

**Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 62486**  
**GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC.**  
**RN110910692**  
**Docket No. 2022-0727-PWS-E**

**Order Type:**

Findings Agreed Order

**Findings Order Justification:**

Three or more enforcement actions (NOVs, orders, etc.) over the prior five year period for the same violation(s).

**Media:**

PWS

**Small Business:**

No

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

Geo Specialty Chemicals, 739 Independence Parkway South, Deer Park, Harris County

**Type of Operation:**

Public water supply

**Other Significant Matters:**

Additional Pending Enforcement Actions: No

Past-Due Penalties: No

Other: N/A

Interested Third-Parties: None

**Texas Register Publication Date:** October 28, 2022

**Comments Received:** No

***Penalty Information***

**Total Penalty Assessed:** \$3,125

**Total Paid to General Revenue:** \$3,125

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

Payment Plan: N/A

**Compliance History Classifications:**

Person/CN - High

Site/RN - N/A

**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:** May 23, 2022 through June 10, 2022

**Date(s) of NOE(s):** June 10, 2022

**Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 62486  
GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC.  
RN110910692  
Docket No. 2022-0727-PWS-E**

***Violation Information***

1. Failed to comply with the maximum contaminant level ("MCL") of 0.080 milligrams per liter for total trihalomethanes based on the locational running annual average [30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 290.115(f)(1) and TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 341.0315(c)].
2. Failed to comply with the MCL of 0.060 milligrams per liter for haloacetic acids based on the locational running annual average [30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 290.115(f)(1) and TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 341.0315(c)].

***Corrective Actions/Technical Requirements***

**Corrective Action(s) Completed:**

N/A

**Technical Requirements:**

The Order will require the Respondent to:

- a. Within 365 days:
  - i. Return to compliance with the MCL for total trihalomethanes based on the locational running annual average; and
  - ii. Return to compliance with the MCL for haloacetic acids based on the locational running annual average.
- b. Within 380 days, submit written certification to demonstrate compliance with a.

***Contact Information***

**TCEQ Attorney:** N/A

**TCEQ Enforcement Coordinator:** Ashley Lemke, Enforcement Division, Enforcement Team 4, MC 219, (512) 239-1118; Michael Parrish, Enforcement Division, MC 219, (512) 239-2548

**Respondent:** Jeremy Steinfink, Chief Executive Officer, GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC., 401 South Earl Avenue Suite 3A, Lafayette, Indiana 47904  
Steve Outlaw, Site Manager, GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC., 739 Independence Parkway South, Deer Park, Texas 77571

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



# Penalty Calculation Worksheet (PCW)

Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021)

PCW Revision February 11, 2021

<b>DATES</b>	<b>Assigned</b>	13-Jun-2022	<b>Screening</b>	13-Jun-2022	<b>EPA Due</b>	30-Jun-2022
	<b>PCW</b>	23-Jun-2022				

<b>RESPONDENT/FACILITY INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Respondent</b>	GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC.
<b>Reg. Ent. Ref. No.</b>	RN110910692
<b>Facility/Site Region</b>	12-Houston
<b>Major/Minor Source</b>	Minor

<b>CASE INFORMATION</b>				
<b>Enf./Case ID No.</b>	62486	<b>No. of Violations</b>	2	
<b>Docket No.</b>	2022-0727-PWS-E	<b>Order Type</b>	Findings	
<b>Media Program(s)</b>	Public Water Supply	<b>Government/Non-Profit</b>	No	
<b>Multi-Media</b>		<b>Enf. Coordinator</b>	Ashley Lemke	
		<b>EC's Team</b>	Enforcement Team 8	
<b>Admin. Penalty \$</b>	<b>Limit Minimum</b>	\$50	<b>Maximum</b>	\$5,000

## Penalty Calculation Section

<b>TOTAL BASE PENALTY (Sum of violation base penalties)</b>	<b>Subtotal 1</b>	\$2,500
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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>	25.0% Adjustment	<b>Subtotals 2, 3, &amp; 7</b>	\$625
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Notes: Enhancement for three NOVs with the same/similar violations, and one agreed order with a denial of liability. Reduction for High Performer Classification.

