

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - ENFORCEMENT MATTER** Page 1 of 2  
**DOCKET NO.:** 2008-1827-PST-E **TCEQ ID:** RN101682854 **CASE NO.:** 36870  
**RESPONDENT NAME:** Linda Correa Garcia

<b>ORDER TYPE:</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1660 AGREED ORDER	<input type="checkbox"/> FINDINGS AGREED ORDER	<input type="checkbox"/> FINDINGS ORDER FOLLOWING SOAH HEARING
<input type="checkbox"/> FINDINGS DEFAULT ORDER	<input type="checkbox"/> SHUTDOWN ORDER	<input type="checkbox"/> IMMINENT AND SUBSTANTIAL ENDANGERMENT ORDER
<input type="checkbox"/> AMENDED ORDER	<input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY ORDER	
<b>CASE TYPE:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input type="checkbox"/> MULTI-MEDIA (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE
<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PETROLEUM STORAGE TANKS	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATION
<input type="checkbox"/> WATER QUALITY	<input type="checkbox"/> SEWAGE SLUDGE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL
<input type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE	<input type="checkbox"/> RADIOACTIVE WASTE	<input type="checkbox"/> DRY CLEANER REGISTRATION
<p><b>SITE WHERE VIOLATION(S) OCCURRED:</b> Vacant lot FKA Garzas Convenience store, 32608 Farm-to-Market Road 106, Rio Hondo, Cameron County</p> <p><b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> Vacant convenience store</p> <p><b>SMALL BUSINESS:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>OTHER SIGNIFICANT MATTERS:</b> There are no complaints. There is no record of additional pending enforcement actions regarding this facility location.</p> <p><b>INTERESTED PARTIES:</b> No one other than the ED and the Respondent has expressed an interest in this matter.</p> <p><b>COMMENTS RECEIVED:</b> The <i>Texas Register</i> comment period expired on May 4, 2009. No comments were received.</p> <p><b>CONTACTS AND MAILING LIST:</b>  <b>TCEQ Attorney/SEP Coordinator:</b> None  <b>TCEQ Enforcement Coordinator:</b> Ms. Suzanne Walrath, Enforcement Division, Enforcement Team 4, MC 149, (512) 239-2134; Ms. Cari-Michel La Caille, Enforcement Division, MC 219, (512) 239-1387  <b>Respondent:</b> Ms. Linda Correa Garcia, Owner, 2014 East Austin Avenue, Harlingen, Texas 78550  <b>Respondent's Attorney:</b> Mr. Nemecio E. Lopez, Attorney at Law, 1314 East Harrison, Harlingen, Texas 78550</p>		

**VIOLATION SUMMARY CHART:**

VIOLATION INFORMATION	PENALTY CONSIDERATIONS	CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TAKEN/REQUIRED
<p><b>Type of Investigation:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Complaint  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Routine  <input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement Follow-up  <input type="checkbox"/> Records Review</p> <p><b>Date(s) of Complaints Relating to this Case:</b> None</p> <p><b>Date of Investigation Relating to this Case:</b>                      October 14, 2008</p> <p><b>Date of NOV/NOE Relating to this Case:</b>                      November 7, 2008 (NOE)</p> <p><b>Background Facts:</b> This was a routine investigation.</p> <p><b>WASTE</b></p> <p>Failure to permanently remove from service, no later than 60 days after the prescribed upgrade implementation date, an underground storage tank ("UST") system for which any applicable component of the system is not brought into timely compliance with the upgrade requirements [30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.47(a)(2)].</p>	<p><b>Total Assessed:</b> \$5,500</p> <p><b>Total Deferred:</b> \$1,100  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expedited Settlement  <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Inability to Pay</p> <p><b>SEP Conditional Offset:</b> \$0</p> <p><b>Total Paid (Due) to General Revenue:</b> \$130                      (remaining \$4,270 due in 35 monthly payments of \$122 each)</p> <p><b>Site Compliance History Classification</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Poor</p> <p><b>Person Compliance History Classification</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Poor</p> <p><b>Major Source:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>Applicable Penalty Policy:</b> September 2002</p>	<p><b>Ordering Provisions:</b></p> <p>The Order will require the Respondent to:</p> <p>a. Within 30 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, permanently remove the UST system from service; and</p> <p>b. Within 45 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, submit written certification and include detailed supporting documentation including photographs, receipts, and/or other records to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provision a.</p>

Additional ID No(s): 47077



# Penalty Calculation Worksheet (PCW)

Policy Revision 2 (September 2002)

