# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – ENFORCEMENT MATTER – CASE NO. 62426 NORTHEAST SERVICE, INC. RN111465035

Docket No. 2022-0666-WQ-E

Order Type:

Findings Agreed Order

#### **Findings Order Justification:**

People or environmental receptors have been exposed to pollutants which exceed levels that are protective.

Media:

WQ

**Small Business:** 

Yes

**Location Where Violation Occurred:** 

6932 Canyon Springs Road, Fort Worth, Tarrant County (the "Site")

Type of Operation:

excavation activities near a potable water main

Other Significant Matters:

Additional Pending Enforcement Actions:

Past-Due Penalties:

None
Past-Due Fees:

None
Other:

Interested Third-Parties:

None

**Texas Register Publication Date:** June 13, 2025

Comments Received: None

**Penalty Information** 

Total Penalty Assessed: \$11,250

Total Paid to General Revenue: \$2,817

Total Due to General Revenue: \$8,433

Payment Plan: 3 payments of \$2,811 each

**Compliance History Classifications:** 

Person/CN - High Site/RN - High

Major Source: No

Statutory Limit Adjustment: None

**Applicable Penalty Policy:** January 28, 2021

**Investigation Information** 

Complaint Date(s): N/A

**Date of Investigation:** May 4, 2022

Date(s) of NOV(s): N/A

**Date of NOE:** May 12, 2022

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – ENFORCEMENT MATTER – CASE NO. 62426 NORTHEAST SERVICE, INC. RN111465035 Docket No. 2022-0666-WQ-E

# Violation Information

Failed to prevent the unauthorized discharge of waste into or adjacent to waters in the state [Tex. Water Code § 26.121(a)(2) and (c)].

## Corrective Actions/Technical Requirements

#### **Corrective Actions Completed:**

By March 1, 2022, the City of Fort Worth placed dichlorination tablets around the discharge path and receiving stream, ceased the discharge, repaired the 8-inch water main, and removed and properly disposed of the dead fish.

#### **Technical Requirements:**

None

**Litigation Information** 

Date Petition Filed:September 3, 2024Date of Service:September 12, 2024Date Answer Filed:September 19, 2024SOAH Referral Date:November 19, 2024

**Hearing Date:** 

Preliminary hearing: January 23, 2025 **Settlement Date:** April 30, 2025

#### **Contact Information**

**TCEQ Attorneys:** Taylor Pearson, Litigation Division, (512) 239-3400

Sheldon Wayne, Public Interest Counsel, (512) 239-6363

TCEQ Litigation Agenda Coordinator: Katherine McKenzie, Litigation Division, (512) 239-2575

TCEQ Enforcement Coordinator: Megan Crinklaw, Enforcement Division, (512) 239-1129

TCEQ Regional Contact: Brent Candler, Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Office, (817) 588-5897

Respondent Contact: Johnny Horton, President, NORTHEAST SERVICE, INC., P.O. Box 1185,

Kennedale, Texas 76060

Respondent's Attorney: Thomas M. Smith, T. Maxwell Smith, PLLC, P.O. Box 11009, Fort Worth, Texas

76110



**DEFERRAL** 

Notes

**PAYABLE PENALTY** 

Reduces the Final Assessed Penalty by the indicated percentage.

