's response to severe storms that hit some of Chilton's communities in the early morning hours of Sunday, April 19, 2020. The storm event triggered multiple layers of assistance for Chilton and its road crews did all they could to clear roads and rights-of-ways in order to restore safe passage and use of Chilton's public roads during a most difficult situation. Time was of the essence as Chilton's road crews helped to clear the public roads to provide access for emergency responders and utility restoration crews.

15. The incinerator site consisted of no more than ¼ acre and the conditions didn't exist for more than two (2) days. The burn site was protected by a safety barrier and was in excess of 500 feet from the closet residence. The event was continuously monitored by Chilton staff and all times.

16. All materials burned at the Airport Road site during this event consisted of vegetation or untreated wood generated by clearing county road rights of way and/or county owned real property.

17. The debris that was collected from the right-of-way of county roads was situated in the proximity of a residences locate along public roads, making it too dangerous to burn the materials in place.

18. Given the climate conditions that existed on the date of the burn event and the extreme heat under which the debris was incinerated, the burn event should not have materially, negatively impacted the ozone environment in Chilton County to any greater degree than if it had been burned “in-place.”

19. To Chilton’s best information and belief, the burn event did not result in any of the following:

- (a) Visible air pollution plumes
- (b) Local visibility reduction
- (c) Soiling fallout of carbonaceous residues
- (d) Ethylene damage to susceptible vegetation
- (e) Eye irritation from aldehydes Exposure to carbon monoxide
- (f) Annoyance from odorous combustion products
- (g) Economic loss due to odor contamination

20. The Chilton staff believed that the climate conditions that existed on the date(s) of the burn were not unfavorable as the event occurred in the early Spring before any ADEM issued “NO Burn” orders.

21. Chilton consents to abide by the terms of this Consent Order and pay the civil penalty assessed herein.

ORDER

THEREFORE, Chilton, along with the Department, desires to resolve and settle the compliance issues cited above. The Department has carefully considered the facts available to it and has considered the six penalty factors enumerated in Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., as amended, as well as the need for timely and effective enforcement and has determined that the following conditions are appropriate to address the violations alleged herein. Therefore, the Department and Chilton agree to enter into this Consent Order with the following terms and conditions:

A. Chilton agrees to pay the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00 in settlement of the violations alleged herein within forty-five days from the date of issuance of this Consent Order. Failure to pay the civil penalty within the specified timeframe after the issuance of this Consent Order may result in the Department filing a civil action in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County to recover the unpaid civil penalty.

B. Chilton agrees that all penalties due pursuant to this Consent Order shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management by certified or cashier's check and shall be remitted to:

Office of General Counsel  
Alabama Department of  
Environmental Management  
P.O. Box 301463  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

C. Chilton agrees that it, immediately upon the effective date of this Consent Order and continuing thereafter, shall ensure immediate and future compliance with ADEM Admin. Code rs. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1, 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)4, and 335-3-3-.01(2)(d).

D. The parties agree that this Consent Order shall apply to and be binding upon both parties, their directors, officers, and all persons or entities acting under or for them. Each signatory to this Consent Order certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party he or she represents to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, to execute the Consent Order on behalf of the party represented, and to legally bind such party.

E. The parties agree that, subject to the terms of these presents and subject to provisions otherwise provided by statute, this Consent Order is intended to operate as a full resolution of the alleged violations and/or deviations which are cited in this Consent Order.

F. Chilton agrees that it is not relieved from any liability if it fails to comply with any provision of this Consent Order.

G. For purposes of this Consent Order only, Chilton agrees that the Department may properly bring an action to compel compliance with the terms and conditions contained herein in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County. Chilton also agrees that in any action brought by the Department to compel compliance with the terms of this Agreement, Chilton shall be limited to the defenses of *Force Majeure*, compliance with this Agreement and physical impossibility. A *Force Majeure* is defined as any event arising from causes that are not foreseeable and are beyond the reasonable control of Ingram, including his contractors and consultants, which could not be overcome by due diligence (i.e., causes which could have been overcome or avoided by the exercise of due diligence will not be considered to have been beyond the reasonable control of Ingram) and which delays or prevents performance by a date required by the Consent Order. Events such as unanticipated or increase costs of performance, changed economic circumstances, normal precipitation events, or failure to obtain federal, state, or local permits shall not constitute *Force Majeure*. Any request for a modification of a deadline must be accompanied by the reasons (including documentation) for each extension and the proposed extension time. This information shall be submitted to the Department a minimum of ten working days prior to the original anticipated completion date. If the Department, after review of the extension request, finds the work was delayed because of conditions beyond the control and without the fault of Chilton, the Department may extend the time as justified by the circumstances. The Department may also grant any other additional time extension as justified by the circumstances, but it is not obligated to do so.

H. The Department and Chilton agree that the sole purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve and dispose of all allegations and contentions stated herein concerning the factual circumstances reference herein. Should additional facts and circumstances be discovered in the future concerning illegal open burning which would constitute possible violations not addressed in this Consent Order, then such future violations may be addressed in Orders as may be issued by the Director, litigation initiated by the Department, or such other enforcement action as may be appropriate, and Chilton shall not object to such future orders, litigation, or enforcement action based on the issuance of this Consent Order if future orders, litigation, or other enforcement action addresses new matters not raised in this Consent Order.

I. The Department and Chilton agree that this Consent Order shall be considered final and effective immediately upon the signature of all parties. This Consent Order shall not be appealable, and Chilton does hereby waive any hearing on the terms and conditions of the same.

J. The Department and Chilton agree that this Order shall not affect its obligation to comply with any Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

K. The Department and Chilton agree that final approval and entry into this Order are subject to the requirements that the Department give notice of proposed Orders to the public, and that the public have at least thirty days within which to comment on the Order.

L. The Department and Chilton agree that, should any provision of this Order be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction or the Environmental Management Commission to be inconsistent with Federal or State law and therefore unenforceable, the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

M. The Department and Chilton agree that any modifications of this Order must be agreed to in writing signed by both parties.

N. The Department and Chilton agree that, except as otherwise set forth herein, this Order is not and shall not be interpreted to be a permit or modification of an existing permit under Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to waive or relieve Chilton of its obligations to comply in the future with any permit.

Executed in duplicate, with each part being an original.

CHILTON COUNTY, ALABAMA

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

*Joseph Parnell*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Authorized Representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lance R. LeFleur  
Director

*Joseph Parnell*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name)

*Chairman*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Title)

*8-26-2020*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Executed)

# ATTACHMENT A

## Chilton County Chilton County, Alabama

Violation*	Number of Violations*	Seriousness of Violation*	Standard of Care*	History of Previous Violations*	
Illegal open burning	1	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$0	
					<b>Total of Three Factors</b>
<b><i>TOTAL PER FACTOR</i></b>		<b><i>\$1,500</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>\$2,500</i></b>

<b>Adjustments to Amount of Initial Penalty</b>	
<b>Mitigating Factors (-)</b>	
<b>Ability to Pay (-)</b>	
<b>Other Factors (+/-)</b>	<\$2,000>
<b>Total Adjustments (+/-) <i>Enter at Right</i></b>	<b>&lt;\$2,000&gt;</b>

<b>Economic Benefit (+)</b>	\$500
<b>Amount of Initial Penalty</b>	\$3,000
<b>Total Adjustments (+/-)</b>	<\$2,000>
<b>FINAL PENALTY</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>

Footnotes

\* See the "Department's Contentions" portion of the Order for a detailed description of each violation and the penalty factors.