<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: \$782  
 Estimated Cost of Compliance: \$5,000  
 \*Capped at the Total EB \$ Amount

<b>SUM OF SUBTOTALS 1-7</b>	<b>Final Subtotal</b>	\$3,125
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<b>OTHER FACTORS AS JUSTICE MAY REQUIRE</b>	0.0%	<b>Adjustment</b>	\$0
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Reduces or enhances the Final Subtotal by the indicated percentage.

Notes: [Empty box]

<b>Final Penalty Amount</b>	\$3,125
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<b>STATUTORY LIMIT ADJUSTMENT</b>	<b>Final Assessed Penalty</b>	\$3,125
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<b>DEFERRAL</b>	0.0%	Reduction	<b>Adjustment</b>	\$0
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Reduces the Final Assessed Penalty by the indicated percentage.

Notes: No deferral is recommended for Findings Orders.

<b>PAYABLE PENALTY</b>	\$3,125
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Screening Date 13-Jun-2022

Docket No. 2022-0727-PWS-E

PCW

Respondent GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC.

Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021)

Case ID No. 62486

PCW Revision February 11, 2021

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN110910692

Media Public Water Supply

Enf. Coordinator Ashley Lemke

### Compliance History Worksheet

#### >> Compliance History Site Enhancement (Subtotal 2)

Component	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> )	3	15%
	Other written NOVs	0	0%
Orders	Any agreed final enforcement orders containing a denial of liability ( <i>number of orders meeting criteria</i> )	1	20%
	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%
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)** 35%

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

N/A

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

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

High Performer

**Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 7)** -10%

#### >> Compliance History Summary

Compliance History Notes

Enhancement for three NOVs with the same/similar violations, and one agreed order with a denial of liability. Reduction for High Performer Classification.

**Total Compliance History Adjustment Percentage (Subtotals 2, 3, & 7)** 25%

#### >> Final Compliance History Adjustment

**Final Adjustment Percentage \*capped at 100%** 25%

Screening Date 13-Jun-2022

Docket No. 2022-0727-PWS-E

PCW

Respondent GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC.

Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021)

Case ID No. 62486

PCW Revision February 11, 2021

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN110910692

Media Public Water Supply

Enf. Coordinator Ashley Lemke

Violation Number 1

Rule Cite(s) 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 290.115(f)(1) and Tex. Health & Safety Code § 341.0315(c)

Violation Description Failed to comply with the maximum contaminant level ("MCL") of 0.080 milligrams per liter ("mg/L") for total trihalomethanes ("TTHM"), based on the locational running annual average. Specifically, the locational running annual average concentrations of TTHM for Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts ("DBP2") at Site 1 were 0.161 mg/L for the third quarter of 2021, 0.162 mg/L for the fourth quarter of 2021, and 0.192 mg/L for the first quarter of 2022.

Base Penalty \$5,000

>> Environmental, Property and Human Health Matrix

OR			Harm			Percent
	Release	Major	Moderate	Minor	25.0%	
	Actual		x			
Potential						

>> Programmatic Matrix

		Harm			Percent
Falsification	Major	Moderate	Minor	0.0%	

Matrix Notes Exceeding MCL for TTHM caused persons served by the Facility to be exposed to a significant amount of contaminants which did not exceed levels protective of human health.

Adjustment \$3,750

\$1,250

Violation Events

Number of Violation Events 1 273 Number of violation days

daily	
weekly	
monthly	
quarterly	
semiannual	
annual	x
single event	

Violation Base Penalty \$1,250

One annual event is recommended.

Good Faith Efforts to Comply

0.0%

Reduction \$0

	Before NOE/NOV	NOE/NOV to EDPRP/Settlement Offer
Extraordinary		
Ordinary		
N/A	x	

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

Violation Subtotal \$1,250

Economic Benefit (EB) for this violation

Statutory Limit Test

Estimated EB Amount \$782

Violation Final Penalty Total \$1,563

This violation Final Assessed Penalty (adjusted for limits) \$1,563

# Economic Benefit Worksheet

**Respondent** GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC.  
**Case ID No.** 62486  
**Reg. Ent. Reference No.** RN110910692  
**Media** Public Water Supply  
**Violation No.** 1