# Penalty Calculation Worksheet (PCW)

STATION MENTAL OF	Policy R	evision 5 (January 2	,	Carcaracio	WOIRS	11000 (10	,	sion February 11, 2021
DATES	Assigned		6	26 May 2023	T 504 0		1	
	PCW	29-May-2022	Screeni	ng 26-May-2022	EPA Due			
RESPO	NDENT/FACILI	TY INFORMAT	TON					
11201 0	Respondent	NORTHEAST SE	RVICE INC	`				
Reg	g. Ent. Ref. No.							
Facili	ty/Site Region	4-Dallas/Fort W	/orth		Major/	Minor Source	Minor	
	NFORMATION							
En	f./Case ID No.		_		No.	of Violations		
Mod	.Docket No. lia Program(s)	2022-0666-WQ	!-⊏		Covernmen	Order Type nt/Non-Profit		
Med	Multi-Media					•	Megan Crinklay	V.
	riditi ricula						Enforcement To	
Adr	nin.Penalty \$	Limit Minimum	\$0	Maximum	\$25,000		Zinoreement 1	
			Pan	alty Calcula	ation Secti	ion		
ΤΟΤΔΙ	RASE PENA	ALTY (Sum o		on base pena		1011	Subtotal 1	\$12,500
		(Sa S	Tiolatic	on base pena	11.00)		Subtotal I	+,
<b>ADJUS</b>	STMENTS (+	/-) TO SUBT	OTAL 1					
			ng the Total Ba	ase Penalty (Subtotal				*4.050
	Compliance Hi	story		-10.0%	Adjustment	Subto	tals 2, 3, & 7	-\$1,250
	Notes	Reduction for High Performer Classification.						
	Culpability	No		0.0%	Enhancement		Subtotal 4	\$0
	Notes	The R	espondent	does not meet th	e culpability crit	teria.		
	Good Faith Fff	ort to Comply	Total Adiu	stments			Subtotal 5	\$0
	Good Faith En	ore to compry	rotal Auju	Stillelits			Subtotais	Ψ0
							_	
	Economic Ben		+70		Enhancement*	. A	Subtotal 6	\$0
	Estimated	Total EB Amounts d Cost of Compliance		^Capp	ed at the Total EB \$	Amount		
SUM (	OF SUBTOTA	LS 1-7				F	inal Subtotal	\$11,250
						1	_	
OTHE	R FACTORS A	AS JUSTICE	MAY REQ	UIRE	0.0%		Adjustment	\$0
Reduces o	or enhances the Fina	Subtotal by the inc	dicated percent	cage.				
						Final Per	nalty Amount	\$11,250
STATU	JTORY LIMIT	T ADJUSTME	NT			Final Asse	ssed Penalty	\$11,250

No deferral is recommended for Findings Orders.

0.0%

Reduction

Adjustment

\$0

\$11,250

**PCW** 

Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021)

**Case ID No.** 62426

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN111465035

Media Water Quality

Enf. Coordinator Megan Crinklaw

Compliance History Worksheet >> Compliance History Site Enhancement (Subtotal 2)									
>>	Compliance Hist	Number	Adjust.						
	NOVs	Written notices of violation ("NOVs") with same or similar violations as those in the current enforcement action (number of NOVs meeting criteria)	0	0%					
		Other written NOVs	0	0%					
		Any agreed final enforcement orders containing a denial of liability (number of orders meeting criteria)	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	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%					
	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	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%					
	Audits	Letters notifying the executive director of an intended audit conducted under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 (number of audits for which notices were submitted)		0%					
	Addits	Disclosures of violations under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 (number of audits for which violations were disclosed)		0%					
		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%					
		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	No Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 3)							
>>	> Compliance History Person Classification (Subtotal 7)								
	High Performer  Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 7) -10%								
>> Compliance History Summary									
	Compliance History Notes Reduction for High Performer Classification.								
\\ E	inal Compliance	Total Compliance History Adjustment Percentage ( History Adjustment	Subtotals 2,	3, & 7)	-10%				
// F	пат соптрпансе	Final Adjustment Percent	age *capped	at 100%	-10%				

Reg.	Resp	ondent ID No. nce No.	RN111465035	RVICE, INC.	Docket No	2022-0666-WQ-E		PCW 5 (January 28, 2021) on February 11, 2021
	Enf. Coor		Water Quality Megan Crinklaw	I				
		Number	1					
	Ru	le Cite(s)		Tex. W	ater Code § 26.121(a)	(2) and (c)		
Violation Description			the state. Spe main located a	ecifically, on t 6932 Canyo	March 1, 2022, the Res on Springs Road, which	este into or adjacent to spondent broke a potable caused approximately arby creek, resulting in ish.	le water 263,532	
						Base	Penalty	\$25,000
>> Env	vironmenta	l, Propei	ty and Hum	an Health	Matrix			
			-	Harm				
OR		Release Actual	Major x	Moderate	Minor			
		Potential	Α			Percent 50.0%		
>>Pro	grammatic							
	Fa	Isification	Major	Moderate	Minor	Porcent 0.00/		
						Percent 0.0%		
	Matrix Notes					ts which exceed levels to a result of the violation		
					A	djustment	\$12,500	
							7/	
								\$12,500
Violatio	on Events							
		umber of V	iolation Events	1	1	Number of violation d	lays	
			daily weekly monthly quarterly semiannual annual single event	X		Violation Base	Penalty	\$12,500
	On	e monthly	event is recomn		the March 1, 2022 una 2022 compliance date.	authorized discharge dat	te to the	
Good F	aith Efforts	to Com	ply	0.0%		R	leduction	\$0
				efore NOE/NOV	NOE/NOV to EDPRP/Settle			
			Notes	The Respor	ndent does not meet th for this violation	_		
						Violation 9	Subtotal	\$12,500
Econor	nic Benefit	(EB) for	this violation	on		Statutory Limit	Test	
		Estimate	ed EB Amount		\$70	Violation Final Pena	Ity Total	\$11,250
				This viol	ation Final Assessed	Penalty (adjusted fo	r limits)	\$11,250

