

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Notice of Proposed Settlement of Safe Drinking Water Act Administrative Penalty and Opportunity to Comment in Matter of Greka Integrated, Inc.

Publish Date: June 1, 2006

Public Comment Closes: July 1, 2006

In the Matter of Greka Integrated, Inc., Docket No. UIC-9-2006-0003

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX ("EPA"), is authorized under Sections 1423(c) and 1445(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (the "Act"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 300h-2(c), 300j-4(a), to assess administrative penalties against any person who fails to comply with the requirements of regulations enacted in accordance with Section 1422(c) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-1(c). This action under Section 1423(c) is conducted in accordance with the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits" (the "Consolidated Rules"), set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

Greka Integrated, Inc. ("Respondent") agrees to the issuance of this Consent Agreement and proposed Final Order. In accordance with Section 1423(c)(3)(B) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300h-2(c)(3)(B), EPA is hereby providing public notice of and opportunity to comment on this proposed settlement, recorded in a Consent Agreement and proposed Final Order in the following matter:

In the Matter of: Greka Integrated, Inc., Santa Maria, CA, Docket No. UIC-09-2006-0003.

Complainant: Alexis Strauss, Director, Water Division, U.S. EPA, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105

Respondent: Greka Integrated, Inc., Santa Maria, CA

Description of Business or Activity Conducted by the Respondents: Production, exploration, and development of oil and gas.

Alleged Violation: Respondent is allowed to engage in underground injection activities in accordance with the conditions of its Class II Underground Injection Control ("UIC") permits issued by the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources ("CDOGGR"), pursuant to the UIC Regulations of 40 C.F.R. Parts 124, 144, 145, 146, 147 and 148. CDOGGR received delegation to administer the UIC program for Class II wells in the State of California from EPA on June 25, 1984. In the Consent Agreement, EPA alleges that Respondent illegally injected Santa Maria Refining Facility ("Refinery") wastewater (a Class I UIC fluid) into a Class II injection well via a pipeline. In the Consent Agreement, EPA also alleges that Respondent illegally injected Class I Refinery wastewater into a separate Class II injection well using vacuum trucks for delivery. Both of these Class II injection wells are permitted by CDOGGR for the sole disposal of Class II fluids, and are specifically not permitted to dispose of Class I UIC fluids.

Proposed Settlement Penalty: \$127,500.

Date Filed with Regional Hearing Clerk: June 1, 2006

Name, Mailing Address, and Telephone Number of Regional Hearing Clerk:

Danielle Carr, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne St., ORC-1, San Francisco, CA 94105, (415) 972-3871. Please provide the following information along with your comments and submit them in accordance with Part 22: Your full name, mailing address, telephone number, email, the Docket Number (UIC-09-2006-0003), and a concise statement of the basis for, and relevance of, facts supporting any comment for the case to which you are commenting. Persons wishing to comment on this case, including comments on the amount or

basis of the proposed penalty, are invited to submit a statement to the EPA Regional Administrator, attention of the Regional Hearing Clerk (address above), within 30 days of the date of this public notice. All comments received within this 30 day period will be considered in the issuance of the final order. If the 30th day of the comment period falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the next business day. See 40 C.F.R. 22.7(a). In order to provide opportunity for public comment and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. 22.45(b), EPA will not take final action in this proceeding prior to 40 days after issuance of this notice.

For More Information

Persons wishing to receive a copy of Part 22, review the documents filed by the parties in this proceeding, comment upon the proposed penalty assessment, or participate in any hearing that may be held, should contact the Regional Hearing Clerk identified above. Please note that the federal regulations are available online at www.access.gpo.gov/ecfr. Unless otherwise noted, the public record for the proceeding is located in the EPA Regional Office at 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California 94105, and the file will be open for public inspection during normal business hours.