

Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 42032
LN CORPORATION dba Almeda Food Store
RN104208889
Docket No. 2011-1148-PST-E

Order Type:

1660 Agreed Order

Findings Order Justification:

N/A

Media:

PST

Small Business:

Yes

Location(s) Where Violation(s) Occurred:

Almeda Food Store, 9418 Almeda Genoa Road, Houston, Harris County

Type of Operation:

Convenience store with retail sales of gasoline

Other Significant Matters:

Additional Pending Enforcement Actions: No

Past-Due Penalties: No

Other: N/A

Interested Third-Parties: None

Texas Register Publication Date: September 30, 2011

Comments Received: No

Penalty Information

Total Penalty Assessed: \$4,500

Amount Deferred for Expedited Settlement: \$900

Amount Deferred for Financial Inability to Pay: \$0

Total Paid to General Revenue: \$150

Total Due to General Revenue: \$3,450

Payment Plan: 23 payments of \$150 each

SEP Conditional Offset: \$0

Name of SEP: N/A

Compliance History Classifications:

Person/CN - High

Site/RN - High

Major Source: Yes

Statutory Limit Adjustment: N/A

Applicable Penalty Policy: September 2002

**Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 42032
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RN104208889
Docket No. 2011-1148-PST-E**

Investigation Information

Complaint Date(s): N/A
Complaint Information: N/A
Date(s) of Investigation: June 29, 2011
Date(s) of NOE(s): June 29, 2011

Violation Information

Failed to monitor the underground storage tanks (“USTs”) for releases at a frequency of at least once every month (not to exceed 35 days between each monitoring) [30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50(b)(1)(A) and TEX. WATER CODE § 26.3475(c)(1)].

Corrective Actions/Technical Requirements

Corrective Action(s) Completed:

N/A

Technical Requirements:

The Order will require the Respondent to:

- a. Within 30 days, implement a release detection method for the USTs at the Facility; and
- b. Within 45 days, submit written certification demonstrating compliance.

Litigation Information

Date Petition(s) Filed: N/A
Date Answer(s) Filed: N/A
SOAH Referral Date: N/A
Hearing Date(s): N/A
Settlement Date: N/A

Contact Information

TCEQ Attorney: N/A
TCEQ Enforcement Coordinator: Kimberly Walker, Enforcement Division, Enforcement Team 6, MC 128, (512) 239-2596; Debra Barber, Enforcement Division, MC 219, (512) 239-0412
TCEQ SEP Coordinator: N/A
Respondent: Quang Nguyen, Owner, LN CORPORATION, 9418 Almeda Genoa Road, Houston, Texas 77075
Respondent's Attorney: N/A



Penalty Calculation Worksheet (PCW)

Policy Revision 2 (September 2002)

PCW Revision October 30, 2008

TCEQ

DATES	Assigned	29-Jun-2011	Screening	7-Jul-2011	EPA Due	
	PCW	7-Jul-2011				

RESPONDENT/FACILITY INFORMATION

Respondent	LN CORPORATION dba Alameda Food Store				
Reg. Ent. Ref. No.	RN104208889				
Facility/Site Region	12-Houston	Major/Minor Source	Major		

CASE INFORMATION

Enf./Case ID No.	42032	No. of Violations	1
Docket No.	2011-1148-PST-E	Order Type	1660
Media Program(s)	Petroleum Storage Tank	Government/Non-Profit	No
Multi-Media		Enf. Coordinator	Dora Smith
		EC's Team	Enforcement Team 7
Admin. Penalty \$ Limit Minimum	\$0	Maximum	\$10,000

Penalty Calculation Section

TOTAL BASE PENALTY (Sum of violation base penalties)	Subtotal 1	\$5,000
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ADJUSTMENTS (+/-) TO SUBTOTAL 1

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

Compliance History	-10.0% Reduction	Subtotals 2, 3, & 7	-\$500
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Notes: Reduction for High Performer classification.

Culpability	No	0.0% Enhancement	Subtotal 4	\$0
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Notes: The Respondent does not meet the culpability criteria.

