

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – ENFORCEMENT MATTER – CASE NO. 49462  
TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80  
RN102443900  
Docket No. 2014-1505-PST-E

**Order Type:**

Default Shutdown Order

**Media:**

Petroleum Storage Tanks (PST)

**Small Business:**

Yes

**Location(s) Where Violation(s) Occurred:**

12251 Jones Road, Houston, Harris County

**Type of Operation:**

convenience store with retail sales of gasoline

**Other Significant Matters:**

Additional Pending Enforcement Actions: Case no. 50712 (RN102441599; screened June 23, 2015)  
Past-Due Penalties: None  
Past-Due Fees: None  
Other: None  
Interested Third-Parties: None

**Texas Register Publication Date:** June 5, 2015

**Comments Received:** None

**Penalty Information**

**Total Penalty Assessed:** \$35,100

**Total Paid to General Revenue:** \$0

**Total Due to General Revenue:** \$35,100

**Compliance History Classifications:**

Person/CN – Satisfactory  
Site/RN – High

**Major Source:** No

**Statutory Limit Adjustment:** None

**Applicable Penalty Policy:** April 2014

**Investigation Information**

**Complaint Date(s):** N/A  
**Date(s) of Investigation:** August 25, 2014  
**Date(s) of NOV(s):** N/A  
**Date(s) of NOE(s):** October 2, 2014

**Violation Information**

1. Failed to report a suspected release to the TCEQ within 24 hours of discovery [30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.72].
2. Failed to investigate a suspected release of regulated substance within 30 days of discovery [30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.74].
3. 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) [TEX. WATER CODE § 26.3475(c)(1) and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50(b)(1)(A)].

**Corrective Actions/Technical Requirements**

**Corrective Action(s) Completed:**  
None

**Technical Requirements:**

1. Immediately shut down operations of all USTs at the Facility:
  - a. Cease dispensing fuel from the USTs;
  - b. Cease receiving deliveries of regulated substances into the USTs;
  - c. Padlock the dispensers;
  - d. Empty the USTs of all regulated substances; and
  - e. Temporarily remove the USTs from service.
2. The USTs shall remain out of service until such time as Respondent demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Executive Director that the violations have been corrected and Respondent obtains a new fuel delivery certificate for the Facility.
3. The Facility's UST fuel delivery certificate is revoked immediately. Respondent may submit an application for a new fuel delivery certificate only after Respondent has complied with all of the requirements set forth in the Order, including payment of the administrative penalty.
4. Immediately upon the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall cease accepting fuel at the Facility until such time as a valid delivery certificate is obtained from the TCEQ.
5. Within 10 days, Respondent shall surrender the Facility's UST fuel delivery certificate to the TCEQ.
6. Within 15 days, submit a detailed written report documenting the steps taken to comply with Technical Requirements Nos. 1, 4 and 5.
7. Prior to receiving deliveries of gasoline and resuming retail sales of gasoline:
  - a. Establish and implement a process for reporting a suspected release;
  - b. Conduct an investigation of the suspected release and implement appropriate corrective measures;
  - c. Implement a release detection method for the USTs; and
  - d. Obtain a new fuel delivery certificate.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – ENFORCEMENT MATTER – CASE NO. 49462**  
**TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80**  
**RN102443900**  
**Docket No. 2014-1505-PST-E**

8. Upon obtaining a new fuel delivery certificate, post the fuel delivery certificate in a location at the Facility where the delivery certificate is clearly visible at all times.
9. Within 10 days of resuming sales of gasoline, submit written certification to demonstrate compliance with Technical Requirements Nos. 7 and 8.

