# Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 61892 VLS Recovery Services, LLC RN110578051 Docket No. 2022-0160-AIR-E

**Order Type:** 

Findings Agreed Order

**Findings Order Justification:** 

Unauthorized emissions which are excessive emissions events.

**Media:** 

AIR

**Small Business:** 

No

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

VLS Houston, 17360 Premium Drive, Hockley, Harris County

**Type of Operation:** 

Waste processing facility

**Other Significant Matters:** 

Additional Pending Enforcement Actions: No

Past-Due Penalties: No

Other: N/A

Interested Third-Parties: None

Texas Register Publication Date: May 6, 2022

Comments Received: No

**Penalty Information** 

**Total Penalty Assessed:** \$11,250

**Total Paid to General Revenue:** \$11,250

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

Payment Plan: N/A

**Compliance History Classifications:** 

Person/CN - High Site/RN - Unclassified

Major Source: No

**Statutory Limit Adjustment:** N/A

**Applicable Penalty Policy:** January 2021

**Investigation Information** 

**Complaint Date(s):** N/A

**Complaint Information**: N/A

Date(s) of Investigation: August 21, 2021 through September 17, 2021

Date(s) of NOE(s): January 25, 2022

# Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 61892 VLS Recovery Services, LLC RN110578051 Docket No. 2022-0160-AIR-E

# Violation Information

Failed to prevent unauthorized emissions. The emissions event was determined to be an excessive emissions event [30 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 106.6(b) and 111.111(a)(7)(A), Permit by Rule Registration No. 158309, and Tex. Health & Safety Code § 382.085(b)].

#### Corrective Actions/Technical Requirements

# **Corrective Action(s) Completed:**

N/A

# **Technical Requirements:**

The Order will require the Respondent to:

- a. Within 30 days, submit a corrective action plan ("CAP") in accordance with the TCEQ letter dated January 25, 2022 to address the excessive emissions event that occurred on August 21, 2021 (Incident No. 365347);
- b. Respond completely and adequately, as determined by the Executive Director, to all written requests for information concerning the CAP submittal in connection with the August 21, 2021 excessive emissions event within 15 days after the date of such requests, or by any other deadline specified in writing;
- c. Within 45 days, submit written certification to demonstrate compliance with a.;
- d. Upon Executive Director approval of the CAP, implement the CAP in accordance with the approved schedule; and
- e. Within 15 days after the completion of the CAP implementation, submit written certification to demonstrate compliance with d.

# Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 61892 VLS Recovery Services, LLC RN110578051 Docket No. 2022-0160-AIR-E

# **Contact Information**

TCEQ Attorney: N/A

**TCEQ Enforcement Coordinator:** Kate Dacy, Enforcement Division, Enforcement Team 2, MC 219, (512) 239-4593; Michael Parrish, Enforcement Division, MC 219, (512) 239-2548

Respondent: John Magee, CEO, VLS Recovery Services, LLC, 19500 Highway 249,

Suite 440, Houston, Texas 77070

Geoffrey S. Lehy, Regional Vice President-Waste, VLS Recovery Services, LLC, 19500

Highway 249, Suite 440, Houston, Texas 77070

**Respondent's Attorney:** N/A



# Penalty Calculation Worksheet (PCW)

Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021) PCW Revision February 11, 2021

DATES Assigned 2-Feb-2022

 Assigned
 2-Feb-2022

 PCW
 18-Mar-2022
 Screening
 2-Feb-2022
 EPA Due

RESPONDENT/FACILITY INFORMATION
Respondent VLS Recovery Services, LLC
Reg. Ent. Ref. No. RN110578051
Facility/Site Region 12-Houston Major/Minor Source Minor

CASE INFORMATION

Enf./Case ID No. 61892
Docket No. 2022-0160-AIR-E

Media Program(s) Air
Multi-Media
Multi-Media
Admin. Penalty \$ Limit Minimum \$0 Maximum

No. of Violations 1
Findings

Order Type
Findings
No. of Violations 5
Findings
No. of Viola

			Penalty C	Calcula	tion Section	n		
TOTA	L BASE PENA	LTY (Sum o	violation bas	e penali	ties)		Subtotal 1	\$12,500
ADILI	CTMENTS ( )	/	OTAL 1					
ADJU:	STMENTS (+ Subtotals 2-7 are of	tained by multiplyin	<b>OTAL 1</b> g the Total Base Penalt	v (Subtotal 1	) by the indicated p	ercentage.		
	<b>Compliance Hi</b>		<b>,</b>	-10.0%	Adjustment		tals 2, 3, & 7	-\$1,250
	Notes	F	eduction for High I	Performer	Classification.			
	Culpability	No		0.0%	Enhancement		Subtotal 4	\$0
	Notes The Respondent does not meet the culpability criteria.							
	Good Faith Effort to Comply Total Adjustments  Subtotal 5						Subtotal 5	\$0
	Economic Ben				Enhancement*		Subtotal 6	\$0
	Estimated	Total EB Amounts I Cost of Compliance	\$556 \$10,000	*Саррес	d at the Total EB \$ A	Amount		
SUM (	OF SUBTOTA	LS 1-7				ı	Final Subtotal	\$11,250
	R FACTORS A		MAY REQUIRE cated percentage.		0.0%		Adjustment	\$0
	Notes							
						Final Pe	nalty Amount	\$11,250
STATI	UTORY LIMI	T ADJUSTME	NT			Final Asse	essed Penalty	\$11,250
<b>DEFEI</b>	RRAL the Final Assessed Pe	enalty by the indicate	d nercentage		0.0%	Reduction	Adjustment	\$0
ricuuces (	Notes		deferral is recomm	ended for	Findings Orders			
PAYA	BLE PENALT	Y						\$11,250

Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021) PCW Revision February 11, 2021

Respondent VLS Recovery Services, LLC

**Case ID No.** 61892

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN110578051

**Media** Air

**Enf. Coordinator** Kate Dacy

	lian Iliah	Compliance History Worksheet						
>> C	ompliance Hist Component	ory <i>Site</i> Enhancement (Subtotal 2)  Number of	Number	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%				
		Any agreed final enforcement orders containing a denial of liability ( <i>number of orders meeting criteria</i> )	0	0%				
	Orders	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%				
	Judgments and Consent	Any non-adjudicated final court judgments or consent decrees containing a denial of liability of this state or the federal government (number of judgments or consent decrees meeting criteria)	0	0%				
	and Consent Decrees	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%				
	Convictions	Any criminal convictions of this state or the federal government ( <i>number of counts</i> )	0	0%				
	Emissions	Chronic excessive emissions events (number of events)	0	0%				
Texa 1995		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%				
	Audits	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%				
	Environmental management systems in place for one year or more		No	0%				
	Other	Voluntary on-site compliance assessments conducted by the executive director under a special assistance program	No	0%				
	Other	Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program	No	0%				
	Early compliance with, or offer of a product that meets future state government environmental requirements		No	0%				
Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 2) 0%								
>> R	epeat Violator	(Subtotal 3)						
	No Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 3) 0%							
>> C	ompliance Hist	ory Person Classification (Subtotal 7)						
	High Performer  Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 7) -10%							
>> C	>> Compliance History Summary							
Compliance History Notes Reduction for High Performer Classification.								
Total Compliance History Adjustment Percentage (Subtotals 2, 3, & 7) -10%								
>> Fir	>> Final Compliance History Adjustment  Final Adjustment Percentage *capped at 100% -10%							
		rınaı Adjustment Percent	aye ^capped	at <b>100%</b> -10%				

Economic Benefit Worksheet							
Respondent	VLS Recovery	Services, LLC					
Case ID No.	61892						
Reg. Ent. Reference No.	RN110578051						
Media Violation No.	Air					Percent Interest	Years of Depreciation
Violation No.	1					5.0	15
	Item Cost	Date Required	Final Date	Yrs	Interest Saved	Costs Saved	EB Amount
Item Description	rtem cost	Dute Required	i iliai bate	5	Interest Savea	costs savea	LD Amount
Item Description							
Delayed Costs							
Delayed Costs Equipment		1		0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Buildings				0.00	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$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		i		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)	\$10,000	21-Aug-2021	1-Oct-2022	1.11	\$556	n/a	\$556
Notes for DELAYED costs	Estimated cost to implement an approved corrective action plan to address the excessive emissions event that occurred on August 21, 2021 (Incident No. 365347). The Date Required is the date the emissions event occurred and the Final Date is the estimated date of compliance.						
Avoided Costs	ANNU	ALIZE avoided c	osts before er	tering	item (except for	one-time avoided	l 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				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
ONE-TIME avoided costs				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Notes for AVOIDED costs							
Approx. Cost of Compliance		\$10,000			TOTAL		\$556

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



# Compliance History Report

Compliance History Report for CN603340787, RN110578051, Rating Year 2021 which includes Compliance History (CH) components from September 1, 2016, through August 31, 2021.

Customer, Respondent, CN603340787, VLS Recovery Services,

Classification: HIGH

Rating: 0.00

or Owner/Operator:

RN110578051, VLS HOUSTON

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Rating: -----

**Complexity Points:** 

12

Repeat Violator: NO

CH Group:

Regulated Entity:

11 - Waste Management (Excluding Landfills)

Location:

17360 PREMIUM DR, HOCKLEY, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**TCEQ Region:** 

**REGION 12 - HOUSTON** 

ID Number(s):

**AIR NEW SOURCE PERMITS REGISTRATION 158309** 

USED OIL EPA ID TXR000085199

**USED OIL REGISTRATION A86441** 

**STORMWATER PERMIT TXR05FN23** 

Rating Year: 2021

Phone: (512) 239-4593

INDUSTRIAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE SOLID WASTE

**INDUSTRIAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE EPA ID** TXR000085199

REGISTRATION # (SWR) 97304

**INDUSTRIAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMIT 97304** 

Compliance History Period: September 01, 2016 to August 31, 2021

**Rating Date:** 09/01/2021

Date Compliance History Report Prepared: February 01, 2022

Agency Decision Requiring Compliance History: Enforcement

Name: Kate Dacy

Component Period Selected: February 01, 2017 to February 01, 2022

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

## Site and Owner/Operator History:

1) Has the site been in existence and/or operation for the full five year compliance period? NO

2) Has there been a (known) change in ownership/operator of the site during the compliance period? NO

#### 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.):

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): $\ensuremath{N/A}$
н.	Voluntary on-site compliance assessment dates: $\ensuremath{N/A}$
I.	Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program: $\ensuremath{N/A}$
J.	Early compliance: N/A

**Sites Outside of Texas:** 

N/A

#### **Component Appendices**

Appendix A

### All NOVs Issued During Component Period 2/1/2017 and 2/1/2022

N/A For Informational Purposes Only

Appendix B

### All Investigations Conducted During Component Period February 01, 2017 and February 01, 2022

(1760876)

Item 1 January 25, 2022 For Informational Purposes Only

<sup>\*</sup> No violations documented during this investigation

<sup>\*\*</sup>Investigation applicable for the Compliance History Rating period between 09/01/2016 and 08/31/2021.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



IN THE MATTER OF AN	§	BEFORE THE
ENFORCEMENT ACTION	§	
CONCERNING	§	TEXAS COMMISSION ON
VLS RECOVERY SERVICES, LLC	§	
RN110578051	§	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

#### AGREED ORDER DOCKET NO. 2022-0160-AIR-E

On	, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("the
Commission" or "TCEC	") considered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement
action regarding VLS R	ecovery Services, LLC (the "Respondent") under the authority of TEX.
HEALTH & SAFETY CODI	E ch. 382 and TEX. WATER CODE ch. 7. The Executive Director of the
TCEQ, through the Enf	orcement Division, and the Respondent, presented this Order to the
Commission.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,

The Respondent understands that it has certain procedural rights at certain points in the enforcement process, including the right to formal notice of violations, notice of an evidentiary hearing, the right to an evidentiary hearing, and a right to appeal. By entering into this Order, the Respondent agrees to waive all notice and procedural rights.

It is further understood and agreed that this Order represents the complete and fully-integrated agreement of the parties. The provisions of this Order are deemed severable and, if a court of competent jurisdiction or other appropriate authority deems any provision of this Order unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be valid and enforceable. The duties and responsibilities imposed by this Order are binding upon the Respondent.

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

#### I. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Respondent owns and operates a waste processing facility located at 17360 Premium Drive in Hockley, Harris County, Texas (the "Site"). The Site consists or consisted of one or more sources as defined in Tex. Health & Safety Code § 382.003(12).
- 2. During an investigation conducted from August 21, 2021 through September 17, 2021, an investigator documented that the Respondent released 36,674.00 pounds ("lbs") of particulate matter, 8,006.00 lbs of carbon monoxide, 4,608.00 lbs of hydrogen chloride, 1,263.00 lbs of volatile organic compounds, 1,127.00 lbs of isocyanic acid, 3,4-dichlorophenyl ester, 584.00 lbs of nitrogen oxides, 108.00 lbs of sulfur dioxide, and 0.70 lb of hydrogen cyanide and experienced 100 percent opacity from the Solids Handling, Solidification Process, Emissions Point Number SA-1, during an emissions event (Incident No. 365347) that occurred on August 21, 2021 and lasted 10 hours. The emissions event occurred due to a fire in a steel-lined concrete waste solidification pit, resulting in the release to the atmosphere, in a shelter-in place, in an evacuation order,

and in road closures. TCEQ staff determined that the emissions event was an excessive emissions event.

