

Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 62815
Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc.
RN100213859
Docket No. 2022-1518-AIR-E

Order Type:

1660 Agreed Order

Findings Order Justification:

N/A

Media:

AIR

Small Business:

No

Location(s) Where Violation(s) Occurred:

Bryan Ceramics Plant, 1500 Independence Avenue, Bryan, Brazos County

Type of Operation:

Ceramics plant

Other Significant Matters:

Additional Pending Enforcement Actions: No

Past-Due Penalties: No

Other: N/A

Interested Third-Parties: None

Texas Register Publication Date: January 24, 2025

Comments Received: No

Penalty Information

Total Penalty Assessed: \$76,000

Amount Deferred for Expedited Settlement: \$15,200

Total Paid to General Revenue: \$60,800

Total Due to General Revenue: \$0

Payment Plan: N/A

Compliance History Classifications:

Person/CN - High

Site/RN - High

Major Source: Yes

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: June 14, 2022

Date(s) of NOE(s): June 28, 2022

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RN100213859
Docket No. 2022-1518-AIR-E

Violation Information

Failed to submit a permit renewal application at least six months prior to the expiration of a Federal Operating Permit ("FOP"). Specifically, the Respondent did not submit a renewal application for FOP No. O2804 by August 9, 2020, FOP No. O2804 expired on February 9, 2021, and the Respondent continued to operate emission units at the Plant without authorization [30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 122.121, 122.133(2), and 122.241(b) and TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §§ 382.054 and 382.085(b)].

Corrective Actions/Technical Requirements

Corrective Action(s) Completed:

On August 10, 2022, the Respondent obtained FOP No. O4343 to authorize the emission units at the Plant.

Technical Requirements:

N/A

Contact Information

TCEQ Attorney: N/A

TCEQ Enforcement Coordinator: Christina Ferrara, Enforcement Division, Enforcement Team 2, MC R-12, (512) 239-5081; Michael Parrish, Enforcement Division, MC 219, (512) 239-2548

Respondent: Jeff McCormick, Plant Manager, Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc., 1500 Independence Avenue, Bryan, Texas 77803

Respondent's Attorney: N/A



Penalty Calculation Worksheet (PCW)

Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021)

PCW Revision February 11, 2021

DATES	Assigned	6-Jul-2022	Screening	19-Aug-2022	EPA Due	
	PCW	4-Nov-2024				

RESPONDENT/FACILITY INFORMATION

Respondent	Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc.
Reg. Ent. Ref. No.	RN100213859
Facility/Site Region	9-Waco
Major/Minor Source	Major

CASE INFORMATION

Enf./Case ID No.	62815	No. of Violations	1
Docket No.	2022-1518-AIR-E	Order Type	1660
Media Program(s)	Air	Government/Non-Profit	No
Multi-Media		Enf. Coordinator	Christina Ferrara
		EC's Team	Enforcement Team 2
Admin. Penalty \$ Limit Minimum	\$0	Maximum	\$25,000

Penalty Calculation Section

TOTAL BASE PENALTY (Sum of violation base penalties)	Subtotal 1	\$95,000
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ADJUSTMENTS (+/-) TO SUBTOTAL 1

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

Compliance History	-10.0%	Adjustment	Subtotals 2, 3, & 7	-\$9,500
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Notes Reduction for High Performer classification.

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

Good Faith Effort to Comply Total Adjustments	Subtotal 5	-\$9,500
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Economic Benefit	0.0%	Enhancement*	Subtotal 6	\$0
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Total EB Amounts \$375
Estimated Cost of Compliance \$5,000
*Capped at the Total EB \$ Amount

SUM OF SUBTOTALS 1-7	Final Subtotal	\$76,000
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OTHER FACTORS AS JUSTICE MAY REQUIRE	0.0%	Adjustment	\$0
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Reduces or enhances the Final Subtotal by the indicated percentage.

Notes

Final Penalty Amount	\$76,000
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STATUTORY LIMIT ADJUSTMENT	Final Assessed Penalty	\$76,000
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DEFERRAL	20.0%	Reduction	Adjustment	-\$15,200
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Reduces the Final Assessed Penalty by the indicated percentage.

Notes

Deferral offered for expedited settlement.