Good Faith Effort to Comply Total Adjustments	Subtotal 5	\$0
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Economic Benefit	0.0% Enhancement*	Subtotal 6	\$0
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Total EB Amounts	\$58
Approx. Cost of Compliance	\$1,500

*Capped at the Total EB \$ Amount

SUM OF SUBTOTALS 1-7	Final Subtotal	\$4,500
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OTHER FACTORS AS JUSTICE MAY REQUIRE	0.0%	Adjustment	\$0
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Reduces or enhances the Final Subtotal by the indicated percentage.

Notes:

Final Penalty Amount	\$4,500
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STATUTORY LIMIT ADJUSTMENT	Final Assessed Penalty	\$4,500
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DEFERRAL	20.0% Reduction	Adjustment	-\$900
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Reduces the Final Assessed Penalty by the indicated percentage. (Enter number only; e.g. 20 for 20% reduction.)

Notes:

Deferral offered for expedited settlement.

PAYABLE PENALTY	\$3,600
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Screening Date 7-Jul-2011

Docket No. 2011-1148-PST-E

PCW

Respondent LN CORPORATION dba Almeda Food Store

Policy Revision 2 (September 2002)

Case ID No. 42032

PCW Revision October 30, 2008

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN104208889

Media [Statute] Petroleum Storage Tank

Enf. Coordinator Dora Smith

Compliance History Worksheet

>> Compliance History Site Enhancement (Subtotal 2)

Component	Number of...	Enter Number Here	Adjust.
NOVs	Written notices of violation ("NOVs") with same or similar violations as those in the current enforcement action (<i>number of NOVs meeting criteria</i>)	0	0%
	Other written NOVs	0	0%
Orders	Any agreed final enforcement orders containing a denial of liability (<i>number of orders meeting criteria</i>)	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 (<i>number of judgements or consent decrees meeting criteria</i>)	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 (<i>number of counts</i>)	0	0%
Emissions	Chronic excessive emissions events (<i>number of events</i>)	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 (<i>number of audits for which notices were submitted</i>)	0	0%
	Disclosures of violations under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 (<i>number of audits for which violations were disclosed</i>)	0	0%

Please Enter Yes or No

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) 0%

>> Repeat Violator (Subtotal 3)

No

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 3) 0%

>> Compliance History Person Classification (Subtotal 7)

High Performer

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 7) -10%

>> Compliance History Summary

Compliance History Notes

Reduction for High Performer classification.

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

Screening Date 7-Jul-2011

Docket No. 2011-1148-PST-E

PCW

Respondent LN CORPORATION dba Almeda Food Store

Policy Revision 2 (September 2002)

Case ID No. 42032

PCW Revision October 30, 2008

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN104208889

Media [Statute] Petroleum Storage Tank

Enf. Coordinator Dora Smith

Violation Number 1

Rule Cite(s) 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 334.50(b)(1)(A) and Tex. Water Code § 26.3475(c)(1)

Violation Description Failed to monitor the underground storage tanks ("USTs") for releases at a frequency of at least once every month (not to exceed 35 days between each monitoring).

Base Penalty \$10,000

>> Environmental, Property and Human Health Matrix

OR

Release	Harm			Percent
	Major	Moderate	Minor	
Actual				50%
Potential	x			

>> Programmatic Matrix

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 \$5,000

\$5,000

Violation Events

Number of Violation Events 1 Number of violation days 8

mark only one with an x	daily	
	weekly	
	monthly	x
	quarterly	
	semiannual	
	annual	
	single event	

Violation Base Penalty \$5,000

One monthly event is recommended from the June 29, 2011 record review date to the July 7, 2011 screening date.

Good Faith Efforts to Comply

0.0% Reduction

\$0

	Reduction	
	Before NOV	NOV to EDPRP/Settlement Offer
Extraordinary		
Ordinary		
N/A	x	(mark with x)

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 \$58

Violation Final Penalty Total \$4,500

This violation Final Assessed Penalty (adjusted for limits) \$4,500

Economic Benefit Worksheet

Respondent LN CORPORATION dba Alameda Food Store
Case ID No. 42032
Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN104208889
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 \$							

Delayed Costs

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)	\$1,500	29-Jun-2011	7-Apr-2012	0.78	\$58	n/a	\$58

Notes for DELAYED costs

Estimated cost to provide release detection for the USTs at the Facility. The Date Required is the record review date and the Final Date is the expected 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

