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REGIONAL HEARING CLERK  
EPA REGION 6

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Dallas, Texas 75270**

<b>In the Matter of</b>	§	
	§	
<b>Baze Chemical Palestine Plant,</b>	§	<b>Docket No. RCRA-06-2024-0993</b>
	§	
<b>Respondent.</b>	§	

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**EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER**

1. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") alleges that Baze Chemical Palestine Plant ("Respondent"), owner or operator of the facility 2187 E FM 323, Palestine, Texas, 75801 (the "Facility"), failed to timely submit a Biennial Report for reporting year 2021 as required by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA") and the EPA approved and authorized Texas hazardous waste management program.

2. Pursuant to Section 3008(a)(2) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(2), EPA has provided notice to the state of Texas of this action.

3. Under 40 C.F.R. § 262.41, Respondent was required to submit its 2021 Biennial Report on or before March 1, 2022.

4. The EPA and Respondent agree to the settlement of this matter for a civil penalty of \$2,500 dollars in the public interest.

5. EPA is authorized to enter into this Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order ("Agreement") under the authority vested in the EPA Administrator by Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928, and by 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b).



6. In signing this Agreement, Respondent: (a) admits that Respondent is subject to RCRA and the implementing regulations; (b) admits that the EPA has jurisdiction over Respondent and Respondent's conduct as alleged herein; (c) neither admits nor denies the factual allegations contained herein; (d) consents to the assessment of this penalty; (e) waives the opportunity for a hearing to contest any issue of fact or law set forth herein; (f) waives its right to appeal the Final Order accompanying this Agreement pursuant to Section 3008(b) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928; and (g) consents to electronic service of the filed ESA.

7. By signature below, Respondent certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false submission to the United States Government, that Respondent: (a) has corrected the alleged violations, as applicable, and has submitted true and accurate documentation of such correction along with this Agreement; (b) has submitted payment of the civil penalty as set forth below; and (c) has submitted a true and accurate proof of payment of the civil penalty along with this Agreement.

8. Respondent certifies that it has provided payment for the full civil penalty amount, and that such payment identified Respondent by name and docket number, was made by certified or cashier's check made payable to the "United States Treasury", and sent to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Fines and Penalties  
Cincinnati Finance Center  
PO Box 979078  
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

or by alternate payment method described at <http://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>.

Respondent certifies that the original Agreement and a true and accurate copy of the deposit for payment was submitted to:



U.S. EPA, Region 6  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECDSR)  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Dallas, Texas 75270-2102  
ATTN: Claire Welton  
welton.claire@epa.gov

9. The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter the terms and conditions of this Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order and to execute and legally bind Respondent to it. Upon the effective date of this Agreement, payment of the civil penalty shall constitute full settlement of the civil claims alleged herein.

10. Full payment of the civil penalty shall only resolve Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations alleged herein. EPA reserves its rights to take enforcement action for any other past, present, or future violations of RCRA, any other federal statute or regulation, or this Agreement.

11. Each party shall bear its own costs and fees, if any.

12. The Agreement is binding on the parties signing below, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b), is effective upon filing.

13. This Agreement authorized by the EPA's execution of the Final Order attached hereto constitutes a final order under 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

14. The penalty specified herein shall represent civil penalties assessed by EPA and shall not be deductible for purposes of Federal, State, and local taxes.

15. The EPA and Respondent agree to the use of electronic signatures for this matter pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.6. The EPA and Respondent further agree to electronic service of this Agreement by email to the following:

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*In the Matter of Baze Chemical Palestine Plant  
Docket No. RCRA-06-2024-0993*

To EPA: [murdock.russell@epa.gov](mailto:murdock.russell@epa.gov) and  
[welton.claire@epa.gov](mailto:welton.claire@epa.gov)

To Respondent: [paula.biewer@verdantspecialty.com](mailto:paula.biewer@verdantspecialty.com)



**RESPONDENT:**  
**BAZE CHEMICAL PALESTINE PLANT**

Date: August 9, 2024



Signature

TODD NELMARK

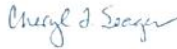
Name

CEO

Title

**COMPLAINANT:**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

Date: August 12, 2024



Digitally signed by  
CHERYL SEAGER  
Date: 2024.08.12 08:45:08  
-05'00'

Cheryl T. Seager  
Director  
Enforcement  
and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 6



**FINAL ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement resolving this matter is hereby ratified and incorporated by reference into this Final Order.

Respondent is ORDERED to comply with all of the terms of the Expedited Settlement Agreement. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b), the effective date of the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement and this Final Order is the date on which this Final Order is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

This Final Order shall resolve only those causes of action alleged in the Expedited Settlement Agreement. Nothing in this Final Order shall be construed to waive, extinguish, or otherwise affect Respondents' (or its officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, or assigns) obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations, including the regulations that were the subject of this action.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

**THOMAS  
RUCKI**

Thomas Rucki  
Regional Judicial Officer

Digitally signed by  
THOMAS RUCKI  
Date: 2024.08.12  
10:58:51 -04'00'

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order was filed with me, the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA - Region 6, 1201 Elm Street, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75270-2102, and that I sent a true and correct copy on this day in the following manner to the email addresses:

Copy via Email to Complainant, EPA:

[murdock.russell@epa.gov](mailto:murdock.russell@epa.gov) and [welton.claire@epa.gov](mailto:welton.claire@epa.gov)

Copy via Email to Respondent:

[paula.biewer@verdantspecialty.com](mailto:paula.biewer@verdantspecialty.com)

Baze Chemical Palestine Plant  
2187 E FM 323  
Palestine, TX 75801



Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA, Region 6