**Litigation Information**

**Date Petition(s) Filed:** February 20, 2015; February 23, 2015; March 27, 2015  
**Date Green Card(s) Signed:** February 23, 2015; February 25, 2015; March 30, 2015  
**Date Answer(s) Filed:** N/A

**Contact Information**

**TCEQ Attorneys:** Ryan Rutledge, Litigation Division, (512) 239-3400  
Lena Roberts, Litigation Division, (512) 239-3400  
Rudy Calderon, Public Interest Counsel, (512) 239-6363  
**TCEQ Enforcement Coordinator:** John Fennell, Enforcement Division, (512) 239-2616  
**TCEQ Regional Contact:** Jason Ybarra, Houston Regional Office, (713) 767-3615  
**Respondent Contact:** Shoukat Dhanani, President, TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc.,  
4415 Highway 6 South, Sugarland, Texas 77478  
**Respondent's Attorney:** N/A

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# Penalty Calculation Worksheet (PCW)

Policy Revision 4 (April 2014)

PCW Revision March 26, 2014

TCEQ

<b>DATES</b>	<b>Assigned</b>	6-Oct-2014		
	<b>PCW</b>	15-Jan-2015	<b>Screening</b>	9-Oct-2014
			<b>EPA Due</b>	

<b>RESPONDENT/FACILITY INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Respondent</b>	TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80
<b>Reg. Ent. Ref. No.</b>	RN102443900
<b>Facility/Site Region</b>	12-Houston
<b>Major/Minor Source</b>	Minor

<b>CASE INFORMATION</b>		<b>No. of Violations</b>	3
<b>Enf./Case ID No.</b>	49462	<b>Order Type</b>	1660
<b>Docket No.</b>	2014-1505-PST-E	<b>Government/Non-Profit</b>	No
<b>Media Program(s)</b>	Petroleum Storage Tank	<b>Enf. Coordinator</b>	John Fennell
<b>Multi-Media</b>		<b>EC's Team</b>	Enforcement Team 7
<b>Admin. Penalty \$ Limit Minimum</b>	\$0	<b>Maximum</b>	\$25,000

## Penalty Calculation Section

<b>TOTAL BASE PENALTY (Sum of violation base penalties)</b>	<b>Subtotal 1</b>	\$35,000
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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.

<b>Compliance History</b>	0.0% Enhancement	<b>Subtotals 2, 3, &amp; 7</b>	\$0
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Notes: No adjustment for compliance history.

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

<b>Good Faith Effort to Comply Total Adjustments</b>	<b>Subtotal 5</b>	\$0
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<b>Economic Benefit</b>	0.0% Enhancement*	<b>Subtotal 6</b>	\$0
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Total EB Amounts	\$642
Estimated Cost of Compliance	\$6,700

\*Capped at the Total EB \$ Amount

<b>SUM OF SUBTOTALS 1-7</b>	<b>Final Subtotal</b>	\$35,000
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<b>OTHER FACTORS AS JUSTICE MAY REQUIRE</b>	0.3%	<b>Adjustment</b>	\$100
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Reduces or enhances the Final Subtotal by the indicated percentage.

Notes: Recommended enhancement to capture the avoided cost of compliance associated with Violation No. 1.

<b>Final Penalty Amount</b>	\$35,100
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<b>STATUTORY LIMIT ADJUSTMENT</b>	<b>Final Assessed Penalty</b>	\$35,100
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<b>DEFERRAL</b>		Reduction	<b>Adjustment</b>	\$0
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Reduces the Final Assessed Penalty by the indicated percentage. (Enter number only; e.g. 20 for 20% reduction.)

Notes: Deferral not offered for non-expedited settlement.

<b>PAYABLE PENALTY</b>	\$35,100
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Screening Date 9-Oct-2014

Docket No. 2014-1505-PST-E

PCW

Respondent TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80

Policy Revision 4 (April 2014)

Case ID No. 49462

PCW Revision March 26, 2014

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN102443900

Media [Statute] Petroleum Storage Tank

Enf. Coordinator John Fennell

### 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 judgments 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%
<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)** 0%

#### >> Repeat Violator (Subtotal 3)

No

**Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 3)** 0%

#### >> Compliance History Person Classification (Subtotal 7)

Satisfactory Performer

**Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 7)** 0%

#### >> Compliance History Summary

Compliance History Notes

No adjustment for compliance history.