Percent Interest	Years of Depreciation
5.0	15

Item Description	Item Cost	Date Required	Final Date	Yrs	Interest Saved	Costs Saved	EB Amount
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### Delayed Costs

Equipment				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Buildings				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)	\$5,000	30-Sep-2021	25-Dec-2023	2.24	\$37	\$745	\$782
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)				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0

**Notes for DELAYED costs** The delayed cost includes the estimated amount to investigate, identify, and implement the necessary corrective actions to return to compliance with the MCL for TTHM and Haloacetic Acids ("HAA5"), calculated from the last day of the first quarter of noncompliance to the estimated date of compliance.

### Avoided Costs

**ANNUALIZE 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				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 \$5,000

**TOTAL** \$782

**Screening Date** 13-Jun-2022 **Docket No.** 2022-0727-PWS-E **PCW**  
**Respondent** GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC. *Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021)*  
**Case ID No.** 62486 *PCW Revision February 11, 2021*  
**Reg. Ent. Reference No.** RN110910692  
**Media** Public Water Supply  
**Enf. Coordinator** Ashley Lemke

**Violation Number**

**Rule Cite(s)** 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 290.115(f)(1) and Tex. Health & Safety Code § 341.0315(c)

**Violation Description**  
 Failed to comply with the MCL of 0.060 mg/L for HAA5 based on the locational running annual average. Specifically, the locational running annual average concentrations of HAA5 for DBP2 at Site 1 were 0.171 mg/L for the third quarter of 2021, 0.147 mg/L for the fourth quarter of 2021 and 0.200 mg/L for the first quarter of 2022.

**Base Penalty**

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

OR	Release	Harm			Percent
		Major	Moderate	Minor	
	Actual	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="text" value="x"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="25.0%"/>
	Potential	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

**>> Programmatic Matrix**

Falsification	Major	Moderate	Minor	Percent
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0.0%"/>

**Matrix Notes** Exceeding the MCL for HAA5 caused persons served by the Facility to be exposed to a significant amount of contaminants which did not exceed levels that are protective of human health.

**Adjustment**

**Violation Events**

Number of Violation Events   Number of violation days

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

**Violation Base Penalty**

One annual event is recommended.

**Good Faith Efforts to Comply**

Reduction

	Before NOE/NOV	NOE/NOV to EDPRP/Settlement Offer
Extraordinary	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Ordinary	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
N/A	<input checked="" type="text" value="x"/>	<input type="text"/>

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

**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** GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC.  
**Case ID No.** 62486  
**Reg. Ent. Reference No.** RN110910692  
**Media** Public Water Supply  
**Violation No.** 2

Percent Interest	Years of Depreciation
5.0	15

Item Description	Item Cost	Date Required	Final Date	Yrs	Interest Saved	Costs Saved	EB Amount
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### 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)				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0

**Notes for DELAYED costs**  
 The estimated delayed cost to investigate, identify, and implement the necessary corrective actions to return to compliance with the MCL for HAA5 and is assessed in the Economic Benefit Worksheet for Violation No. 1.

### Avoided Costs

**ANNUALIZE 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				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

**TOTAL**





# Compliance History Report

Compliance History Report for CN602953598, RN110910692, Rating Year 2021 which includes Compliance History (CH) components from September 1, 2016, through August 31, 2021.

**Customer, Respondent, or Owner/Operator:** CN602953598, GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC. **Classification:** HIGH **Rating:** 0.00

**Regulated Entity:** RN110910692, GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS **Classification:** NOT APPLICABLE **Rating:** N/A

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**Complexity Points:** N/A **Repeat Violator:** N/A

**CH Group:** 14 - Other

**Location:** 739 INDEPENDENCE PARKWAY SOUTH IN DEER PARK, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**TCEQ Region:** REGION 12 - HOUSTON

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**ID Number(s):**  
**PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM/SUPPLY REGISTRATION** 1013689

**Compliance History Period:** September 01, 2016 to August 31, 2021 **Rating Year:** 2021 **Rating Date:** 09/01/2021

**Date Compliance History Report Prepared:** June 13, 2022

**Agency Decision Requiring Compliance History:** Enforcement

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**Component Period Selected:** June 13, 2017 to June 13, 2022