Economic Benefit Worksheet							
Respondent	NORTHEAST S	ERVICE, INC.					
Case ID No.	62426						
Reg. Ent. Reference No.	RN111465035						
	Water Quality						Years of
Violation No.						Percent Interest	Depreciation
						5.0	15
	Item Cost	<b>Date Required</b>	Final Date	Yrs	<b>Interest Saved</b>	Costs Saved	<b>EB Amount</b>
Item Description							
•							
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	\$3,853	4-May-2022	14-Sep-2022	0.36	\$70	n/a	\$70
Permit Costs				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Notes for DELAYED costs	Required is the investigation date and the Final date is the date that the Respondent reimbursed the City of					n. The Date	
Fort Worth for Remediation/Disposal costs.  Avoided Costs ANNUALIZE avoided costs before entering item (except for one						l costs)	
Avoided Costs	ANNO	ALIZE avolueu C	osts before en	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Disposal Personnel				0.00	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0
Inspection/Reporting/Sampling				0.00	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	\$0
Supplies/Equipment				0.00	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	\$0
Financial Assurance				0.00	\$0	\$0 \$0	\$0
ONE-TIME avoided costs				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Notes for AVOIDED costs				<u>  0.00</u>	1 40	Ψ0	30
Approx. Cost of Compliance		\$3,853			TOTAL		\$70

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

Compliance History Report for CN600438675, RN111465035, Rating Year 2023 which includes Compliance History (CH) components from September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2023.

Classification: HIGH

Classification: HIGH

Rating: 0.00

Rating: 0.00

Customer, Respondent, CN600438675, NORTHEAST SERVICE,

INC.

Regulated Entity: RN111465035, 6932 CANYON

SPRINGS RD

Complexity Points: 4

Repeat Violator: NO

CH Group: 14 - Other

**Location:** 6932 Canyon Springs Road, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

TCEQ Region: REGION 04 - DFW METROPLEX

ID Number(s):

or Owner/Operator:

WATER QUALITY NON PERMITTED ID NUMBER R04111465035

Compliance History Period: September 01, 2018 to August 31, 2023 Rating Year: 2023 Rating Date: 09/01/2023

Date Compliance History Report Prepared: May 01, 2024

Agency Decision Requiring Compliance History: Enforcement

Component Period Selected: May 01, 2019 to May 01, 2024

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

Name: Megan Crinklaw Phone: (512) 239-1129

## 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.):

N/A

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

# **Component Appendices**

Appendix A

All NOVs Issued During Component Period 5/1/2019 and 5/1/2024

N/A

Appendix B

All Investigations Conducted During Component Period May 01, 2019 and May 01, 2024

Item 1 May 09, 2022\*\* (1812344)

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

<sup>\*\*</sup>Investigation applicable for the Compliance History Rating period between 09/01/2018 and 08/31/2023.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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# IN THE MATTER OF AN ENFORCEMENT ACTION CONCERNING NORTHEAST SERVICE, INC.; RN111465035

# BEFORE THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

#### **AGREED ORDER**

#### DOCKET NO. 2022-0666-WQ-E

On \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("Commission" or "TCEQ") considered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement action regarding NORTHEAST SERVICE, INC. ("Respondent") under the authority of Tex. Water Code chs. 7 and 26. The Executive Director of the TCEQ, represented by the Litigation Division, and Respondent, represented by Thomas M. Smith of the law firm T. Maxwell Smith, PLLC, presented this Order to the Commission.

Respondent understands that it has certain procedural rights at certain points in the enforcement process, including the right to formal notice of violations, to request an evidentiary hearing, receive notice of an evidentiary hearing, and a right to appeal. By entering into this Order, Respondent agrees to waive all notice and procedural rights which might otherwise be authorized or required in this action.

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 Respondent.

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

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent conducted excavation activities near a potable water main that is operated by the City of Fort Worth located at 6932 Canyon Springs Road, Tarrant County, Texas (the "Site"). The Site is near or adjacent to water in the state as defined in Tex. Water Code § 26.001(5).
- 2. During a record review conducted on May 4, 2022, an investigator documented that Respondent failed to prevent the unauthorized discharge of water into or adjacent to waters in the state. Specifically, on March 1, 2022, Respondent broke a potable water main located at the Site, which caused approximately 263,532 gallons of chlorinated water to discharge into a nearby creek, resulting in a fish kill of approximately 45 fish.
- 3. The Executive Director recognizes that by March 1, 2022, the City of Fort Worth placed dichlorination tablets around the discharge path and receiving stream, ceased the discharge, repaired the 8-inch water main, and removed and properly disposed of the dead fish.