PCW Revision October 30, 2008

TCEQ

DATES	Assigned	17-Nov-2008	Screening	26-Nov-2008	EPA Due	
	PCW	16-Dec-2008				

<b>RESPONDENT/FACILITY INFORMATION</b>			
Respondent	Linda Correa Garcia		
Reg. Ent. Ref. No.	RN101682854		
Facility/Site Region	15	Major/Minor Source	Minor

<b>CASE INFORMATION</b>			
Enf./Case ID No.	36870	No. of Violations	1
Docket No.	2008-1827-PST-E	Order Type	1660
Media Program(s)	Petroleum Storage Tank	Government/Non-Profit	No
Multi-Media		Enf. Coordinator	Suzanne Walrath
		EC's Team	Enforcement Team 4
Admin. Penalty \$ Limit Minimum	\$0	Maximum	\$10,000

## Penalty Calculation Section

**TOTAL BASE PENALTY (Sum of violation base penalties)** **Subtotal 1**

### ADJUSTMENTS (+/-) TO SUBTOTAL 1

Subtotals 2-7 are obtained by multiplying the Total Base Penalty (Subtotal 1) by the indicated percentage.

**Compliance History**  Enhancement **Subtotals 2, 3, & 7**

Notes

**Culpability**   Enhancement **Subtotal 4**

Notes

**Good Faith Effort to Comply Total Adjustments** **Subtotal 5**

**Economic Benefit**  Enhancement\* **Subtotal 6**

Total EB Amounts    
 Approx. Cost of Compliance    
 \*Capped at the Total EB \$ Amount

**SUM OF SUBTOTALS 1-7** **Final Subtotal**

**OTHER FACTORS AS JUSTICE MAY REQUIRE**  **Adjustment**

Reduces or enhances the Final Subtotal by the indicated percentage.

Notes

**Final Penalty Amount**

**STATUTORY LIMIT ADJUSTMENT** **Final Assessed Penalty**

**DEFERRAL**  Reduction **Adjustment**

Reduces the Final Assessed Penalty by the indicted percentage. (Enter number only; e.g. 20 for 20% reduction.)

Notes

**PAYABLE PENALTY**

Screening Date 26-Nov-2008

Docket No. 2008-1827-PST-E

PCW

Respondent Linda Correa Garcia

Policy Revision 2 (September 2002)

Case ID No. 36870

PCW Revision October 30, 2008

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN101682854

Media [Statute] Petroleum Storage Tank

Enf. Coordinator Suzanne Walrath

### Compliance History Worksheet

>> Compliance History Site Enhancement (Subtotal 2)

Component	Number of...	Enter Number Here	Adjust.
NOVs	Written NOVs with same or similar violations as those in the current enforcement action (number of NOVs meeting criteria)	2	10%
	Other written NOVs	0	0%
Orders	Any agreed final enforcement orders containing a denial of liability (number of orders meeting criteria)	0	0%
	Any adjudicated final enforcement orders, agreed final enforcement orders without a denial of liability, or default orders of this state or the federal government, or any final prohibitory emergency orders issued by the commission	0	0%
Judgments and Consent Decrees	Any non-adjudicated final court judgments or consent decrees containing a denial of liability of this state or the federal government (number of judgements or consent decrees meeting criteria)	0	0%
	Any adjudicated final court judgments and default judgments, or non-adjudicated final court judgments or consent decrees without a denial of liability, of this state or the federal government	0	0%
Convictions	Any criminal convictions of this state or the federal government (number of counts)	0	0%
Emissions	Chronic excessive emissions events (number of events)	0	0%
Audits	Letters notifying the executive director of an intended audit conducted under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 (number of audits for which notices were submitted)	0	0%
	Disclosures of violations under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 (number of audits for which violations were disclosed)	0	0%
<i>Please Enter Yes or No</i>			
Other	Environmental management systems in place for one year or more	No	0%
	Voluntary on-site compliance assessments conducted by the executive director under a special assistance program	No	0%
	Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program	No	0%
	Early compliance with, or offer of a product that meets future state or federal government environmental requirements	No	0%

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 2) 10%

>> Repeat Violator (Subtotal 3)

No

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 3) 0%

>> Compliance History Person Classification (Subtotal 7)

Average Performer

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 7) 0%

>> Compliance History Summary

Compliance History Notes

Enhancement for two Notices of Violation for same or similar violations.

Total Adjustment Percentage (Subtotals 2, 3, & 7) 10%

Screening Date 26-Nov-2008

Docket No. 2008-1827-PST-E

PCW

Respondent Linda Correa Garcia

Policy Revision 2 (September 2002)

Case ID No. 36870

PCW Revision October 30, 2008

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN101682854

Media [Statute] Petroleum Storage Tank

Enf. Coordinator Suzanne Walrath

Violation Number 1

Rule Cite(s) 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 334.47(a)(2)

Violation Description Failed to permanently remove from service, no later than 60 days after the prescribed upgrade implementation date, a UST system for which any applicable component of the system is not brought into timely compliance with the upgrade requirements.