**Total Compliance History Adjustment Percentage (Subtotals 2, 3, & 7)** 0%

#### >> Final Compliance History Adjustment

**Final Adjustment Percentage \*capped at 100%** 0%

**Screening Date** 9-Oct-2014 **Docket No.** 2014-1505-PST-E **PCW**  
**Respondent** TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80 *Policy Revision 4 (April 2014)*  
**Case ID No.** 49462 *PCW Revision March 26, 2014*  
**Reg. Ent. Reference No.** RN102443900  
**Media [Statute]** Petroleum Storage Tank  
**Enf. Coordinator** John Fennell

**Violation Number**

**Rule Cite(s)**

**Violation Description**

**Base Penalty**

**>> Environmental, Property and Human Health Matrix**

OR	Release	Harm			Percent
		Major	Moderate	Minor	
	Actual	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0.0%"/>
	Potential	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

**>> Programmatic Matrix**

	Falsification	Major	Moderate	Minor	Percent
	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="text" value="x"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="5.0%"/>

**Matrix Notes**

**Adjustment**

**Violation Events**

Number of Violation Events  Number of violation days

*mark only one with an x*

daily	<input type="text"/>
weekly	<input type="text"/>
monthly	<input type="text"/>
quarterly	<input type="text"/>
semiannual	<input type="text"/>
annual	<input type="text"/>
single event	<input checked="" type="text" value="x"/>

**Violation Base Penalty**

**Good Faith Efforts to Comply**  Reduction

	Before NOE/NOV	NOE/NOV to EDRP/Settlement Offer
Extraordinary	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Ordinary	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
N/A	<input checked="" type="text" value="x"/>	(mark with x)

**Notes**

**Violation Subtotal**

**Economic Benefit (EB) for this violation** **Statutory Limit Test**

**Estimated EB Amount**  **Violation Final Penalty Total**

**This violation Final Assessed Penalty (adjusted for limits)**

## Economic Benefit Worksheet

**Respondent** TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80  
**Case ID No.** 49462  
**Reg. Ent. Reference No.** RN102443900  
**Media Violation No.** 1  
**Media** Petroleum Storage Tank

Percent Interest	Years of Depreciation
5.0	15

**Item Cost**   **Date Required**   **Final Date**   **Yrs**   **Interest Saved**   **Onetime Costs**   **EB Amount**  
**Item Description**   No commas or \$

### Delayed Costs

Item Description	Item Cost	Date Required	Final Date	Yrs	Interest Saved	Onetime Costs	EB Amount
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)	\$100	25-Aug-2014	3-Jul-2015	0.85	\$4	n/a	\$4

**Notes for DELAYED costs**   Estimated delayed cost to establish and implement procedures to report a suspected release. The Date Required is the investigation date. The Final Date is the estimated compliance date.

### Avoided Costs

**ANNUALIZE [1] avoided costs before entering item (except for one-time avoided costs)**

Item Description	Item Cost	Date Required	Final Date	Yrs	Interest Saved	Onetime Costs	EB Amount
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]	\$100	15-Jan-2014	16-Jan-2014	0.00	\$0	\$100	\$100
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Notes for AVOIDED costs**   Estimated avoided cost to report a suspected release. The Date Required is the date of the suspected release. The Final Date is the date the report was due.

Approx. Cost of Compliance   \$200

**TOTAL**   \$104

Screening Date 9-Oct-2014

Docket No. 2014-1505-PST-E

PCW

Respondent TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80

Case ID No. 49462

PCW Revision March 26, 2014

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN102443900

Media [Statute] Petroleum Storage Tank

Enf. Coordinator John Fennell

Violation Number 2

Rule Cite(s)

30Tex. Admin. Code § 334.74

Violation Description

Failed to investigate a suspected release of regulated substance within 30 days of discovery. Specifically, SIR records for tank no. 1 in December 2013 indicated a suspected release that was not investigated.

Base Penalty \$25,000

>> Environmental, Property and Human Health Matrix

OR

Release	Harm		
	Major	Moderate	Minor
Actual			
Potential	x		

Percent 15.0%

>> Programmatic Matrix

Falsification	Major	Moderate	Minor

Percent 0.0%

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 \$21,250

\$3,750

Violation Events

Number of Violation Events 8

237 Number of violation days

mark only one with an x

daily	
weekly	
monthly	x
quarterly	
semiannual	
annual	
single event	

Violation Base Penalty \$30,000

Eight monthly events are recommended based on documentation of the violation from the February 14, 2014 release investigation due date to the October 9, 2014 screening.

Good Faith Efforts to Comply

0.0%

Reduction \$0

	Before NOE/NOV	NOE/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 \$30,000

Economic Benefit (EB) for this violation

Statutory Limit Test

Estimated EB Amount \$345

Violation Final Penalty Total \$30,086

This violation Final Assessed Penalty (adjusted for limits) \$30,086

# Economic Benefit Worksheet

**Respondent** TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80  
**Case ID No.** 49462  
**Reg. Ent. Reference No.** RN102443900  
**Media Violation No.** Petroleum Storage Tank  
 2

Percent Interest	Years of Depreciation
5.0	15

**Item Cost**   **Date Required**   **Final Date**   **Yrs**   **Interest Saved**   **Onetime Costs**   **EB Amount**  
**Item Description**   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)	\$5,000	14-Feb-2014	3-Jul-2015	1.38	\$345	n/a	\$345

**Notes for DELAYED costs**   Estimated cost to investigate a suspected release. The Date Required is the date the release investigation was due. The 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**

Approx. Cost of Compliance   \$5,000

**TOTAL**   \$345

Screening Date 9-Oct-2014

Docket No. 2014-1505-PST-E

PCW

Respondent TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80

Case ID No. 49462

PCW Revision March 26, 2014

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN102443900

Media [Statute] Petroleum Storage Tank

Enf. Coordinator John Fennell

Violation Number 3

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 \$25,000

>> Environmental, Property and Human Health Matrix

OR

Release	Harm		
	Major	Moderate	Minor
Actual			
Potential	x		

Percent 15.0%

>> Programmatic Matrix

Falsification	Major	Moderate	Minor

Percent 0.0%

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 \$21,250

\$3,750

Violation Events

Number of Violation Events 1

46 Number of violation days

daily	
weekly	
monthly	
quarterly	x
semiannual	
annual	
single event	

mark only one with an x

Violation Base Penalty \$3,750

One quarterly event is recommended based on documentation of the violation from the August 25, 2014 investigation date to the October 10, 2014 screening date.

Good Faith Efforts to Comply

0.0%

Reduction \$0

Before NOE/NOV NOE/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 \$3,750

Economic Benefit (EB) for this violation

Statutory Limit Test

Estimated EB Amount \$64

Violation Final Penalty Total \$3,761

This violation Final Assessed Penalty (adjusted for limits) \$3,761

# Economic Benefit Worksheet

**Respondent** TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80  
**Case ID No.** 49462  
**Reg. Ent. Reference No.** RN102443900  
**Media Violation No.** Petroleum Storage Tank  
 3

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	25-Aug-2014	3-Jul-2015	0.85	\$64	n/a	\$64

**Notes for DELAYED costs**  
 Estimated cost to monitor the USTs for releases. The Date Required is the investigation date. The Final Date is the estimated compliance date.

### 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	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$64
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The TCEQ is committed to accessibility.

To request a more accessible version of this report, please contact the TCEQ Help Desk at (512) 239-4357.



# Compliance History Report

**PENDING** Compliance History Report for CN602533770, RN102443900, Rating Year 2014 which includes Compliance History (CH) components from September 1, 2009, through August 31, 2014.