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

**Name:** Ashley Lemke **Phone:** (512) 239-1118

## 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:**

- 1 Effective Date: 02/16/2021 ADMINORDER 2020-0285-PWS-E (1660 Order-Agreed Order With Denial)  
Classification: Major  
Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter D 290.42(d)(1)  
5A THSC Chapter 341, SubChapter A 341.0315(c)  
Description: Failure for the water secured from surface sources to be given complete treatment at a plant which provides facilities for pretreatment disinfection, taste and odor control, continuous coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, covered clearwell storage, and terminal disinfection of the water with chlorine or suitable chlorine compounds.  
Classification: Moderate  
Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter D 290.39(e)(1)  
30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter D 290.39(h)(1)  
5A THSC Chapter 341, SubChapter A 341.0315(c)  
Description: Failure to maintain accurate and up-to-date detailed as-built plans or record drawings and specifications for each treatment plant, pump station, and storage tank shall be maintained at the public water system until the facility is decommissioned. As-built plans of individual projects may be used to fulfill this requirement if the plans are maintained in an organized manner.  
Classification: Moderate  
Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter D 290.46(e)(6)(A)  
Description: Failure for a surface water system that serves no more than 1,000 connections to use at least one operator who holds a Class "B" or higher surface water license.  
Classification: Moderate  
Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter D 290.46(d)(2)(A)  
30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.110(b)(4)  
5A THSC Chapter 341, SubChapter A 341.0315(c)  
Description: Failure to maintain the residual disinfectant concentration in the water entering the distribution system at a

minimum of 0.2 mg/L free chlorine.

**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.

- 1 Date: 09/08/2021 (1819061)  
Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate  
Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.115(f)(1)  
Description: HAA5 LRAA MCL 3Q2021 - During the 3rd quarter of 2021 the system violated the maximum contaminant level for haloacetic acids with a LRAA of 0.171 mg/L at Maintance Shop Cafe (DBP2-01). ETT Point Value = 5  
Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate  
Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.115(f)(1)  
Description: TTHM LRAA MCL 3Q2021 - During the 3rd quarter of 2021 the system violated the maximum contaminant level for trihalomethanes with a LRAA of 0.161 mg/L at Maintance Shop Cafe (DBP2-01). ETT Point Value = 0; grouped with tracking no. 813657
- 2 Date: 02/02/2022 (1819061)  
Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate  
Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.115(f)(1)  
Description: HAA5 LRAA MCL 4Q2021 - During the 4th quarter of 2021 the system violated the maximum contaminant level for haloacetic acids with a LRAA of 0.147 mg/L at Maintance Shop Cafe (DBP2-01). ETT Point Value = 5  
Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate  
Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.115(f)(1)  
Description: TTHM LRAA MCL 4Q2021 - During the 4th quarter of 2021 the system violated the maximum contaminant level for trihalomethanes with a LRAA of 0.162 mg/L at Maintance Shop Cafe (DBP2-01). ETT Point Value = 0; grouped with tracking no. 813653
- 3 Date: 05/17/2022 (1819061)  
Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate  
Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.115(f)(1)  
Description: HAA5 LRAA MCL 1Q2022 - During the 1st quarter of 2022 the system violated the maximum contaminant level for haloacetic acids with a LRAA of 0.200 mg/L at Maintance Shop Cafe (DBP2-01). ETT Point Value = 5  
Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate  
Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.115(f)(1)  
Description: TTHM LRAA MCL 1Q2022 - During the 1st quarter of 2022 the system violated the maximum contaminant level for trihalomethanes with a LRAA of 0.192 mg/L at Maintance Shop Cafe (DBP2-01). ETT Point Value = 0; grouped with tracking no. 813650

**F. Environmental audits:**

N/A

**G. Type of environmental management systems (EMSs):**

N/A

**H. Voluntary on-site compliance assessment dates:**

N/A

**I. Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program:**

N/A

**J. Early compliance:**  
N/A

**Sites Outside of Texas:**  
N/A

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



IN THE MATTER OF AN  
ENFORCEMENT ACTION  
CONCERNING  
GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC.  
RN110910692

§  
§  
§  
§  
§

BEFORE THE  
TEXAS COMMISSION ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## AGREED ORDER DOCKET NO. 2022-0727-PWS-E

On \_\_\_\_\_, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("the Commission" or "TCEQ") considered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement action regarding GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC. (the "Respondent") under the authority of TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ch. 341. The Executive Director of the TCEQ, through the Enforcement Division, and the Respondent presented this Order to the Commission.