Base Penalty \$10,000

>> Environmental, Property and Human Health Matrix

Table with columns: Release (Actual, Potential), Harm (Major, Moderate, Minor), Percent (25%). Includes 'OR' label.

>> Programmatic Matrix

Table with columns: Falsification, Major, Moderate, Minor, Percent (0%).

Matrix Notes Human health or the environment will or could be exposed to pollutants which would exceed levels that are protective of human health or environmental receptors as a result of the violation.

Adjustment \$7,500

\$2,500

Violation Events

Number of Violation Events 2 Number of violation days 44

Table for event frequency: daily, weekly, monthly (marked with X), quarterly, semiannual, annual, single event. Includes note 'mark only one with an x'.

Violation Base Penalty \$5,000

Two monthly events are recommended based on the period between the investigation date (October 14, 2008) and the screening date (November 26, 2008).

Good Faith Efforts to Comply

0.0% Reduction \$0

Table for Good Faith Efforts: Extraordinary, Ordinary, N/A (marked with X). Includes sub-columns for 'Before NOV' and 'NOV to EDPRP/Settlement Offer'.

Notes The Respondent does not meet the good faith criteria for this violation.

Violation Subtotal \$5,000

Economic Benefit (EB) for this violation

Statutory Limit Test

Estimated EB Amount \$815

Violation Final Penalty Total \$5,500

This violation Final Assessed Penalty (adjusted for limits) \$5,500

## Economic Benefit Worksheet

**Respondent** Linda Correa Garcia  
**Case ID No.** 36870  
**Reg. Ent. Reference No.** RN101682854  
**Media** Petroleum Storage Tank  
**Violation No.** 1

Percent Interest	Years of Depreciation
5.0	15

Item Description	Item Cost	Date Required	Final Date	Yrs	Interest Saved	Onetime Costs	EB Amount
No commas or \$							
<b>Delayed Costs</b>							
Equipment				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Buildings				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Engineering/construction				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Land				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Record Keeping System				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Training/Sampling				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Remediation/Disposal				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Permit Costs				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Other (as needed)	\$5,000	29-Mar-2006	1-Jul-2009	3.26	\$815	n/a	\$815

**Notes for DELAYED costs**  
 Estimated cost to permanently remove from service two USTs. The date required is the date the Respondent transferred the tanks into her name in the TCEQ petroleum storage tank database. Final Date is the estimated date of compliance.

Avoided Costs	ANNUALIZE [1] avoided costs before entering item (except for one-time avoided costs)						
Disposal				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personnel				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inspection/Reporting/Sampling				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies/equipment				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Financial Assurance [2]				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
ONE-TIME avoided costs [3]				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Notes for AVOIDED costs**  
 (Empty box for notes)

**Approx. Cost of Compliance** **\$5,000**
**TOTAL** **\$815**



F. Environmental audits.

N/A

G. Type of environmental management systems (EMSs).

N/A

H. Voluntary on-site compliance assessment dates.

N/A

I. Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program.

N/A

J. Early compliance.

N/A

Sites Outside of Texas

N/A

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



IN THE MATTER OF AN  
ENFORCEMENT ACTION  
CONCERNING  
LINDA CORREA GARCIA  
RN101682854

§  
§  
§  
§  
§

BEFORE THE  
TEXAS COMMISSION ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**AGREED ORDER**  
**DOCKET NO. 2008-1827-PST-E**

**I. JURISDICTION AND STIPULATIONS**

At its \_\_\_\_\_ agenda, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("the Commission" or "TCEQ") considered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement action regarding Linda Correa Garcia ("the Respondent") under the authority of TEX. WATER CODE chs. 7 and 26. The Executive Director of the TCEQ, through the Enforcement Division, and the Respondent, represented, appear before the Commission and together stipulate that:

1. The Respondent owns a vacant convenience store at 32608 Farm-to-Market Road 106 in Rio Hondo, Cameron County, Texas (the "Facility").
2. The Respondent's two underground storage tanks ("USTs") are not exempt or excluded from regulation under the Texas Water Code or the rules of the Commission.
3. The Commission and the Respondent agree that the Commission has jurisdiction to enter this Agreed Order, and that the Respondent is subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.
4. The Respondent received notice of the violations alleged in Section II ("Allegations") on or about November 12, 2008.
5. The occurrence of any violation is in dispute and the entry of this Agreed Order shall not constitute an admission by the Respondent of any violation alleged in Section II ("Allegations"), nor of any statute or rule.
6. An administrative penalty in the amount of Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500) is assessed by the Commission in settlement of the violations alleged in Section II ("Allegations"). The Respondent has paid One Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$130) of the administrative penalty and One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100) is deferred contingent upon the Respondent's timely and satisfactory compliance with all the terms of this Agreed Order. The deferred amount

will be waived upon full compliance with the terms of this Agreed Order. If the Respondent fails to timely and satisfactorily comply with all requirements of this Agreed Order, the Executive Director may require the Respondent to pay all or part of the deferred penalty.

The remaining amount of Four Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$4,270) of the administrative penalty shall be payable in 35 monthly payments of One Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars (\$122) each. The next monthly payment shall be paid within 30 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order. The subsequent payments shall each be paid not later than 30 days following the due date of the previous payment until paid in full. If the Respondent fails to timely and satisfactorily comply with the payment requirements of this Agreed Order, the Executive Director may, at the Executive Director's option, accelerate the maturity of the remaining installments, in which event the unpaid balance shall become immediately due and payable without demand or notice. In addition, the failure of the Respondent to meet the payment schedule of this Agreed Order constitutes the failure by the Respondent to timely and satisfactorily comply with all the terms of this Agreed

7. 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.
8. The Executive Director of the TCEQ and the Respondent have agreed on a settlement of the matters alleged in this enforcement action, subject to the approval of the Commission.
9. 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 Agreed Order.
10. This Agreed Order shall terminate five years from its effective date or upon compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreed Order, whichever is later.
11. The provisions of this Agreed Order are deemed severable and, if a court of competent jurisdiction or other appropriate authority deems any provision of this Agreed Order unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be valid and enforceable.

## II. ALLEGATIONS

As owner of the Facility, the Respondent is alleged to have failed to permanently remove from service, no later than 60 days after the prescribed upgrade implementation date, a UST system for which any applicable component of the system is not brought into timely compliance with the upgrade requirements, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.47(a)(2), as documented during an investigation conducted on October 14, 2008.

## III. DENIALS

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

#### IV. ORDERING PROVISIONS

1. It is, therefore, ordered by the TCEQ that the Respondent pay an administrative penalty as set forth in Section I, Paragraph 6 above. The payment of this administrative penalty and the Respondent's compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreed 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. Administrative penalty payments shall be made payable to "TCEQ" and shall be sent with the notation "Re: Linda Correa Garcia, Docket No. 2008-1827-PST-E" to:

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

2. It is further ordered that the Respondent shall undertake the following technical requirements:
  - a. Within 30 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, permanently remove the UST system from service, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.55; and
  - b. Within 45 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, submit written certification as described below, and include detailed supporting documentation including photographs, receipts, and/or other records to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provision No. 2.a. The certification shall be notarized by a State of Texas Notary Public and 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 fine 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:

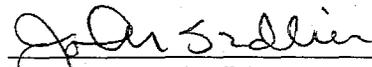
Waste Section, Manager  
Harlingen Regional Office  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
1804 West Jefferson Avenue  
Harlingen Texas 78550-5247

3. The provisions of this Agreed Order shall apply to and be binding upon the Respondent. The Respondent is ordered to give notice of the Agreed Order to personnel who maintain day-to-day control over the Facility operations referenced in this Agreed Order.
4. If the Respondent fails to comply with any of the Ordering Provisions in this Agreed 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 Agreed 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.
5. The Executive Director may grant an extension of any deadline in this Agreed Order or in any plan, report, or other document submitted pursuant to this Agreed 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.
6. This Agreed 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 Agreed 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.
7. This agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, which together shall constitute a single original instrument. Any executed signature page to this Agreement may be transmitted by facsimile transmission to the other parties, which shall constitute an original signature for all purposes.
8. Under 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.10(b), the effective date is the date of hand-delivery of the Order to the Respondent, or three days after the date on which the Commission mails notice of the Order to the Respondent, whichever is earlier. The Chief Clerk shall provide a copy of this Agreed Order to each of the parties.

## SIGNATURE PAGE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Executive Director

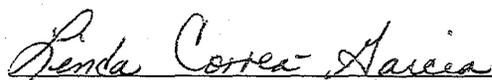
4/2/2009  
Date

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the attached Agreed Order. I am authorized to agree to the attached Agreed Order on behalf of the entity indicated below my signature, 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

2/26/09  
Date

Linda Correa-Garcia  
Name (Printed or typed)  
Authorized Representative of  
Linda Correa Garcia

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**Instructions:** Send the original, signed Agreed Order with penalty payment to the Financial Administration Division, Revenues Section at the address in Section IV, Paragraph 1 of this Agreed Order.

