



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

VS

CONSENT ORDER NUMBER  
COWSPST15-021

Issue Date April 30, 2015

CARLOS LOPEZ

DBA/C & R CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES, INC

A. With the agreement of Carlos Lopez dba/C & R Cleaning and Maintenance Services, Inc (Respondent) the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection (Commissioner) finds:

1. Respondent C & R Cleaning and Maintenance Services, Inc is registered with the Secretary of the State of Connecticut. The principal place of business is 44 Douglas Drive in Norwalk, Connecticut 06850.
2. Respondent is registered as a commercial pesticide application business with the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection with a principal place of business at 44 Douglas Drive in Norwalk, Connecticut 06850. Carlos Lopez is the Owner of the business.
3. From 2/1/13 to 4/3/13, Respondent performed and/or solicited to perform commercial pesticide applications with an expired commercial pesticide operator certificate issued by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.
4. On 3/4/13, Carlos Lopez made a false and misleading statement to an inspector of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Pesticide Management Program concerning the length of time he has been engaged in the operation of a commercial pesticide application business.
5. Between 9/1/06 and 4/12/13, Respondent engaged in the operation of a commercial pesticide application business with an expired certificate of registration issued by the Commissioner.
6. Between 9/1/06 and April 2013, Respondent engaged in the operation of a commercial pesticide application business without employing an individual with commercial pesticide supervisor certification.
7. From at least 9/1/06 to 4/12/13, Respondent performed activities requiring commercial pesticide supervisory certification including purchasing restricted-use pesticides and deciding whether pesticides would be applied, how they would be mixed, where they would be applied, which pesticides would be used, the dosages and timing involved in the pesticide use, the method of application and precautions to be taken in their use for numerous commercial pesticide applications at multiple locations within

Connecticut without first obtaining commercial pesticide supervisor certification from the Commissioner.

8. From at least 9/1/06 to 4/12/13, Respondent performed and/or solicited to perform arboriculture including injection of 27-9-9 BioPak for the care of trees at multiple properties located in Connecticut without first obtaining arborist certification from the Commissioner.

9. Since at least 9/1/06, Respondent neglected or refused to comply with the limits of his commercial pesticide operator certification by continuing to engage in the operation of a commercial pesticide application business without adequate supervisory oversight for commercial applications of pesticides at multiple properties located in Connecticut.

By virtue of the above, Respondent has violated sections 22a-61(d), §22a-61(e), §22a-61(f)(1)(H), §22a-61(f)(1)(K), §22a-66c(a), §22a-66e(a)(9), §22a-66f and §23-61b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

B. With the agreement of Respondent, the Commissioner, acting under §22a-6, 22a-63(e), 22a-66h and 23-61f(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, orders Respondent as follows:

1. Effective immediately upon issuance of this consent order, the Respondent shall take all steps necessary to comply with all applicable provisions of chapters 441 governing Pesticide Control and 451 governing arboriculture of the Connecticut General Statutes and regulations promulgated thereunder and shall maintain such compliance.

2. Full compliance. Respondent shall not be considered in full compliance with this consent order until all actions required by this consent order have been completed as approved and to the Commissioner's satisfaction.

3. Civil penalty. On or before thirty (30) days after issuance of this consent order, Respondent shall pay a penalty of five-thousand eight-hundred seventy five dollars (\$5,875.00) as the total civil penalty to be sought by the Commissioner for those, and only those, violations described in paragraphs A.3 through A.9 of this consent order.

4. Supplemental Environmental Project.

a. In addition to the penalty referenced in paragraph B.3, Respondent has agreed to fund a supplemental environmental project ("SEP") or projects as selected by the Department according to its February 15, 1996 "Policy on Supplemental Environmental Projects." Therefore, on or before fourteen (14) days after the date of issuance of this consent order, Respondent shall pay seventeen-thousand six-hundred twenty-five dollars (\$17,625.00) to the Statewide SEP Account. The payment shall be mailed or personally delivered to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Bureau of Financial and Support Services, Accounts Receivable Office, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127, and shall be by certified or bank check payable to the "Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection," with notation thereon Statewide SEP Account and "Consent Order No. COWSPST15-021."

b. If Respondent fails to fund the SEP in accordance with paragraph B.4.a. above, Respondent shall immediately pay a civil penalty of seventeen-thousand six-hundred twenty-five dollars (\$17,625.00). Respondent shall pay such civil penalty in accordance with the provisions of paragraph B.3 of this consent order.

c. Respondent shall not claim or represent that any SEP payment made pursuant to this consent order constitutes an ordinary business expense or charitable contribution or any other type of tax deductible expense, and Respondent shall not seek or obtain any other tax benefit such as a tax credit as a result of the payment under this paragraph.

d. If and when Respondent disseminates any publicity, including but not limited to any press releases regarding funding a SEP, Respondent shall include a statement that such funding is in partial settlement of an enforcement action brought by the Commissioner.

5. Payment of penalties. Payment of penalties under this consent order shall be mailed or personally delivered to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Bureau of Financial and Support Services, Accounts Receivable Office, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127, and shall be by certified or bank check payable to the "Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection." The check shall state on its face, "BMMCA, Pesticide Management Program civil penalty, consent order COWSPST15-021."

6. Definitions. As used in this consent order, "Commissioner" means the Commissioner or a representative of the Commissioner.

7. Dates. The date of "issuance" of this consent order is the date the consent order is deposited in the U.S. mail or personally delivered, whichever is earlier. The date of submission to the Commissioner of any document required by this consent order shall be the date such document is received by the Commissioner. The date of any notice by the Commissioner under this consent order, including but not limited to notice of approval or disapproval of any document or other action, shall be the date such notice is deposited in the U.S. mail or is personally delivered, whichever is earlier. Except as otherwise specified in this consent order, the word "day" as used in this consent order means calendar day. Any document or action which is required by this consent order to be submitted or performed by a date which falls on a Saturday, Sunday or a Connecticut or federal holiday shall be submitted or performed by the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or Connecticut or federal holiday.

8. Noncompliance. This consent order is a final order of the Commissioner with respect to the matters addressed herein, and is non-appealable and immediately enforceable. Failure to comply with this consent order may subject Respondent to an injunction and penalties.

9. False statements. Any false statement in any information submitted pursuant to this consent order may be punishable as a criminal offense under §53a-157b of the Connecticut General Statutes and any other applicable law.

10. Notice of transfer; liability of Respondent. Until Respondent has fully complied with this consent order, Respondent shall notify the Commissioner in writing no later than 15 days after transferring all or any portion of the facility, the operations, the site or the business which is the subject of this consent order or after obtaining a new mailing or location address. Respondent's obligations under this consent order shall not be affected by the passage of title to any property to any other person or municipality.

11. Commissioner's powers. Nothing in this consent order shall affect the Commissioner's authority to institute any proceeding or take any other action to prevent or abate violations of law, prevent or abate pollution, recover costs and natural resource damages, and to impose penalties for past, present, or future violations of law. If at any time the Commissioner determines that the actions taken by

Respondent pursuant to this consent order have not successfully corrected all violations, fully characterized the extent or degree of any pollution, or successfully abated or prevented pollution, the Commissioner may institute any proceeding to require Respondent to undertake further investigation or further action to prevent or abate violations or pollution.

12. Respondent's obligations under law. Nothing in this consent order shall relieve Respondent of other obligations under applicable federal, state and local law.

13. No assurance by Commissioner. No provision of this consent order and no action or inaction by the Commissioner shall be construed to constitute an assurance by the Commissioner that the actions taken by Respondent pursuant to this consent order will result in compliance [or prevent or abate pollution].

14. Access to site. Any representative of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection may enter the Respondent's place of business without prior notice for the purposes of monitoring and enforcing the actions required or allowed by this consent order.

15. No effect on rights of other persons. This consent order neither creates nor affects any rights of persons or municipalities that are not parties to this consent order.

16. Notification of noncompliance. In the event that Respondent becomes aware that it did not or may not comply, or did not or may not comply on time, with any requirement of this consent order or of any document required hereunder, Respondent shall immediately notify by telephone the individual identified in the next paragraph and shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that any noncompliance or delay is avoided or, if unavoidable, is minimized to the greatest extent possible. Within five (5) days of the initial notice, Respondent shall submit in writing the date, time, and duration of the noncompliance and the reasons for the noncompliance or delay and propose, for the review and written approval of the Commissioner, dates by which compliance will be achieved, and Respondent shall comply with any dates which may be approved in writing by the Commissioner. Notification by Respondent shall not excuse noncompliance or delay, and the Commissioner's approval of any compliance dates proposed shall not excuse noncompliance or delay unless specifically so stated by the Commissioner in writing.

17. Submission of documents. Any document required to be submitted to the Commissioner under this consent order shall, unless otherwise specified in this consent order or in writing by the Commissioner, be directed to:

Diane Jorsey, Environmental Analyst III  
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Materials Management & Compliance Assurance  
Pesticide Management Program  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127

18. Joint and several liability. Respondents shall be jointly and severally liable for compliance with this consent order.

Respondent consents to the issuance of this consent order without further notice. The undersigned certifies that he is fully authorized to enter into this consent order and to legally bind the Respondent to the terms and conditions of the consent order.

**CARLOS LOPEZ**  
**DBA/C & R CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES, INC.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carlos Lopez  
Owner

3-18-15  
Date

Issued as a final order of the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

  
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Robert J. Klee  
Commissioner

4/29/15  
Date