#### II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 1, the Respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the TCEQ pursuant to Tex. Health & Safety Code ch. 382 and the rules of the TCEQ.
- 2. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 2, the Respondent failed to prevent unauthorized emissions, in violation of 30 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 106.6(b) and 111.111(a)(7)(A), Permit by Rule Registration No. 158309, and Tex. Health & Safety Code § 382.085(b). The emissions event was determined to be an excessive emissions event.
- 3. Pursuant to Tex. Water Code § 7.051, the TCEQ has the authority to assess an administrative penalty against the Respondent for violations of state statutes within the TCEQ's jurisdiction, for violations of rules adopted under such statutes, or for violations of orders or permits issued under such statutes.
- 4. An administrative penalty in the amount of \$11,250 is justified by the facts recited in this Order, and considered in light of the factors set forth in Tex. WATER CODE § 7.053. The Respondent paid the \$11,250 penalty.

#### III. ORDERING PROVISIONS

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

1. The Respondent is assessed a penalty as set forth in Conclusion of Law No. 4 for violations of state statutes and rules of the TCEQ. The payment of this penalty and the 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 that are not raised here. Penalty payments shall be made payable to "TCEQ" and shall be sent with the notation "Re: VLS Recovery Services, LLC, Docket No. 2022-0160-AIR-E" to:

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

- 2. The Respondent shall undertake the following technical requirements:
  - a. Within 30 days after the effective date of this Order, submit a corrective action plan ("CAP") in accordance with the TCEQ letter dated January 25, 2022 to

address the excessive emissions event that occurred on August 21, 2021 (Incident No. 365347).

- b. Respond completely and adequately, as determined by the Executive Director, to all written requests for information concerning the CAP submittal in connection with the August 21, 2021 excessive emissions event within 15 days after the date of such requests, or by any other deadline specified in writing.
- c. Within 45 days after the effective date of this Order, submit written certification, as described in Ordering Provision No. 2.e, to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provision No. 2.a.
- d. Upon Executive Director approval of the CAP, implement the CAP in accordance with the approved schedule.
- e. Within 15 days after the completion of the CAP implementation, submit written certification, and include detailed supporting documentation including photographs, receipts, and/or other records to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provision No. 2.d. The certification shall be signed by the Respondent and shall include the following certification language:

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

The certification shall be submitted to:

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

with a copy to:

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

3. All relief not expressly granted in this Order is denied.

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

VLS Recovery Services, LLC DOCKET NO. 2022-0160-AIR-E Page 5

the terms: electronic transmission, owner, person, writing, and written, shall have the meanings assigned to them under Tex. Bus. Org. Code  $\S$  1.002.

11. The effective date of this Order is the date it is signed by the Commission. A copy of this fully executed Order shall be provided to each of the parties.

VLS Recovery Services, LLC DOCKET NO. 2022-0160-AIR-E Page 6

# **SIGNATURE PAGE**

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

For the Commission	Date
Cun	5/2/2022
For the Executive Director	Date
the attached Order, and I do agree to the terr	d the attached Order. I am authorized to agree to ms and conditions specified therein. I further yment for the penalty amount, is materially relying
I also understand that failure to comply with and/or failure to timely pay the penalty amount	the Ordering Provisions, if any, in this Order unt, may result in:
<ul><li>additional penalties, and/or attorney fe</li><li>Increased penalties in any future enforce</li></ul>	ions submitted; neral's Office for contempt, injunctive relief, ses, or to a collection agency; cement actions; eral's Office of any future enforcement actions; and
In addition, any falsification of any complian	ce documents may result in criminal prosecution.
	4/4/22
Signature	Date
JOHN MAGER	CEO
Name (Printed or typed) Authorized Representative of VLS Recovery Services, LLC	Title
$\Box$ If mailing address has changed, please ch	neck this box and provide the new address below: