

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

In the matter of administrative proceedings
against **AXIUM GROUP, LLC**, a limited
liability company organized under the laws of
the State of Michigan and doing business at
708 Sherman Lane in the City of Cassopolis,
County of Cass, State of Michigan

AQD No. 2019-20

SRN: A0703

STIPULATION FOR ENTRY OF FINAL ORDER
BY CONSENT

This proceeding resulted from allegations by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Air Quality Division (AQD) against Axium Group, LLC (Company), a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Michigan and doing business at 708 Sherman Lane, City of Cassopolis, County of Cass, State of Michigan, with State Registration Number (SRN) A0703 Facility. EGLE alleges that the Company is in violation of Mich Admin Code, R 336.1213, Mich Admin Code, R 336.1702, Mich Admin Code, R 336.1205, and Renewable Operating Permit (ROP) No. MI-ROP-A0703-2017. Specifically, EGLE alleges that the Company failed to maintain required records of weekly pressure drop readings on EUSANDER; exceeded the material limits of the volatile organic compounds (VOC) content of stains, UV stains, sealers, and topcoats for EUFLATLINE1; exceeded the material limits of the VOC content of stains for FGWOODCOATING; failed to perform annual testing on the most frequently used stain for FGDIP TANKS, and failed to provide records to allow EGLE to determine compliance for FGDIP TANKS and FGWOODCOATING, as cited herein and in the Violation Notices dated April 9, 2018 and June 29, 2018. The Company and EGLE stipulate to the termination of this proceeding by entry of this Stipulation for Entry of a Final Order by Consent (Consent Order).

The Company and EGLE stipulate as follows:

1. The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) MCL 324.101 *et seq.*, is an act that controls pollution to protect the environment and natural resources in this State.
2. Article II, Pollution Control, Part 55 of the NREPA (Part 55), MCL 324.5501 *et seq.*, provides for air pollution control regulations in this State.

3. Executive Order 2019-06 renamed the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality as EGLE, and EGLE has all statutory authority, powers, duties, functions and responsibilities to administer and enforce all provisions of Part 55.

4. The EGLE Director has delegated authority to the Director of the AQD (AQD Director) to enter into this Consent Order.

5. The termination of this matter by a Consent Order pursuant to Section 5528 of Part 55, MCL 324.5528, is proper and acceptable.

6. The Company and EGLE agree that the signing of this Consent Order is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by the Company that the law has been violated.

7. This Consent Order becomes effective on the date of execution (effective date of this Consent Order) by the AQD Director.

8. The Company shall achieve compliance with the aforementioned regulations in accordance with the requirements contained in this Consent Order.

COMPLIANCE PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

9.A. On and after the effective date of this Consent Order, the Company shall comply with the materials limits for the wood parts coating lines identified as FGWOODCOATING in Permit to Install (PTI) No. 200-18, as amended, and any subsequent incorporation of these limits into the Company's ROP.

9.B. On and after the effective date of this Consent Order, the Company shall comply with General Conditions 21 and 22 of the Company's ROP.

9.C. On and after the effective date of this Consent Order, the Company shall comply with the Monitoring/Recordkeeping Special Conditions of FGWOODCOATING in PTI No. 200-18, as amended, and any subsequent incorporation of these conditions into the Company's ROP.

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT (SEP)

In addition to the civil fine in this Consent Order for the violations alleged in the Violation Notice, the Company shall perform the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP)

described in Exhibit A, which is attached, incorporated by reference, and made an enforceable part of this Consent Order, and in accordance with the following terms and conditions below:

10.A. The total expenditure for the SEP shall not be less than \$45,500.00. All costs of the SEP shall be the responsibility of the Company. The Company certifies that any economic benefit, including tax abatement(s), tax credit(s), or similar tax relief, that the Company will realize as a result of the SEP is detailed in Exhibit A. If the actual expenditures for the completed SEP totals less than \$45,500.00, then the Company shall pay to EGLE as a civil fine, within thirty (30) days of submission of the SEP certificate of completion required in subparagraph 10.F. below, the difference between the actual expenditures and the minimum expenditure set forth above in this subparagraph A.

10.B. The plans included as Exhibit A contains schedules, including specific dates for the implementation of the SEP. The Company shall fully implement all aspects of the SEP within the specified schedules.

10.C. The Company certifies that the Company has not received, and is not presently negotiating to receive, a credit for the SEP as part of any other enforcement action or any grant from the State of Michigan, the United States Environmental Protection Agency or any other entity. The Company also certifies that the Company will not seek tax benefits following completion of the SEP.

10.D. In the event the Company fails to fully and completely implement the SEP as provided herein to the reasonable satisfaction of EGLE, EGLE will provide written notice to the Company describing the nature of the deficiency. The Company shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of the notice to submit documentation to the AQD Kalamazoo District Supervisor demonstrating that the deficiency has been corrected. In the event the deficiency is not corrected to the satisfaction of EGLE, the Company will be notified, and the Company shall be in violation of this Consent Order and required to pay a stipulated penalty of up to \$24,850.00 to EGLE within thirty (30) days of notification from EGLE. The amount of the stipulated penalty may be reduced or waived by EGLE if the Company made good faith and timely efforts to complete the project. Payment of a stipulated penalty under the terms of this paragraph shall satisfy the Company's obligation to complete the SEP under this Consent Order. Payment of any stipulated penalty shall be made as outlined in Paragraph 14.

10.E. The Company agrees that any public statement, oral or written, making reference to the SEP shall include the following language: "This project was undertaken in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action taken by EGLE for alleged violations of air quality law."

10.F. No later than thirty (30) days after the completion of all activities specified in Exhibit A, the Company shall submit written certification of completion of the SEP to the AQD Kalamazoo District Supervisor demonstrating that all SEP activities specified in Exhibit A have been completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order and Exhibit A. The certification shall be accompanied by appropriate documentation (such as invoices, receipts, or tax statement) to verify the total expenditure made by the Company as a result of implementing the activities specified under Exhibit A. It shall be the sole determination of EGLE whether the Company has completely implemented the activities specified in Exhibit A of this Consent Order.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

11. This Consent Order in no way affects the Company's responsibility to comply with any other applicable state, federal, or local laws or regulations, including without limitation, any amendments to the federal Clean Air Act, 42 USC 7401 *et seq.*, Part 55, or their rules and regulations, or to the State Implementation Plan.

12. This Consent Order constitutes a civil settlement and satisfaction as to the resolution of the violations specifically addressed herein; however, it does not resolve any criminal action that may result from these same violations.

13. Within thirty (30) days after the effective date of this Consent Order, the Company shall pay to the General Fund of the State of Michigan, in the form of a check made payable to the "State of Michigan" and mailed to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Accounting Services Division, Cashier's Office, P.O. Box 30657, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8157, a settlement amount of \$24,850.00, which includes AQD costs for investigation and enforcement. This total settlement amount shall be paid within thirty (30) days after the effective date of this Consent Order. To ensure proper credit, all payments made pursuant to this Consent Order shall include the "Payment Identification Number AQD40225" on the front of the check and/or in the cover letter with the payment. This settlement amount is in addition to any fees, taxes, or other fines that may be imposed on the Company by law.

14. On and after the effective date of this Consent Order, if the Company fails to comply with paragraph 9.A, 9.B, or 9.C of this Consent Order, the Company is subject to a stipulated fine of up to \$6,000.00 per violation. The amount of the stipulated fines imposed pursuant to this paragraph

shall be within the discretion of EGLE. Stipulated fines submitted under this Consent Order shall be made by check, payable to the State of Michigan within thirty (30) days after written demand and shall be mailed to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Accounting Services Division, Cashier's Office, P.O. Box 30657, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8157. To ensure proper credit, all payments shall include the "Payment Identification Number AQD40225-S" on the front of the check and/or in the cover letter with the payment. Payment of stipulated fines shall not alter or modify in any way the Company's obligation to comply with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.

15. The AQD, at its discretion, may seek stipulated fines or statutory fines for any violation of this Consent Order which is also a violation of any provision of applicable federal and state law, rule, regulation, permit, or EGLE administrative order. However, the AQD is precluded from seeking both a stipulated fine under this Consent Order and a statutory fine for the same violation.

16. To ensure timely payment of the settlement amount assessed in paragraph 13 and any stipulated fines assessed pursuant to paragraph 14 of this Consent Order, the Company shall pay an interest penalty to the State of Michigan each time it fails to make a complete or timely payment under this Consent Order. The interest penalty shall be determined at a rate of twelve percent (12%) per year compounded annually, using the full increment of amount due as principal, calculated from the due date specified in this Consent Order until the date that delinquent payment is finally paid in full. Payment of an interest penalty by the Company shall be made to the State of Michigan in accordance with paragraph 14 of this Consent Order. Interest payments shall be applied first towards the most overdue amount or outstanding interest penalty owed by the Company before any remaining balance is applied to subsequent payment amount or interest penalty.

17. The Company agrees not to contest the legal basis for the settlement amount assessed pursuant to paragraph 13. The Company also agrees not to contest the legal basis for any stipulated fines assessed pursuant to paragraph 14 of this Consent Order but reserves the right to dispute in a court of competent jurisdiction the factual basis upon which a demand by EGLE of stipulated fines is made. In addition, the Company agrees that said fines have not been assessed by EGLE pursuant to Section 5529 of Part 55, MCL 324.5529, and therefore are not reviewable under Section 5529 of Part 55.

18. This compliance program is not a variance subject to the 12-month limitation specified in Section 5538 of Part 55, MCL 324.5538.

19. This Consent Order shall remain in full force and effect for a period of at least five (5) years. Thereafter, this Consent Order shall terminate only upon written notice of termination issued by the AQD Director. Prior to issuance of a written notice of termination, the Company shall submit a request, to the AQD Director at the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Air Quality Division, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7760, consisting of a written certification that the Company has fully complied with all the requirements of this Consent Order and has made all payments including all stipulated fines required by this Consent Order. Specifically, this certification shall include: (i) the date of compliance with each provision of the compliance program and the date any payments or stipulated fines were paid; (ii) a statement that all required information has been reported to the AQD Kalamazoo District Supervisor; (iii) confirmation that all records required to be maintained pursuant to this Consent Order are being maintained at the facility; and, (iv) such information as may be requested by the AQD Director.

20. In the event Axium Group, LLC sells or transfers the Facility, it shall advise any purchaser or transferee of the existence of this Consent Order in connection with such sale or transfer. Within thirty (30) calendar days, the Company shall also notify the AQD Kalamazoo District Supervisor, in writing, of such sale or transfer, the identity and address of any purchaser or transferee, and confirm the fact that notice of this Consent Order has been given to the purchaser and/or transferee. As a condition of the sale, the Company must obtain the consent of the purchaser and/or transferee, in writing, to assume all of the obligations of this Consent Order. A copy of that agreement shall be forwarded to the AQD Kalamazoo District Supervisor within thirty (30) days after assuming the obligations of this Consent Order.

21. Prior to the effective date of this Consent Order and pursuant to the requirements of Sections 5511 and 5528(3) of Part 55, MCL 324.5511 and MCL 5528(3), the public was notified of a 30-day public comment period and was provided the opportunity for a public hearing.

22. Section 5530 of Part 55, MCL 324.5530, may serve as a source of authority but not a limitation under which this Consent Order may be enforced. Further, Part 17 of the NREPA, MCL 324.1701 *et seq.*, and all other applicable laws and any other legal basis or applicable statute may be used to enforce this Consent Order.

23. The Company hereby stipulates that entry of this Consent Order is a result of an action by EGLE to resolve alleged violations of its facility located at 708 Sherman Lane, Cassopolis, Michigan. The Company further stipulates that it will take all lawful actions necessary to fully comply

with this Consent Order, even if the Company files for bankruptcy in the future. The Company will not seek discharge of the settlement amount and any stipulated fines imposed hereunder in any future bankruptcy proceedings, and the Company will take necessary steps to ensure that the settlement amount and any future stipulated fines are not discharged. The Company, during and after any future bankruptcy proceedings, will ensure that the settlement amount and any future stipulated fines remain an obligation to be paid in full by the Company to the extent allowed by applicable bankruptcy law.

The undersigned certifies that he/she is fully authorized by the Company to enter into this Consent Order and to execute and legally bind the Company to it.

AXIUM GROUP, LLC.

JEFF SCHWARZE - MEMBER/MANAGER
Print Name and Title

[Signature] - MEMBER/MANAGER Dated: 8/6/19
Signature

Subscribed and sworn to by the above signatory before me on this 6th day of

August, 2019.

[Signature]
Notary Public Signature

Lila J. Leonard
Notary Public Printed Name

11/10/2022
My Commission Expires

Approved as to Content:

Approved as to Form:

[Signature]
for Mary Ann Dolehanty, Director
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT,
GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

[Signature]
Neil Gordon, Section Head
ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION SECTION
ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES,
AND AGRICULTURE DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dated: August 8, 2019

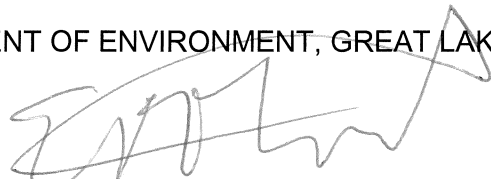
Dated: August 8, 2019

FINAL ORDER

The Director of the Air Quality Division having had opportunity to review this Consent Order and having been delegated authority to enter into Consent Orders by the Director of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy pursuant to the provisions of Part 55 of the NREPA and otherwise being fully advised on the premises,

HAS HEREBY ORDERED that this Consent Order is approved and shall be entered in the record of EGLE as a Final Order.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY


for _____
Mary Ann Dolehanty, Director
Air Quality Division

Effective Date: 8/8/19