Approx. Cost of Compliance

\$1,500

TOTAL

\$58

Compliance History

Customer/Respondent/Owner-Operator: CN602851537 LN CORPORATION Classification: HIGH Rating: 0.00
Regulated Entity: RN104208889 Almeda Food Store Classification: HIGH Site Rating: 0.00

ID Number(s): PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK REGISTRATION 76386
REGISTRATION

Location: 9418 Almeda Genoa Road, Houston, TX, 77075

TCEQ Region: REGION 12 - HOUSTON

Date Compliance History Prepared: July 06, 2011

Agency Decision Requiring Compliance History: Enforcement

Compliance Period: July 06, 2006 to July 06, 2011

TCEQ Staff Member to Contact for Additional Information Regarding this Compliance History

Name: Dora Smith Phone: (512) 239-2583

Site Compliance History Components

1. Has the site been in existence and/or operation for the full five year compliance period? Yes
2. Has there been a (known) change in ownership/operator of the site during the compliance period? No
3. If Yes, who is the current owner/operator? N/A
4. If Yes, who was/were the prior owner(s)/operator(s)? N/A
5. When did the change(s) in owner or operator occur? N/A
6. Rating Date: 9/1/2010 Repeat Violator: NO

Components (Multimedia) for the Site :

- A. Final Enforcement Orders, court judgments, and consent decrees of the State of Texas and the federal government.
N/A
- B. Any criminal convictions of the state of Texas and the federal government.
N/A
- C. Chronic excessive emissions events.
N/A
- D. The approval dates of investigations. (CCEDS Inv. Track. No.)

1 02/23/2009 (736000)

2 06/29/2011 (906051)
- E. Written notices of violations (NOV). (CCEDS Inv. Track. No.)
N/A
- 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
LN CORPORATION DBA
ALMEDA FOOD STORE
RN104208889

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BEFORE THE
TEXAS COMMISSION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AGREED ORDER
DOCKET NO. 2011-1148-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 LN CORPORATION dba Almeda Food Store ("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, appear before the Commission and together stipulate that:

1. The Respondent owns and operates a convenience store with retail sales of gasoline at 9418 Almeda Genoa Road in Houston, Harris 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 July 5, 2011.
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 Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500) is assessed by the Commission in settlement of the violations alleged in Section II ("Allegations"). The Respondent has paid One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150) of the administrative penalty and Nine Hundred Dollars (\$900) is deferred contingent upon the Respondent's timely and satisfactory compliance with all the terms of this Agreed Order. If the Respondent fails to timely and satisfactorily comply with all requirements of this Agreed Order, including the payment schedule, the Executive Director may require the Respondent to pay all or part of the deferred penalty.

The remaining amount of Three Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$3,450) of the administrative penalty shall be payable in 23 monthly payments of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150) each. The next monthly payment shall be paid within 30 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order. The subsequent payments shall 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 Order.

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 and operator of the Facility, the Respondent is alleged to have failed to monitor the USTs for releases at a frequency of at least once every month (not to exceed 35 days between each monitoring), in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50(b)(1)(A) and TEX. WATER CODE § 26.3475(c)(1), as documented during a record review conducted on June 29, 2011.

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: LN CORPORATION dba Almeda Food Store, Docket No. 2011-1148-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, implement a release detection method for the USTs at the Facility, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50; 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 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:

Waste Section Manager
Houston Regional Office
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
5425 Polk Avenue, Suite H
Houston, Texas 77023-1486

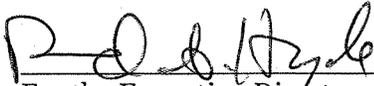
3. The provisions of this Agreed Order shall apply to and be binding upon the Respondent. The Respondent is ordered to give notice of the Agreed Order to personnel who maintain day-to-day control over the Facility operations referenced in this Agreed Order.
4. If the Respondent fails to comply with any 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 Agreed Order may be executed in separate and multiple counterparts, which together shall constitute a single instrument. Any page of this Agreed 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 Agreed 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.

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

10/16/11

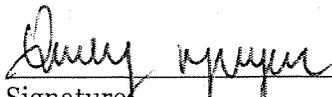
Date

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

8-23-11

Date

QUANG - NGUYEN

Name (Printed or typed)
Authorized Representative of
LN CORPORATION dba Alameda Food Store

OWNER

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.