**Customer, Respondent, or Owner/Operator:** CN602533770, TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. **Classification:** SATISFACTORY **Rating:** 1.66

**Regulated Entity:** RN102443900, Handi Stop 80 **Classification:** HIGH **Rating:** 0.00

**Complexity Points:** 4 **Repeat Violator:** NO

**CH Group:** 14 - Other

**Location:** 12251 JONES RD HOUSTON, TX 77070-5210, HARRIS COUNTY

**TCEQ Region:** REGION 12 - HOUSTON

**ID Number(s):** PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK REGISTRATION REGISTRATION 35132

**Compliance History Period:** September 01, 2009 to August 31, 2014 **Rating Year:** 2014 **Rating Date:** 09/01/2014

**Date Compliance History Report Prepared:** October 08, 2014

**Agency Decision Requiring Compliance History:** Enforcement

**Component Period Selected:** October 08, 2009 to October 08, 2014

**TCEQ Staff Member to Contact for Additional Information Regarding This Compliance History.**

**Name:** John Fennell

**Phone:** (512) 239-2616

## Site and Owner/Operator History:

- 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 for #2, who is the current owner/operator? N/A
- 4) If YES for #2, who was/were the prior owner(s)/operator(s)? N/A
- 5) If YES, when did the change(s) in owner or operator occur? N/A

## Components (Multimedia) for the Site Are Listed in Sections A - J

### **A. Final Orders, court judgments, and consent decrees:**

N/A

### **B. Criminal convictions:**

N/A

### **C. Chronic excessive emissions events:**

N/A

### **D. The approval dates of investigations (CCEDS Inv. Track. No.):**

Item 1 March 31, 2011 (895198)

Item 2 May 25, 2011 (899040)

### **E. Written notices of violations (NOV) (CCEDS Inv. Track. No.):**

A notice of violation represents a written allegation of a violation of a specific regulatory requirement from the commission to a regulated entity. A notice of violation is not a final enforcement action, nor proof that a violation has actually occurred.

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

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# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



**IN THE MATTER OF AN  
ENFORCEMENT ACTION  
CONCERNING  
TRISTAR CONVENIENCE  
STORES, INC.  
DBA HANDI STOP 80;  
RN102443900**

§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§

**BEFORE THE  
TEXAS COMMISSION ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

## **DEFAULT AND SHUTDOWN ORDER**

**DOCKET NO. 2014-1505-PST-E**

On \_\_\_\_\_, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("Commission" or "TCEQ") considered the Executive Director's Second Amended Report and Petition, filed pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE chs. 7 and 26 and the rules of the TCEQ, which requests appropriate relief, including the imposition of an administrative penalty, corrective action of the respondent, and revocation of the facility's fuel delivery certificate. The Commission also considered the Executive Director's Motion requesting the entry of an Order requiring the respondent to shut down and remove from service the underground storage tanks ("USTs") located at 12251 Jones Road in Houston, Harris County, Texas. The respondent made the subject of this Order is TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80 ("Respondent").

The Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent owns and operates, as defined in 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.2(73) and (70), a UST system and a convenience store with retail sales of gasoline located at 12251 Jones Road in Houston, Harris County, Texas (Facility ID No. 35132) (the "Facility"). The USTs at the Facility are not exempt or excluded from regulation under the Texas Water Code or the rules of the TCEQ, and contain a regulated petroleum substance as defined in the rules of the TCEQ.
2. During an investigation conducted on August 25, 2014, an investigator documented that Respondent:
  - a. Failed to report a suspected release to the TCEQ within 24 hours of discovery. Specifically, statistical inventory reconciliation ("SIR") records for tank no. 1 in December 2013 indicated a suspected release that was not reported;
  - b. Failed to investigate a suspected release of regulated substance within 30 days of discovery. Specifically, SIR records for tank no. 1 in December 2013 indicated a suspected release that was not investigated; and
  - c. Failed to monitor the USTs for releases at a frequency of at least once every month (not to exceed 35 days between each monitoring).
3. By letter dated October 2, 2014, the TCEQ Houston Regional Office provided Respondent with notice of the violations and of TCEQ's authority to shut down and remove from service USTs not in compliance with release detection, spill and/or overfill prevention, corrosion protection, and/or financial assurance requirements if the violations were not corrected.

4. The Executive Director filed the "Executive Director's Preliminary Report and Petition Recommending that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Enter an Enforcement Order Assessing an Administrative Penalty Against and Requiring Certain Actions of TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80" (the "EDPRP") in the TCEQ Chief Clerk's office on February 20, 2015.
5. By letter dated February 20, 2015, sent to Respondent's last known address via certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, the Executive Director served Respondent with notice of the EDPRP. According to the return receipt "green card," Respondent received notice of the EDPRP on February 23, 2015, as evidenced by the signature on the card.
6. The Executive Director filed the "Executive Director's First Amended Report and Petition Recommending that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Enter an Enforcement Order Assessing an Administrative Penalty Against and Requiring Certain Actions of TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80" (the "EDFARP") in the TCEQ Chief Clerk's office on February 23, 2015.
7. By letter dated February 23, 2015, sent to Respondent's last known address via certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, the Executive Director served Respondent with notice of the EDFARP. According to the return receipt "green card," Respondent received notice of the EDFARP on February 25, 2015, as evidenced by the signature on the card.
8. The Executive Director filed the "Executive Director's Second Amended Report and Petition Recommending that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Enter an Enforcement Order Assessing an Administrative Penalty Against and Requiring Certain Actions of TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80" (the "EDSARP") in the TCEQ Chief Clerk's office on March 27, 2015.
9. By letter dated March 27, 2015, sent to Respondent's last known address via certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, the Executive Director served Respondent with notice of the EDSARP. According to USPS.com "Track & Confirm" delivery confirmation records, Respondent received notice of the EDSARP on March 30, 2015.
10. More than 20 days have elapsed since Respondent received notice of the EDPRP, EDFARP, and the EDSARP. Respondent failed to file an answer and failed to request a hearing.
11. By letter dated May 8, 2015, the Executive Director provided Respondent with notice of TCEQ's intent to order the USTs at the Facility to be shut down and removed from service if Respondent failed to correct the release detection violation within 30 days after Respondent's receipt of the notice.
12. As of the date of entry of this Order, Respondent has not provided the Executive Director with documentation demonstrating that the release detection violation alleged in Finding of Fact No. 2.c. has been corrected.
13. The USTs at the Facility do not have release detection as required by TEX. WATER CODE § 26.3475(c)(1) and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50(b)(1)(A), and may be releasing petroleum products to the environment. Therefore, conditions at the Facility constitute an imminent peril to public health, safety, and welfare.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 1, Respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the TCEQ pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE ch. 26 and the rules of the TCEQ.

2. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 2.a., Respondent failed to report a suspected release to the TCEQ within 24 hours of discovery, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.72.
3. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 2.b., Respondent failed to investigate a suspected release of regulated substance within 30 days of discovery, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.74.
4. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 2.c., Respondent 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 TEX. WATER CODE § 26.3475(c)(1) and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50(b)(1)(A).
5. As evidenced by Findings of Fact Nos. 4 through 9, the Executive Director timely served Respondent with proper notice of the EDPRP, EDFARP, and the EDSARP, as required by TEX. WATER CODE § 7.055 and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.104(b)(1).
6. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 10, Respondent failed to file a timely answer as required by TEX. WATER CODE § 7.056 and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.105. Pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE § 7.057 and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.106, the Commission may enter a Default Order against Respondent and assess the penalty recommended by the Executive Director.
7. Pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE § 7.051, the Commission has the authority to assess an administrative penalty against Respondent for violations of state statutes within TCEQ's jurisdiction, for violations of rules adopted under such statutes, or for violations of orders or permits issued under such statutes.
8. An administrative penalty in the amount of thirty-five thousand one hundred dollars (\$35,100.00) is justified by the facts recited in this Order, and considered in light of the factors set forth in TEX. WATER CODE § 7.053.
9. As evidenced by Findings of Fact Nos. 2.c., 3, 11, and 12 Respondent failed to correct documented violations of TCEQ release detection requirements within 30 days after Respondent received notice of the violations and notice of the Executive Director's intent to shut down the USTs at the Facility.
10. TEX. WATER CODE §§ 26.3475(e) and 26.352(i) authorize the Commission to order a UST owner or operator to shut down a UST system if, within 30 days after receiving notice of the violations, the owner or operator fails to correct violations of TCEQ regulatory requirements relating to release detection for tanks and/or piping, spill and/or overfill protection for tanks, corrosion protection for tanks and/or piping, and/or acceptable financial assurance.
11. TEX. WATER CODE §§ 5.102 and 7.002 authorize the Commission to issue orders and make determinations necessary to effectuate the purposes of the statutes within its jurisdiction.
12. Pursuant to 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.8(c)(6), the Commission has authority to revoke the Facility's UST fuel delivery certificate if the Commission finds that good cause exists.
13. Good cause for revocation of the Facility's UST fuel delivery certificate exists as justified by Findings of Fact Nos. 2 and 4 through 10, and Conclusions of Law Nos. 2 through 6.
14. As evidenced by Findings of Fact Nos. 12 and 13 current conditions at the Facility constitute an imminent peril to public health, safety, and welfare. Therefore,

pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, TEX. GOV'T CODE § 2001.144(a)(3), this Order is final and effective on the date rendered.

### ORDERING PROVISIONS

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

1. Immediately upon the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall take the following steps to shut down operations of all USTs at the Facility:
  - a. Cease dispensing fuel from the USTs;
  - b. Cease receiving deliveries of regulated substances into the USTs;
  - c. Secure the dispensers to prevent access;
  - d. Empty the USTs of all regulated substances in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.54(d); and
  - e. Temporarily remove the USTs from service in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.54.
2. The Facility's UST fuel delivery certificate is revoked immediately upon the effective date of this Order. Respondent may submit an application for a new fuel delivery certificate only after Respondent has complied with all of the requirements set forth in this Order, including payment of the administrative penalty.
3. The USTs at the Facility shall remain out of service, pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE § 26.3475(e) and as directed by Ordering Provisions Nos. 1.a. through 1.e. until such time as Respondent demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Executive Director that the release detection violation noted in Conclusion of Law No. 4 has been corrected and Respondent obtains a new fuel delivery certificate for the Facility.
4. Immediately upon the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall cease accepting fuel at the Facility until such time as a valid delivery certificate is obtained from the TCEQ in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 334.7 and 334.8.
5. Within 10 days after the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall send the Facility's UST fuel delivery certificate to:

Petroleum Storage Tank Registration Team, MC 138  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087
6. Within 15 days after the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall submit a detailed written report, in accordance with Ordering Provision No. 13, below, documenting the steps taken to comply with Ordering Provisions Nos. 1.a. through 1.e., 4 and 5.
7. If Respondent elects to permanently remove from service any portion of the UST system at the Facility, Respondent shall, immediately upon the effective date of this Order, permanently remove the UST system from service in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.55, and within 15 days after the effective date of this Order, shall submit a written report documenting compliance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.55 to:

Petroleum Storage Tank Registration Team, MC 138  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

8. Respondent is assessed an administrative penalty in the amount of thirty-five thousand one hundred dollars (\$35,100.00) for violations of state statutes and rules of the TCEQ. The payment of this penalty and Respondent's compliance with all the requirements set forth in this Order resolve only the matters set forth by this Order in this action. The Commission shall not be constrained in any manner from requiring corrective actions or penalties for violations which are not raised here.
9. The penalty assessed by this Order shall be paid within 30 days after the effective date of this Order. All checks submitted to pay the penalty imposed by this Order shall be made out to TCEQ and shall be sent with the notation "Re: TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80; Docket No. 2014-1505-PST-E" to:

Financial Administration Division, Revenue Operations Section  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Attention: Cashier's Office, MC 214  
P.O. Box 13088  
Austin, Texas 78711-3088
10. Prior to receiving deliveries of gasoline and resuming retail sales of gasoline, Respondent shall undertake the following technical requirements:
  - a. Establish and implement a process for reporting a suspected release, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.72;
  - b. Conduct an investigation of the suspected release and implement appropriate corrective measures, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.74;
  - c. Implement a release detection method for the USTs, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50; and
  - d. Obtain a new fuel delivery certificate from the TCEQ.
11. Upon obtaining a new fuel delivery certificate, Respondent shall post the fuel delivery certificate in a location at the Facility where the delivery certificate is clearly visible at all times, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.8(c)(5)(A)(iii).
12. Within 10 days of resuming retail sales of gasoline, Respondent shall submit written certification, in accordance with Ordering Provision No. 13, below, to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provisions Nos. 10 and 11.
13. The certifications required by these Ordering Provisions shall be accompanied by detailed supporting documentation, including photographs, receipts, and/or other records, shall be signed by 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 fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

Respondent shall submit the written certifications and supporting documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance with these Ordering Provisions to:

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

and:

Waste Section Manager  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Houston Regional Office  
5425 Polk St., Ste. H  
Houston, Texas 77023-1452

14. All relief not expressly granted in this Order is denied.
15. The provisions of this Order shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent. Respondent is ordered to give notice of this Order to personnel who maintain day-to-day control over the Facility operations referenced in this Order.
16. 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 Respondent shall be made in writing to the Executive Director. Extensions are not effective until 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.
17. If 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, Respondent's failure to comply is not a violation of this Order. Respondent shall have the burden of establishing to the Executive Director's satisfaction that such an event has occurred. Respondent shall notify the Executive Director within seven days after Respondent becomes aware of a delaying event and shall take all reasonable measures to mitigate and minimize any delay.
18. The Executive Director may refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas ("OAG") for further enforcement proceedings without notice to Respondent if the Executive Director determines that Respondent has not complied with one or more of the terms or conditions in this Order.
19. 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.
20. The Chief Clerk shall provide a copy of this fully executed Order to each of the parties. By law, the effective date of this Order shall be the date this Order was rendered, pursuant to TEX. GOV'T CODE § 2001.144(a)(3).

**S I G N A T U R E   P A G E**

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For the Commission

**AFFIDAVIT OF RYAN RUTLEDGE**

**STATE OF TEXAS**

§

**COUNTY OF TRAVIS**

§

"My name is Ryan Rutledge. I am of sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and the facts stated in this affidavit are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

On behalf of the Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the "Executive Director's Second Amended Report and Petition Recommending that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Enter an Enforcement Order Assessing an Administrative Penalty Against and Requiring Certain Actions of TriStar Convenience Stores, Inc. dba Handi Stop 80" (the "EDSARP") was filed in the TCEQ Chief Clerk's office on March 27, 2015.

The EDSARP was mailed to Respondent's last known address on March 27, 2015, via certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid. According to USPS.com "Track & Confirm" delivery confirmation records, Respondent received notice of the EDSARP on March 30, 2015.

More than 20 days have elapsed since Respondent received notice of the EDSARP. Respondent failed to file an answer and failed to request a hearing.

By letter dated May 8, 2015, sent via first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested article no. 70110470000364257324, I provided Respondent with notice of the TCEQ's intent to order the USTs at the Facility be shut down and removed from service if the violation pertaining to release detection was not corrected within 30 days of Respondent's receipt of the letter. According to the return receipt "green card," Respondent received the notice on May 11, 2015.

As of the date of this affidavit, I am not aware of any evidence that indicates that Respondent has corrected the release detection violation noted during the August 25, 2014, investigation."

*Ryan Rutledge*

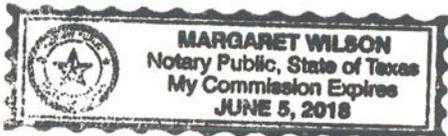
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Ryan Rutledge, Staff Attorney  
Office of Legal Services, Litigation Division  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Ryan Rutledge, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration herein expressed.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of JUNE, A.D. 2015.

*Margaret Wilson*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Texas



Notary without Bond