PAYABLE PENALTY	\$60,800
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Screening Date	19-Aug-2022	Docket No.	2022-1518-AIR-E	PCW
Respondent	Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc.			<i>Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021)</i>
Case ID No.	62815			<i>PCW Revision February 11, 2021</i>
Reg. Ent. Reference No.	RN100213859			
Media	Air			
Enf. Coordinator	Christina Ferrara			

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>)	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%
Other	Environmental management systems in place for one year or more	No	0%
	Voluntary on-site compliance assessments conducted by the executive director under a special assistance program	No	0%
	Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program	No	0%
	Early compliance with, or offer of a product that meets future state or federal government environmental requirements	No	0%

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 2) 0%

>> Repeat Violator (Subtotal 3)

No

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 3) 0%

>> Compliance History Person Classification (Subtotal 7)

High Performer

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 7) -10%

>> Compliance History Summary

Compliance History Notes

Reduction for High Performer classification.

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

>> Final Compliance History Adjustment

Final Adjustment Percentage *capped at 100% -10%

Screening Date 19-Aug-2022 Respondent Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc. Case ID No. 62815 Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN100213859 Media Air Enf. Coordinator Christina Ferrara Violation Number 1	Docket No. 2022-1518-AIR-E	PCW <i>Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021)</i> <i>PCW Revision February 11, 2021</i>
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Rule Cite(s)	30 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 122.121, 122.133(2), and 122.241(b) and Tex. Health & Safety Code §§ 382.054 and 382.085(b)
Violation Description	Failed to submit a permit renewal application at least six months prior to the expiration of a federal operating permit ("FOP"). Specifically, the Respondent did not submit a renewal application for FOP No. O2804 by August 9, 2020, FOP No. O2804 expired on February 9, 2021, and the Respondent continued to operate emission units at the Plant without authorization.

Base Penalty	\$25,000
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>> Environmental, Property and Human Health Matrix

OR		Harm			
	Release	Major	Moderate	Minor	
	Actual				Percent 0.0%
	Potential				

>> Programmatic Matrix

	Falsification	Major	Moderate	Minor	
		x			Percent 20.0%
Matrix Notes	100% of the rule requirement was not met.				

Adjustment	\$20,000
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Adjustment	\$5,000
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Violation Events

Number of Violation Events	19	547	Number of violation days
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	daily		Violation Base Penalty	
	weekly			
	monthly	x		
	quarterly			
	semiannual			
	annual			
	single event			

Nineteen monthly events are recommended from the February 9, 2021 permit expiration date to the August 10, 2022 compliance date.	
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Good Faith Efforts to Comply

	10.0%	
	Before NOE/NOV	NOE/NOV to EDPRP/Settlement Offer
Extraordinary		
Ordinary		x
N/A		
Notes	The Respondent completed the corrective measures on August 10, 2022, after the Notice of Enforcement dated June 28, 2022.	

Violation Subtotal	\$85,500
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Economic Benefit (EB) for this violation

Estimated EB Amount	Violation Final Penalty Total
\$375	\$76,000

This violation Final Assessed Penalty (adjusted for limits)	\$76,000
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Economic Benefit Worksheet

Respondent Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc.
Case ID No. 62815
Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN100213859
Media Air
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)				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	\$5,000	9-Feb-2021	10-Aug-2022	1.50	\$375	n/a	\$375
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0

Notes for DELAYED costs

Estimated cost to obtain FOP No. 04343 to authorize the emission units at the Plant. The Date Required is the date FOP No. 02804 expired and the Final Date is the 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

\$375



Compliance History Report

Compliance History Report for CN600354633, RN100213859, Rating Year 2024 which includes Compliance History (CH) components from September 1, 2019, through August 31, 2024.

Customer, Respondent, or Owner/Operator:	CN600354633, Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc.	Classification: HIGH	Rating: 0.00
Regulated Entity:	RN100213859, Bryan Ceramics PLANT	Classification: HIGH	Rating: 0.00
Complexity Points:	10	Repeat Violator: NO	
CH Group:	05 - Chemical Manufacturing		
Location:	1500 Independence Avenue, Bryan, Brazos County, Texas 77803-2001		
TCEQ Region:	REGION 09 - WACO		
ID Number(s):			
AIR OPERATING PERMITS PERMIT 4343		AIR OPERATING PERMITS ACCOUNT NUMBER BM0026Q	
AIR NEW SOURCE PERMITS PERMIT 4636		AIR NEW SOURCE PERMITS PERMIT 20006	
AIR NEW SOURCE PERMITS ACCOUNT NUMBER BM0026Q		AIR NEW SOURCE PERMITS AFS NUM 4804100027	
AIR NEW SOURCE PERMITS REGISTRATION 124873		STORMWATER PERMIT TXR05FE52	
AIR EMISSIONS INVENTORY ACCOUNT NUMBER BM0026Q		POLLUTION PREVENTION PLANNING ID NUMBER P00474	
INDUSTRIAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE EPA ID TXD089743769		INDUSTRIAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE SOLID WASTE REGISTRATION # (SWR) 33129	

Compliance History Period: September 01, 2019 to August 31, 2024 **Rating Year:** 2024 **Rating Date:** 09/01/2024

Date Compliance History Report Prepared: November 04, 2024

Agency Decision Requiring Compliance History: Enforcement

Component Period Selected: November 04, 2019 to November 04, 2024

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

Name: Christina Ferrara

Phone: (512) 239-5081

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 |

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	February 07, 2020	(1626250)
Item 2	November 18, 2020	(1690142)
Item 3	February 24, 2021	(1700811)
Item 5	May 05, 2021	(1709886)
Item 6	September 10, 2021	(1761673)

Item 7	November 02, 2021	(1770669)
Item 8	April 11, 2023	(1888124)
Item 9	October 16, 2024	(2011028)

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

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



IN THE MATTER OF AN
ENFORCEMENT ACTION
CONCERNING
SAINT-GOBAIN ABRASIVES, INC.
RN100213859

§ BEFORE THE
§
§ TEXAS COMMISSION ON
§
§ ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AGREED ORDER DOCKET NO. 2022-1518-AIR-E

I. JURISDICTION AND STIPULATIONS

On _____, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("the Commission" or "TCEQ") considered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement action regarding Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc. (the "Respondent") under the authority of TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ch. 382 and TEX. WATER CODE ch. 7. The Executive Director of the TCEQ, through the Enforcement Division, and the Respondent together stipulate that:

1. The Respondent owns and operates a ceramics plant located at 1500 Independence Avenue in Bryan, Brazos County, Texas (the "Plant"). The Plant consists or consisted of one or more sources as defined in TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 382.003(12).
2. The Executive Director and the Respondent agree that the TCEQ has jurisdiction to enter this Order pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE §§ 7.002, 7.051, and 7.073, and that the Respondent is subject to TCEQ's jurisdiction. The TCEQ has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE § 5.013 because it alleges violations of TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ch. 382 and the rules of the TCEQ.
3. The occurrence of any violation is in dispute and the entry of this Order shall not constitute an admission by the Respondent of any violation alleged in Section II ("Allegations"), nor of any statute or rule.
4. An administrative penalty in the amount of \$76,000 is assessed by the Commission in settlement of the violations alleged in Section II ("Allegations"). The Respondent paid \$60,800 of the penalty and \$15,200 is deferred contingent upon the Respondent's timely and satisfactory compliance with all the terms of this Order. The deferred amount shall be waived only upon full compliance with all the terms and conditions contained in this Order. If the Respondent fails to timely and satisfactorily comply with any of the terms or requirements contained in this Order, the Executive Director may demand payment of all or part of the deferred penalty amount.
5. The Executive Director and the Respondent agree on a settlement of the matters alleged in this enforcement action, subject to final approval in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.10(a). Any notice and procedures, which might otherwise be authorized or required in this action, are waived in the interest of a more timely resolution of the matter.

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 or conditions in this Order.
7. 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.
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. The Executive Director recognizes that on August 10, 2022, the Respondent obtained Federal Operating Permit ("FOP") No. 04343 to authorize the emission units at the Plant.

II. ALLEGATIONS

During a record review for the Plant conducted on June 14, 2022, an investigator documented that the Respondent failed to submit a permit renewal application at least six months prior to the expiration of an FOP, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 122.121, 122.133(2), and 122.241(b) and TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §§ 382.054 and 382.085(b). Specifically, the Respondent did not submit a renewal application for FOP No. 02804 by August 9, 2020, FOP No. 02804 expired on February 9, 2021, and the Respondent continued to operate emission units at the Plant without authorization.

III. DENIALS

The Respondent generally denies each allegation in Section II ("Allegations").

IV. ORDERING PROVISIONS

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

1. The Respondent is assessed a penalty as set forth in Section I, Paragraph No. 4. The payment of this penalty and the Respondent's compliance with all of the requirements set forth in this Order resolve only the allegations in Section II. The Commission shall not be constrained in any manner from requiring corrective action or penalties for violations which are not raised here. Penalty payments shall be made payable to "TCEQ" and shall be sent with the notation "Re: Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc., Docket No. 2022-1518-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. 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 the Respondent. The Respondent is ordered to give notice of this Order to personnel who maintain day-to-day control over the Plant operations referenced in this Order.
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 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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



For the Executive Director

2/24/2025

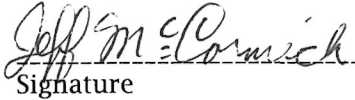
Date

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.



Signature

12/13/2024

Date

Jeff McCormick

Name (Printed or typed)
Authorized Representative of
Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc.

Plant 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.