

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



IN THE MATTER OF AN  
ENFORCEMENT ACTION  
CONCERNING  
SYNTECH CHEMICALS INC.  
RN100664994

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§  
§  
§

BEFORE THE  
  
TEXAS COMMISSION ON  
  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## AGREED ORDER DOCKET NO. 2018-1748-AIR-E

### I. JURISDICTION AND STIPULATIONS

On SEP 03 2019, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("the Commission" or "TCEQ") considered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement action regarding SYNTECH CHEMICALS INC. (the "Respondent") under the authority of TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ch. 382 and TEX. WATER CODE ch. 7. The Executive Director of the TCEQ, through the Enforcement Division, and the Respondent together stipulate that:

1. The Respondent owns and operates a chemical blending and batch processing facility located at 14822 Hooper Road in Houston, Harris County, Texas (the "Plant"). The Plant consists or consisted of one or more sources as defined in TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 382.003(12).
2. The Executive Director and the Respondent agree that the TCEQ has jurisdiction to enter this Order pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE §§ 7.002, 7.051, and 7.073, and that the Respondent is subject to TCEQ's jurisdiction. The TCEQ has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE § 5.013 because it alleges violations of TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ch. 382 and the rules of the TCEQ.
3. The occurrence of any violation is in dispute and the entry of this Order shall not constitute an admission by the Respondent of any violation alleged in Section II ("Allegations"), nor of any statute or rule.
4. An administrative penalty in the amount of \$2,750 is assessed by the Commission in settlement of the violations alleged in Section II ("Allegations"). The Respondent paid \$2,200 of the penalty and \$550 is deferred contingent upon the Respondent's timely and satisfactory compliance with all the terms of this Order. The deferred amount shall be waived only upon full compliance with all the terms and conditions contained in this Order. If the Respondent fails to timely and satisfactorily comply with any of the terms or requirements contained in this Order, the Executive Director may demand payment of all or part of the deferred penalty amount.
5. The Executive Director and the Respondent agree on a settlement of the matters alleged in this enforcement action, subject to final approval in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.10(a). Any notice and procedures, which might otherwise be authorized or

required in this action, are waived in the interest of a more timely resolution of the matter.

6. The Executive Director may, without further notice or hearing, refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas ("OAG") for further enforcement proceedings if the Executive Director determines that the Respondent has not complied with one or more of the terms or conditions in this Order.
7. This Order represents the complete and fully-integrated agreement of the parties. The provisions of this Order are deemed severable and, if a court of competent jurisdiction or other appropriate authority deems any provision of this Order unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be valid and enforceable.
8. This Order shall terminate five years from its effective date or upon compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Order, whichever is later.

## **II. ALLEGATIONS**

During an investigation conducted from August 31, 2018 through December 4, 2018, an investigator documented that the Respondent failed to obtain authorization prior to constructing or modifying a source of air contaminants, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 116.110(a) and TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §§ 382.0518(a) and 382.085(b). Specifically, the Respondent constructed and operated a Zinc Oxide Batch Process (SX9658G) prior to obtaining the proper authorization.

## **III. DENIALS**

The Respondent generally denies each allegation in Section II ("Allegations").

## **IV. ORDERING PROVISIONS**

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ORDERS that:

1. The Respondent is assessed a penalty as set forth in Section I, Paragraph No. 4. The payment of this penalty and the Respondent's compliance with all of the requirements set forth in this Order resolve only the allegations in Section II. The Commission shall not be constrained in any manner from requiring corrective action or penalties for violations which are not raised here. Penalty payments shall be made payable to "TCEQ" and shall be sent with the notation "Re: SYNTECH CHEMICALS INC., Docket No. 2018-1748-AIR-E" to:

Financial Administration Division, Revenue Operations Section  
Attention: Cashier's Office, MC 214  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13088  
Austin, Texas 78711-3088

2. The Respondent shall undertake the following technical requirements:

- a. Within 30 days after the effective date of this Order, submit an administratively complete permit application or registration to authorize the Zinc Oxide Batch Process (SX9658G) at the Plant, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 116.110(a), to:  
  
Air Permits Division, MC 163  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087
- b. Respond completely and adequately, as determined by the TCEQ, to all requests for information concerning the permit application or registration within 30 days after the date of such requests, or by any other deadline specified in writing;
- c. Within 45 days after the effective date of this Order, submit written certification demonstrating compliance with Ordering Provision No. 2.a, as described in Ordering Provision No. 2.d; and
- d. Within 180 days after the effective date of this Order, submit written certification that either authorization to operate the Zinc Oxide Batch Process (SX9658G) has been obtained or that the operation has ceased until such time that appropriate authorization is obtained, and include detailed supporting documentation including photographs, receipts, and/or other records to demonstrate compliance. The certification shall be signed by the Respondent and shall include the following certification language:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted and all attached documents, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the submitted information is true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing violations."

The certification shall be submitted to:

Order Compliance Team  
Enforcement Division, MC 149A  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

with a copy to:

Air Section Manager  
Houston Regional Office  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
5425 Polk Street, Suite H  
Houston, Texas 77023-1452



3. All relief not expressly granted in this Order is denied.
4. The duties and provisions imposed by this Order shall apply to and be binding upon the Respondent. The Respondent is ordered to give notice of this Order to personnel who maintain day-to-day control over the Plant operations referenced in this Order.
5. If the Respondent fails to comply with any of the Ordering Provisions in this Order within the prescribed schedules, and that failure is caused solely by an act of God, war, strike, riot, or other catastrophe, the Respondent's failure to comply is not a violation of this Order. The Respondent shall have the burden of establishing to the Executive Director's satisfaction that such an event has occurred. The Respondent shall notify the Executive Director within seven days after the Respondent becomes aware of a delaying event and shall take all reasonable measures to mitigate and minimize any delay.
6. The Executive Director may grant an extension of any deadline in this Order or in any plan, report, or other document submitted pursuant to this Order, upon a written and substantiated showing of good cause. All requests for extensions by the Respondent shall be made in writing to the Executive Director. Extensions are not effective until the Respondent receives written approval from the Executive Director. The determination of what constitutes good cause rests solely with the Executive Director. Extension requests shall be sent to the Order Compliance Team at the address listed above.
7. This Order, issued by the Commission, shall not be admissible against the Respondent in a civil proceeding, unless the proceeding is brought by the OAG to: (1) enforce the terms of this Order; or (2) pursue violations of a statute within the Commission's jurisdiction, or of a rule adopted or an order or permit issued by the Commission under such a statute.
8. This Order may be executed in separate and multiple counterparts, which together shall constitute a single instrument. Any page of this Order may be copied, scanned, digitized, converted to electronic portable document format ("pdf"), or otherwise reproduced and may be transmitted by digital or electronic transmission, including but not limited to facsimile transmission and electronic mail. Any signature affixed to this Order shall constitute an original signature for all purposes and may be used, filed, substituted, or issued for any purpose for which an original signature could be used. The term "signature" shall include manual signatures and true and accurate reproductions of manual signatures created, executed, endorsed, adopted, or authorized by the person or persons to whom the signatures are attributable. Signatures may be copied or reproduced digitally, electronically, by photocopying, engraving, imprinting, lithographing, electronic mail, facsimile transmission, stamping, or any other means or process which the Executive Director deems acceptable. In this paragraph exclusively, the terms: electronic transmission, owner, person, writing, and written, shall have the meanings assigned to them under TEX. BUS. ORG. CODE § 1.002.
9. The effective date of this Order is the date it is signed by the Commission. A copy of this fully executed Order shall be provided to each of the parties.

## SIGNATURE PAGE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

For the Commission

Date

For the Executive Director

Date

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the attached Order. I am authorized to agree to the attached Order, and I do agree to the terms and conditions specified therein. I further acknowledge that the TCEQ, in accepting payment for the penalty amount, is materially relying on such representation.

I also understand that failure to comply with the Ordering Provisions, if any, in this Order and/or failure to timely pay the penalty amount, may result in:

- A negative impact on compliance history;
- Greater scrutiny of any permit applications submitted;
- Referral of this case to the Attorney General's Office for contempt, injunctive relief, additional penalties, and/or attorney fees, or to a collection agency;
- Increased penalties in any future enforcement actions;
- Automatic referral to the Attorney General's Office of any future enforcement actions; and
- TCEQ seeking other relief as authorized by law.

In addition, any falsification of any compliance documents may result in criminal prosecution.

Signature

Date

Name (Printed or typed)

Title

Authorized Representative of  
SYNTECH CHEMICALS INC.

☐ If mailing address has changed, please check this box and provide the new address below:

Jon Niermann, *Chairman*  
Emily Lindley, *Commissioner*  
Toby Baker, *Executive Director*



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

September 6, 2019

Mr. James Gordon, President  
SYNTECH CHEMICALS INC.  
14822 Hooper Road  
Houston, Texas 77047

Re: TCEQ Enforcement Action  
SYNTECH CHEMICALS INC.  
Docket No. 2018-1748-AIR-E

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Enclosed for your records is a fully-executed copy of the Agreed Order for the above-referenced matter.

Please review the enclosed Agreed Order, particularly the "Ordering Provisions" section, to determine if further action will be required of you, such as the completion of technical requirements to achieve compliance. When technical requirements are listed (usually Ordering Provision No. 2 or 3), a deadline will be provided based on a specific number of days after the effective date. The effective date is as stated in the enclosed Agreed Order.

Should you have any questions, please contact Soraya Bun, the Enforcement Coordinator assigned to this matter, at (713) 422-8912.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Parrish".

Michael Parrish  
Enforcement Division

Enclosure

cc: Soraya Bun, Enforcement Division  
Air Section Manager, Region 12