

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

In the Matter of:

AERC.COM, INC.
Also Known As:
AERC RECYCLING SOLUTIONS

30677 Huntwood Avenue
Hayward, California 94544

ID No. CAD982411993

Respondent.

Docket No. HWCA 2011-4389

CONSENT ORDER

Health and Safety Code
Section 25187

The State Department of Toxic Substances Control (Department) and AERC.COM, INC. (Respondent) enter into this Consent Order and agree as follows:

1. Respondent generates, handles, treats, and stores hazardous waste at 30677 Huntwood Avenue in Hayward, (Site).
2. The Department inspected the Site on March 28 and 29, 2011.
3. Authorization Status. DTSC issued Respondent a Standardized Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, Series A on February 12, 2010. (Permit)
4. The Department alleges the following violations:
 - 4.1. On or about March 29, 2011, Respondent violated, California

Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.33 because it failed to ensure proper operation of emergency decontamination and communication equipment.

Respondent's eyewash station near the unloading dock was not operational when tested during the walk-through inspection on March 29, 2011. A water valve had been turned completely off leaving the eyewash station non-functional. The inspection also revealed soiled gloves between the water nozzles of a second eyewash station thereby impairing its use. Moreover; a thick layer of dust was observed on eyewash equipment, a telephone and a fire extinguisher in the production area.

4.2. On or about March 29, 2011, Respondent violated California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.35, and the Permit, Unit 3, Unit Specific Special Condition 7, requiring thirty inches of aisle space.

Thirty inches of unobstructed aisle space was not observed in the permitted container storage area.

5. The parties wish to avoid the expense of litigation and to ensure prompt compliance.

6. Jurisdiction exists pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25187.

7. Respondent waives any right to a hearing in this matter.

8. This Consent Order shall constitute full settlement of the violations alleged above, but does not limit the Department from taking appropriate enforcement action concerning other violations.

9. Respondent admits to the facts underlying the inspection report dated June 2011.

SCHEDULE FOR COMPLIANCE

10. Respondent shall comply with the following:

10.1. Respondent must maintain a minimum of 30-inches of aisle space in the storage area (Unit 3.)

10.2. Respondent must make certain that all decontamination equipment is functional during operational days. All decontamination, emergency communications, fire suppression and spill control equipment must be functional, operational, and maintained free of dust and any other contaminants or obstructions that would impair its function.

10.3. Respondent shall make all payments at the time and in accord with any other conditions set forth in Section 11 (Payments) below.

10.4. Submittals: All submittals from Respondent pursuant to this Consent Order shall be sent simultaneously to:

Paul Kewin
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, 95826-3200

10.5. Communications: All approvals and decisions of the Department made regarding such submittals and notifications shall be communicated to Respondent in writing by a Branch Chief, Department of Toxic Substances Control, or his/her designee. No informal advice, guidance, suggestions, or comments by

the Department regarding reports, plans, specifications, schedules, or any other writings by Respondent shall be construed to relieve Respondent of its obligation to obtain such formal approvals as may be required.

10.6. Department Review and Approval: If the Department determines that any report, plan, schedule, or other document submitted for approval pursuant to this Consent Order fails to comply with the Order or fails to protect public health or safety or the environment, the Department may return the document to Respondent with recommended changes and a date by which Respondent must submit to the Department a revised document incorporating the recommended changes.

10.7. Compliance with Applicable Laws: Respondent shall carry out this Order in compliance with all local, State, and federal requirements, including but not limited to requirements to obtain permits and to assure worker safety.

10.8. Endangerment During Implementation: In the event that the Department determines that any circumstances or activity (whether or not pursued in compliance with this Consent Order) are creating an imminent or substantial endangerment to the health or welfare of people on the site or in the surrounding area or to the environment, the Department may order Respondent to stop further implementation for such period of time as needed to abate the endangerment. Any deadline in this Consent Order directly affected by a Stop Work Order under this section shall be extended for the term of such Stop Work Order.

10.9. Liability: Nothing in this Consent Order shall constitute or be construed as a satisfaction or release from liability for any conditions or claims

arising as a result of past, current, or future operations of Respondent, except as provided in this Consent Order. Notwithstanding compliance with the terms of this Consent Order, Respondent may be required to take further actions as are necessary to protect public health or welfare or the environment.