The Respondent understands that they have 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 public water supply located at 739 Independence Parkway South in Deer Park, Harris County, Texas (the "Facility"). The Facility provides water for human consumption, has approximately 13 service connections, and serves at least 25 people per day for at least 60 days per year. As such, the Facility is a public water system as defined in 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 290.38(71).
2. During a record review for the Facility conducted at the Facility on May 23, 2022 through June 10, 2022, an investigator documented that:
  - a. The locational running annual average concentrations of total trihalomethanes ("TTHM") for Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts ("DBP2") at Site 1 were 0.161 milligrams per liter ("mg/L") for the third quarter of 2021, 0.162 mg/L for the fourth quarter of 2021, and 0.192 mg/L for the first quarter of 2022; and
  - b. The locational running annual average concentrations of haloacetic acids ("HAA5") for DBP2 at Site 1 were 0.171 mg/L for the third quarter of 2021, 0.147 mg/L for the fourth quarter of 2021 and 0.200 mg/L for the first quarter of 2022.

## 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. 341 and the rules of the TCEQ.
2. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 2.a, the Respondent failed to comply with the maximum contaminant level ("MCL") of 0.080 mg/L for TTHM, based on the locational running annual average, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 290.115(f)(1) and TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 341.0315(c).
3. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 2.b, the Respondent failed to comply with the MCL of 0.060 mg/L for HAA5 based on the locational running annual average, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 290.115(f)(1) and TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 341.0315(c).
4. Pursuant to TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 341.049(a), 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.
5. An administrative penalty in the amount of \$3,125 is justified by the facts recited in this Order, and considered in light of the factors set forth in TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 341.049(b). The Respondent paid the \$3,125 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. 5 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: GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC., Docket No. 2022-0727-PWS-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 365 days after the effective date of this Order:
    - i. Return to compliance with the MCL for TTHM, based on the locational running annual average, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 290.115; and

- ii. Return to compliance with the MCL for HAA5, based on the locational running annual average, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 290.115.
- b. Within 380 days after the effective date of this Order, submit written certification, and include detailed supporting documentation including photographs, receipts, and/or other records to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provision Nos. 2.a.i and 2.a.ii. 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:

Drinking Water Special Functions Section Manager  
Water Supply Division, MC 155  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

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 Facility operations referenced in this Order.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
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

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For the Commission

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Date

  
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For the Executive Director

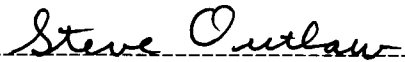
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1/27/2023  
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Date

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the attached Order. I am authorized to agree to the attached Order, and I do agree to the terms and conditions specified therein. I further acknowledge that the TCEQ, in accepting payment for the penalty amount, is materially relying on such representation.

I also understand that failure to comply with the Ordering Provisions, if any, in this Order and/or failure to timely pay the penalty amount, may result in:

- A negative impact on compliance history;
- Greater scrutiny of any permit applications submitted;
- Referral of this case to the OAG for contempt, injunctive relief, additional penalties, and/or attorney fees, or to a collection agency;
- Increased penalties in any future enforcement actions;
- Automatic referral to the OAG of any future enforcement actions; and
- TCEQ seeking other relief as authorized by law.

In addition, any falsification of any compliance documents may result in criminal prosecution.

  
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Signature

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9-20-22  
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Date

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STEVE OUTLAW  
-----  
Name (Printed or typed)  
Authorized Representative of  
GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC.

-----  
SITE MANAGER  
-----  
Title

If mailing address has changed, please check this box and provide the new address below:

**Instructions:** Send the original, signed Order with penalty payment to the Financial Administration Division, Revenue Operations Section at the address in Ordering Provision 1 of this Order.