## Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 64767 City of Hart RN101440873 Docket No. 2023-1282-PWS-E

Order Type:

Findings Agreed Order

**Findings Order Justification:** 

Three repeated enforcement actions (or two orders with nuisance violations) over the prior five year period for the same violation(s).

Media:

**PWS** 

**Small Business:** 

No

Location(s) Where Violation(s) Occurred:

Hart Municipal Water System, 407 Broadway, Hart, Castro 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:** May 3, 2024

Comments Received: No

**Penalty Information** 

**Total Penalty Assessed:** \$1,337

**Total Paid to General Revenue:** \$1,337 **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: August 28, 2023 through September 8, 2023

Date(s) of NOE(s): September 8, 2023

## **Violation Information**

Failed to comply with the maximum contaminant level of 0.005 milligrams per liter for benzene based on the running annual average [30 Tex. Admin. Code § 290.107(f)(1) and Tex. Health & Safety Code § 341.0315(c)].

## Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 64767 City of Hart RN101440873 Docket No. 2023-1282-PWS-E

## Corrective Actions/Technical Requirements

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

The Respondent implemented the following corrective measures:

- a. On July 14, 2017, moved Well No. 1 from emergency status to active status to allow the blending of water to mitigate overall benzene levels;
- b. On June 16, 2022, replaced the corroded casing for Well No. 3; and
- c. On March 26, 2024, was referred to the TCEQ Small Business and Local Government Assistance program for compliance aid to return to compliance with the MCL for benzene based on a running annual average.

## **Technical Requirements:**

The Order will require the Respondent to:

- a. Within 365 days, return to compliance with the maximum contaminant level for benzene based on a running annual average; and
- b. Within 380 days, submit written certification to demonstrate compliance with a.

#### **Contact Information**

TCEO Attornev: N/A

**TCEQ Enforcement Coordinator:** Corinna Willis, Enforcement Division, Enforcement Team 4, MC 219, (512) 239-2564; Michael Parrish, Enforcement Division, MC 219, (512) 239-2548

**Respondent:** The Honorable Eliazar Castillo, Mayor, City of Hart, P.O. Box 329, Hart,

Texas 79043

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



# Penalty Calculation Worksheet (PCW)

Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021)

PCW Revision February 11, 2021

DATES Assigned 11-Sep-2023 PCW 27-Feb-2024

PCW 27-Feb-2024 Screening 14-Sep-2023 EPA Due 31-Dec-2023

RESPONDENT/FACILITY INFORMATION					
Respondent	City of Hart				
Reg. Ent. Ref. No.	RN101440873				
Facility/Site Region	1-Amarillo	Major/Minor Source Minor			

CASE INFORMATION			
Enf./Case ID No.	64767	No. of Violations	1
Docket No.	2023-1282-PWS-E	Order Type	Findings
Media Program(s)	Public Water Supply	Government/Non-Profit	Yes
Multi-Media		Enf. Coordinator	Hannah Shakir
		EC's Team	Enforcement Team 4
Admin. Penalty \$	Limit Minimum \$50 Maximum	\$5,000	

		Penalty Calculation Section	
TOTA	L BASE PENA	ALTY (Sum of violation base penalties)  Subtota	al 1 \$1,250
ADJU	STMENTS (+	/-) TO SUBTOTAL 1	
	Compliance Hi	otained by multiplying the Total Base Penalty (Subtotal 1) by the indicated percentage. <b>story 7.0%</b> Adjustment <b>Subtotals 2, 3,</b>	& <i>7</i> \$87
	Notes	Enhancement for three NOVs with the same/similar violations and one	75.
	Culpability	No 0.0% Enhancement Subtota	al 4 \$0
	Notes	The Respondent does not meet the culpability criteria.	
	Good Faith Eff	ort to Comply Total Adjustments Subtota	al 5 \$0
	<b>Economic Ben</b>	efit 0.0% Enhancement* Subtota	al 6 \$0
	Estimated	Total EB Amounts \$5,462 *Capped at the Total EB \$ Amount  I Cost of Compliance \$40,000	
SUM	OF SUBTOTA	LS 1-7 Final Subto	otal \$1,337
OTUE	D FACTORS	AC JUSTICE MAY REQUIRE	
		AS JUSTICE MAY REQUIRE 0.0% Adjustm  I Subtotal by the indicated percentage.	nent \$0
	Notes	,	
		Final Penalty Amo	ount \$1,337
STAT	UTORY LIMIT	T ADJUSTMENT Final Assessed Pena	alty \$1,337
DEFE		0.0% Reduction Adjustm	nent \$0
Reduces	the Final Assessed Pe	enalty by the indicated percentage.	
	Notes	No deferral is recommended for Findings Orders.	
PAYA	BLE PENALT	Υ	\$1,337

**Respondent** City of Hart

**Case ID No.** 64767 Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN101440873

Media Public Water Supply

Enf. Coordinator Hannah Shakir

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 (number of NOVs meeting criteria)	3	15%		
		Other written NOVs	1	2%		
		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	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%		
	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	0%		
	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	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 or federal government environmental requirements	No	0%		
Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 2) 17%						
>> 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 NOV with dissimilar violations. Reduction for High Performer classification.						
Total Compliance History Adjustment Percentage (Subtotals 2, 3, & 7) 7%						
>> Final Compliance History Adjustment						

Final Adjustment Percentage \*capped at 100%

7%

	E	conomic	<b>Benefit</b>	Woı	<b>'ksheet</b>		
Respondent	City of Hart						
Case ID No.							
Reg. Ent. Reference No.	RN101440873	3					
Media Violation No.	Public Water 9	Supply				Percent Interest	Years of Depreciation
						5.0	15
	Item Cost	<b>Date Required</b>	Final Date	Yrs	<b>Interest Saved</b>	Costs Saved	EB Amount
Item Description							
Delayed Costs							
Equipment				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Buildings				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)	\$40,000	31-Mar-2023	12-Mar-2025	1.95	\$260	\$5,202	\$5,462
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 Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0 \$0	n/a n/a	\$0 \$0
Notes for DELAYED costs	The delayed cost includes the estimated amount to investigate, identify, and implement corrective actions to return to compliance with the MCL for benzene, calculated from the last day of the first quarter of noncompliance to the estimated date of compliance.						
Avoided Costs	ANNU	ALIZE avoided o	osts before e			one-time avoided	
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)  Notes for AVOIDED costs				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Approx. Cost of Compliance		\$40,000			TOTAL		\$5,462



## Compliance History Report

Compliance History Report for CN600661763, RN101440873, Rating Year 2023 which includes Compliance History (CH) components from September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2023.

Customer, Respondent, or CN600661763, City of Hart Classification: HIGH Rating: 0.00

Owner/Operator: Regulated Entity:

RN101440873, HART MUNICIPAL WATER

SYSTEM Classification: NOT APPLICABLE Rating: N/A

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

CH Group: 14 - Other

**Location:** 407 BROADWAY IN HART, CASTRO COUNTY, TEXAS

TCEQ Region: REGION 01 - AMARILLO

ID Number(s):

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM/SUPPLY REGISTRATION 0350002

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

Date Compliance History Report Prepared: February 21, 2024

Agency Decision Requiring Compliance History: Enforcement

Component Period Selected: February 21, 2019 to February 21, 2024

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

Name: Hannah Shakir Phone: (512) 239-1142

#### 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 July 21, 2020 (1658967)

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: 02/24/2023 (1924778)

Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate

Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.107(f)(1)

Description: VOC MCL 102023 - During the 1st quarter of 2023 the system violated the maximum

contaminant level for benzene with a RAA of 0.00700 mg/L. ETT Point Value = 5

2 Date: 04/28/2023 (1924778)

Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate

Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.107(f)(1)

Description: VOC MCL 2Q2023 - During the 2nd quarter of 2023 the system violated the maximum

contaminant level for benzene with a RAA of 0.00900 mg/L. ETT Point Value = 5

3 Date: 08/23/2023 (1924778)

Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate

Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.107(f)(1)

Description: VOC MCL 3Q2023 - During the 3rd quarter of 2023 the system violated the maximum

contaminant level for benzene with a RAA of 0.00900 mg/L. ETT Point Value = 5

4 Date: 11/30/2023 (1938416)

Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate

Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.121(a)
Description: Failure to maintain an up-to-date monitoring plan.

Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate

Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter D 290.46(m)(1)

Description: Failure to inspect the ground storage and elevated tank annually.

Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate

Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter D 290.46(i)

Description: Failure to maintain and adopt an adequate plumbing ordinance, regulations, or service

agreement.

Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate

Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter D 290.42(I)

Description: Failure to maintain a thorough plant operations manual.

Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate

Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter D 290.46(s)(1)

Description: Failure to calibrate well meters at least once every three years.

Self Report? NO Classification: Moderate

Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter D 290.46(s)(2)(C)(i)

Description: Failure to verify the accuracy of manual disinfectant residual analyzers once every 90

days using chlorine solutions of known concentrations.

#### 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	§	BEFORE THE
ENFORCEMENT ACTION	§	
CONCERNING	§	TEXAS COMMISSION ON
CITY OF HART	§	
RN101440873	§	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

#### AGREED ORDER DOCKET NO. 2023-1282-PWS-E

On,	the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("the
Commission" or "TCEQ") conside	ered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement
action regarding the City of Hart	t (the "Respondent") under the authority of Tex. HEALTH & SAFETY
CODE ch. 341. The Executive Dire	ector of the TCEQ, through the Enforcement Division, and the
Respondent presented this Orde	r 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 public water supply located at 407 Broadway in Hart, Castro County, Texas. The Facility provides water for human consumption, has approximately 412 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(73).
- 2. During a record review for the Facility conducted on August 28, 2023 through September 8, 2023, an investigator documented that the running annual average concentrations of benzene were 0.007 milligrams per liter ("mg/L") for the first quarter of 2023, 0.009 mg/L for the second quarter of 2023, and 0.009 mg/L for the third quarter of 2023.
- 3. The Executive Director recognizes that the Respondent implemented the following corrective measures at the Facility:
  - a. On July 14, 2017, moved Well No. 1 from emergency status to active status to allow the blending of water to mitigate overall benzene levels;

- b. On June 16, 2022, replaced the corroded casing for Well No. 3; and
- c. On March 26, 2024, was referred to the TCEQ Small Business and Local Government Assistance program for compliance aid to return to compliance with the MCL for benzene based on a running annual average.
- 4. The Executive Director recognizes that the chemical analysis single samples of benzene at the Facility were 0.004 mg/L for the second quarter of 2024 and 0.003 mg/L for the third quarter of 2024.

#### 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, the Respondent failed to comply with the maximum contaminant level ("MCL") of 0.005~mg/L for benzene based on the running annual average, in violation of 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 290.107(f)(1) and Tex. Health & Safety Code § 341.0315(c).
- 3. 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.
- 4. An administrative penalty in the amount of \$1,337 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 \$1,337 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: City of Hart, Docket No. 2023-1282-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, return to compliance with the MCL for benzene based on a running annual average, in accordance with 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 290.107.
- 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 No. 2.a. 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:

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 Enforcement Division 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.

City of Hart DOCKET NO. 2023-1282-PWS-E Page 5

#### SIGNATURE PAGE

## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

For the Commission	Date
For the Executive Director	1/14/2025
For the Executive Director	Date
I, the undersigned, have read and understand the a the attached Order, and I do agree to the terms an acknowledge that the TCEQ, in accepting payment on such representation.	d conditions specified therein. I further
I also understand that failure to comply with the C and/or failure to timely pay the penalty amount, m	
<ul> <li>A negative impact on compliance history;</li> <li>Greater scrutiny of any permit applications s</li> <li>Referral of this case to the OAG for contempt and/or attorney fees, or to a collection agence.</li> <li>Increased penalties in any future enforcement Automatic referral to the OAG of any future of TCEQ seeking other relief as authorized by later.</li> </ul>	t, injunctive relief, additional penalties, ry; at actions; enforcement actions; and
In addition, any falsification of any compliance documents of the second	Cuments may result in criminal prosecution.    12-18-24   Date   Mayor., Title
City of Hart	

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