10.10. Site Access: Access to the Site shall be provided at all reasonable times to employees, contractors, and consultants of the Department, and any agency having jurisdiction. Nothing in this Consent Order is intended to limit in any way the right of entry or inspection that any agency may otherwise have by operation of any law. The Department and its authorized representatives may enter and move freely about all property at the Site at all reasonable times for purposes including but not limited to: inspecting records, operating logs, and contracts relating to the Site; reviewing the progress of Respondent in carrying out the terms of this Consent Order; and conducting such tests as the Department may deem necessary. Respondent shall permit such persons to inspect and copy all records, documents, and other writings, including all sampling and monitoring data, in any way pertaining to work undertaken pursuant to this Consent Order.

10.11. Sampling, Data, and Document Availability: Respondent shall permit the Department and its authorized representatives to inspect and copy all sampling, testing, monitoring, and other data generated by Respondent or on Respondent's behalf in any way pertaining to work undertaken pursuant to this Consent Order. Respondent shall allow the Department and its authorized representatives to take duplicates of any samples collected by Respondent pursuant to this Consent Order. Respondent shall maintain a central depository of

the data, reports, and other documents prepared pursuant to this Consent Order. All such data, reports, and other documents shall be preserved by Respondent for a minimum of six years after the conclusion of all activities under this Consent Order. If the Department requests that some or all of these documents be preserved for a longer period of time, Respondent shall either comply with that request, deliver the documents to the Department, or permit the Department to copy the documents prior to destruction. Respondent shall notify the Department in writing at least six months prior to destroying any documents prepared pursuant to this Consent Order.

10.12. Government Liabilities: The State of California shall not be liable for injuries or damages to persons or property resulting from acts or omissions by Respondent or related parties specified in paragraph 12.3, in carrying out activities pursuant to this Consent Order, nor shall the State of California be held as a party to any contract entered into by Respondent or its agents in carrying out activities pursuant to this Consent Order.

10.13. Incorporation of Plans and Reports: All plans, schedules, and reports that require Department approval and are submitted by Respondent pursuant to this Consent Order are incorporated in this Consent Order upon approval by the Department.

10.14. Extension Requests: If Respondent is unable to perform any activity or submit any document within the time required under this Consent Order, the Respondent may, prior to expiration of the time, request an extension of time in writing. The extension request shall include a justification for the delay.

10.15. Extension Approvals: If the Department determines that good cause exists for an extension, it will grant the request and specify in writing a new compliance schedule.

PAYMENTS

11. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall pay the Department a total of \$8,000 in penalties. Respondent's check shall be made payable to Department of Toxic Substances Control, identify the Respondent and Docket Number, as shown in the caption of this document, and shall be delivered together with the Payment Voucher to:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Accounting Office
1001 I Street, 21st floor
P. O. Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806

11.1. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall pay the Western States Project a total of \$1,500. Respondent's check shall be made payable to Western States Project, identify the Respondent and Docket Number as shown in the caption of this document, and shall be delivered to:

Western States Hazardous Waste Project
Attn: Lynn Cassidy, Executive Director
1110 W. Washington Street, Suite 367
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A photocopy of all checks shall be sent:

To:

Paul Kewin
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, 95826-3200

To:

Stephanie Lai, Esq.
Office of Legal Counsel
Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz, Suite 300
Berkeley, California 94710

If Respondent fails to make payment as provided, Respondent agrees to pay interest at the rate established pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25360.1 and to pay all costs incurred by the Department in pursuing collection including attorney's fees.

OTHER PROVISIONS

12.1. Additional Enforcement Actions: By agreeing to this Consent Order, the Department does not waive the right to take further enforcement actions, except to the extent provided in this Consent Order.

12.2. Penalties for Noncompliance: Failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Order may subject Respondent to civil penalties and/or punitive damages for any costs incurred by the Department or other government agencies as a result of such failure, as provided by Health and Safety Code section 25188 and other applicable provisions of law.

12.3. Parties Bound: This Consent Order shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and its officers, directors, agents, receivers, trustees, employees, contractors, consultants, successors, and assignees, including but not limited to individuals, partners, and subsidiary and parent corporations, and upon

the Department and any successor agency that may have responsibility for and jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Consent Order.

12.4. Effective Date: The effective date of this Consent Order is the date it is signed by the Department.

12.5. Integration: This agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and may not be amended, supplemented, or modified, except as provided in this agreement.

12.6. Compliance with Waste Discharge Requirements: Respondent shall comply with all applicable waste discharge requirements issued by the State Water Resources Control Board or a California regional water quality control board.

Dated: July 31, 2012

Donald Lees

Respondent
Donald Lees
President, California Operations
AERC.COM, Inc.

Dated: August 2, 2012

Rick Robison

Rick Robison
Supervising Hazardous Substances Scientist
Department of Toxic Substances Control