#### **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, Respondent failed to prevent the unauthorized discharge of waste into or adjacent to waters in the state, in violation of Tex. Water Code § 26.121(a)(2) and (c).
- 3. Pursuant to Tex. Water Code § 7.051, TCEQ 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.
- 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. Respondent paid \$2,817 of the penalty. The remaining amount of \$8,433 shall be paid in 3 payments of \$2,811 each. The first monthly payment shall be paid within 30 days after the effective date of this Order. The subsequent payments shall each be paid not later than 30 days following the due date of the previous payment until the penalty is paid in full. If Respondent fails to timely and satisfactorily comply with the payment requirements of this Order, including the payment schedule, the Executive Director may, at her 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, Respondent's failure to meet the payment schedule of this Order and/or the acceleration of any remaining balance constitutes the failure by Respondent to timely and satisfactorily comply with all the terms of this Order.

#### ORDERING PROVISIONS

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

1. Respondent is assessed an administrative 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 Respondent's compliance with all 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. Penalty payments shall be made payable to TCEQ and shall be sent with the notation "Re: NORTHEAST SERVICE, INC., Docket No. 2022-0666-WQ-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

- 2. All relief not expressly granted in this Order is denied.
- 3. The duties and provisions imposed by this Order shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. This Order, issued by the Commission, shall not be admissible against Respondent in a civil proceeding, unless the proceeding is brought by the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas ("OAG") to: (1) enforce the terms of this Order, or (2) pursue violations of a statute within TCEQ's jurisdiction, or of a rule adopted or an order or permit issued by TCEQ under such a statute. The Executive Director may, without further notice or hearing, refer this matter to the OAG for further enforcement proceedings if the Executive Director determines that Respondent has not complied with one or more of the terms or conditions in this Order.
- 7. The provisions of this Order are deemed severable, and, if a court of competent jurisdiction or other appropriate authority deems any provision of this Order unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be valid and enforceable.
- 8. This Order shall terminate five years from its effective date or upon compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Order, whichever is later.
- 9. This Order may be executed in separate and multiple counterparts, which together shall constitute a single instrument. Any page of this Order may be copied, scanned, digitized, converted to electronic portable document format ("pdf"), or otherwise reproduced and may be transmitted by digital or electronic transmission, including but not limited to facsimile transmission and electronic mail. Any signature affixed to this Order shall constitute an original signature for all purposes and may be used, filed, substituted, or issued for any purpose for which an original signature could be used. The term "signature" shall include manual signatures and true and accurate reproductions of manual signatures created, executed, endorsed, adopted, or authorized by the person or persons to whom the signatures are attributable. Signatures may be copied or reproduced digitally, electronically, by photocopying, engraving, imprinting, lithographing, electronic mail, facsimile transmission, stamping, or any other means or process which the Executive Director deems acceptable. In this paragraph exclusively, the terms: electronic transmission, owner, person, writing, and written, shall have the meanings assigned to them under Tex. Bus. Org. Code § 1.002.
- 10. The effective date of this Order is the date it is signed by the Commission. A copy of this fully executed Order shall be provided to each of the parties.

# SIGNATURE PAGE

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

For the Commission	Date
Phy Ledtt	July 7, 2025
For the Executive Director	Date
attached Order, and I do agree to the	derstand the attached Order. I am authorized to agree to the terms and conditions specified therein. I further ting payment for the penalty amount, is materially relying
I also understand that failure to come to timely pay the penalty amount ma	ply with the Ordering Provisions in this Order and/or failure by result in:
• A negative impact on compliance	history;
<ul> <li>Greater scrutiny of any permit ap</li> </ul>	pplications;
	ney General's office for contempt, injunctive relief, rney fees, or to a collection agency;
<ul> <li>Increased penalties in any future</li> </ul>	enforcement actions;
<ul> <li>Automatic referral to the Attorne</li> </ul>	y General's office of any future enforcement actions; and
<ul> <li>TCEQ seeking other relief as auth</li> </ul>	orized by law.
In addition, I understand that any fal criminal prosecution.  Signature / Johnny Horton, President NORTHEAST SERVICE, INC. P.O. Box 1185 Kennedale, Texas 76060	sification of any compliance documents may result in $\frac{04/30/25}{\text{Date}}$
□ If mailing address has changed, p	lease check this box and provide the new address below: