

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE & INSPECTION

**IN RE: INA Petroleum, Inc.
ROAD RUNNERS FOOD MART, INC.**

FILE NO.: OCI-UST-20-21-03176

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

A. Introduction

Pursuant to *Sections 42-17.1-2(21) and 42-17.6-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws*, as amended, (“R.I. Gen. Laws”) you are hereby notified that the Director of the Department of Environmental Management (the “Director” of “DEM”) has reasonable grounds to believe that the above-named parties (“Respondents”) have violated certain statutes and/or administrative regulations under DEM's jurisdiction.

B. Facts

- (1) The subject property is located at 2862 Hartford Avenue, Assessor’s Plat 57, Lot 61 in the Town of Johnston, Rhode Island (the "Property"). The Property includes a motor fuel storage and dispensing system and a convenience store (the “Facility”).
- (2) Respondent INA Petroleum, Inc. owns the Property.
- (3) Respondent ROAD RUNNERS FOOD MART, INC. operates the Facility.
- (4) Underground storage tanks (“USTs”) are located on the Property, which tanks are used for storage of petroleum products and which are subject to the *Rules and Regulations for Underground Storage Facilities Used for Regulated Substances and Hazardous Materials (250-RICR-140-25-1)* [effective 20 November 2018 to Current] (the “UST Regulations”).
- (5) The Facility is registered with DEM and is identified as UST Facility No. 03176.
- (6) Part 1.10(C) of the UST Regulations requires that UST owners/operators conduct inspections and complete a *Compliance Certification Checklist and Forms Booklet for Underground Storage Tank Facilities* and any necessary *Return to Compliance Plans* (“Compliance Certification Forms”) and submit the completed Compliance Certification Forms to DEM within the time frame specified by DEM.

- (7) On or about 11 March 2019, DEM sent written notification to all registered UST owners/operators to complete and submit the latest round of Compliance Certification Forms to DEM on or before 30 June 2019.
- (8) On or about 10 July 2019, DEM sent a second written notice to all non-compliant registered UST owners/operators to complete and submit the required Compliance Certification Forms to DEM on or before 31 July 2019.
- (9) On 11 February 2020, DEM issued a Notice of Intent to Enforce (“NIE”) by certified mail to Respondents. The NIE required Respondents to inspect the Facility and complete and submit the Compliance Certification Forms to DEM within 15 days of their receipt of the NIE. The NIE was delivered to Respondent ROAD RUNNERS FOOD MART, INC. on 15 February 2020. The NIE for INA Petroleum, Inc. was returned to DEM as the corporation’s registered agent did not claim the NIE. On 17 March 2020, the NIE was re-mailed to Respondent INA Petroleum, Inc. at the principal office address, however, it was returned “not deliverable as addressed”.
- (10) As of the date of this Notice of Violation (“NOV”), Respondents have not submitted the Compliance Certification Forms to DEM.

C. Violation

Based on the foregoing facts, the Director has reasonable grounds to believe that you have violated the following statutes and/or regulations:

- (1) **UST Regulations, Part 1.10(C)(1)(c)** – requiring UST owners/operators to inspect their facility and complete and submit the Compliance Certification Forms within the time frame specified by DEM.

D. Order

Based upon the violations alleged above and pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Section 42-17.1-2(21), you are hereby ORDERED to, **within 30 days of receipt of the NOV**, submit the completed Compliance Certification Forms to DEM in accordance with Part 1.10(C)(1)(c) of the UST Regulations.

E. Penalty

- (1) Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Section 42-17.6-2, the following administrative penalty, as more specifically described in the attached penalty summary and worksheets, is hereby ASSESSED, jointly and severally, against each named respondent:

\$6,250

- (2) The proposed administrative penalty is calculated pursuant to the *Rules and Regulations for Assessment of Administrative Penalties (250-RICR-130-00-1)* [effective 31 December 2001 to Current] and must be paid to DEM within 30 days of your receipt of the NOV. Payment shall be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or money order made payable to the "General Treasury - Water & Air Protection Program" and shall be forwarded to DEM's Office of Compliance and Inspection, 235 Promenade Street, Suite 220, Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767.
- (3) Penalties assessed against Respondents in the NOV are penalties payable to and for the benefit of the State of Rhode Island and are not compensation for actual pecuniary loss.
- (4) If any violation alleged herein shall continue, then each day during which the violation occurs or continues shall constitute a separate offense and the penalties and/or costs for that violation shall continue to accrue in the manner set forth in the attached penalty summary and worksheets. The accrual of additional penalties and costs shall be suspended if DEM determines that reasonable efforts have been made to comply promptly with the NOV.

F. Right to Administrative Hearing

- (1) Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapters 42-17.1, 42-17.6, 42-17.7 and 42-35, each named respondent is entitled to request a hearing before DEM's Administrative Adjudication Division regarding the allegations, orders and/or penalties set forth in Sections B through E above. All requests for hearing MUST:
 - (a) Be in writing. See R.I. Gen. Laws Sections 42-17.1-2(21)(i) and 42-17.6-4(b);
 - (b) Be **RECEIVED** by DEM's Administrative Adjudication Division, at the following address, within 20 days of your receipt of the NOV. See R.I. Gen. Laws Sections 42-17.1-2(21)(i) and 42-17.7-9:

Administrative Clerk
DEM - Administrative Adjudication Division
235 Promenade Street, Room 350
Providence, RI 02908-5767
 - (c) Indicate whether you deny the alleged violations and/or whether you believe that the administrative penalty is excessive. See R.I. Gen. Laws Section 42-17.6-4(b); **AND**
 - (d) State clearly and concisely the specific issues which are in dispute, the facts in support thereof and the relief sought or involved, if any. See Part 1.7(B) of the *Rules and Regulations for the Administrative Adjudication Division (250-RICR-10-00-1)* [effective 27 November 2014 to Current]

- (2) A copy of each request for hearing must also be forwarded to:

Joseph J. LoBianco, Esquire
DEM - Office of Legal Services
235 Promenade Street, Suite 425
Providence, RI 02908-5767

- (3) Each named respondent has the right to be represented by legal counsel at all administrative proceedings relating to this matter.
- (4) Each respondent must file a separate and timely request for an administrative hearing before DEM's Administrative Adjudication Division as to each violation alleged in the written NOV. If any respondent fails to request a hearing in the above-described time or manner regarding any violation set forth herein, then the NOV shall automatically become a Final Compliance Order enforceable in Superior Court as to that respondent and/or violation and any associated administrative penalty proposed in the NOV shall be final as to that respondent. See R.I. Gen. Laws Sections 42-17.1-2(21)(i) and (vi) and 42-17.6-4(b) and (c).
- (5) Failure to comply with the NOV may subject each respondent to additional civil and/or criminal penalties.
- (6) The NOV does not preclude the Director from taking any additional enforcement action nor does it preclude any other local, state, or federal governmental entities from initiating enforcement actions based on the acts or omissions described herein.

If you have any legal questions, you may contact (or if you are represented by an attorney, please have your attorney contact) Joseph J. LoBianco of DEM's Office of Legal Services at (401) 222-6607 or at joseph.lobianco@dem.ri.gov. All other inquiries should be directed to Tracey Tyrrell of DEM's Office of Compliance and Inspection at (401) 222-1360, ext. 7407 or at tracey.tyrrell@dem.ri.gov.

Please be advised that any such inquiries do not postpone, eliminate, or otherwise extend the need for a timely submittal of a written request for a hearing, as described in Section F above.

FOR THE DIRECTOR

By: _____
David E. Chopy, Administrator
DEM Office of Compliance and Inspection

Dated: _____

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that on the _____ day of _____
the within Notice of Violation was forwarded to:

INA Petroleum, Inc.
c/o Paul V. Jabour, Esq., Registered Agent
343 Broadway, Second Floor
Providence, RI 02909

ROAD RUNNERS FOOD MART, INC.
c/o Shujah Ur Rheman Gondal, Registered Agent
2862 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919

by Certified Mail.



ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY SUMMARY

Program: OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AND INSPECTION, UST
 File No.: OCI-UST-20-21-03176
 Respondents: INA Petroleum, Inc. and ROAD RUNNERS FOOD MART, INC.

GRAVITY OF VIOLATION					
SEE ATTACHED "PENALTY MATRIX WORKSHEETS."					
VIOLATION NO. & CITATION	APPLICATION OF MATRIX		PENALTY CALCULATION		AMOUNT
	Type	Deviation	Penalty from Matrix	Number or Duration of Violations	
C (1) – Compliance Certification	Type II <i>(\$12,500 Max. Penalty) *</i>	Moderate	\$6,250	1 violation	\$6,250
SUB-TOTAL					\$6,250

*Maximum Penalties represent the maximum penalty amounts per day, per violation.

ECONOMIC BENEFIT FROM NON-COMPLIANCE
<p>COSTS OF COMPLIANCE, EQUIPMENT, O&M, STUDIES OR OTHER DELAYED OR AVOIDED COSTS, INCLUDING INTEREST AND/OR ANY COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE DERIVED OVER ENTITIES THAT COMPLY. NOTE: ECONOMIC BENEFIT MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE PENALTY UNLESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - THERE IS NO IDENTIFIABLE BENEFIT FROM NON-COMPLIANCE; OR - THE AMOUNT OF ECONOMIC BENEFIT CANNOT BE QUANTIFIED.
<p>A review of the record in this matter has revealed that Respondents have either enjoyed no identifiable benefit from the non-compliance alleged in this enforcement action or that the amount of economic benefit that may have resulted cannot be quantified.</p>

COST RECOVERY
<p>ADDITIONAL OR EXTRAORDINARY COSTS INCURRED BY THE DIRECTOR DURING THE INVESTIGATION, ENFORCEMENT AND RESOLUTION OF AN ENFORCEMENT ACTION (EXCLUDING NON-OVERTIME PERSONNEL COSTS), FOR WHICH THE STATE IS NOT OTHERWISE REIMBURSED.</p>
<p>A review of the record in this matter has revealed that DEM has not incurred any additional or extraordinary costs during the investigation, enforcement and resolution of this enforcement action (excluding non-overtime personnel costs), for which the State is not otherwise reimbursed.</p>

TOTAL PENALTY PROPOSED UNDER PENALTY REGULATIONS = \$6,250

PENALTY MATRIX WORKSHEET

CITATION: Compliance Certification
 VIOLATION NO.: C (1)

TYPE		
<p style="text-align: center;">___ TYPE I</p> <p><u>DIRECTLY</u> related to protecting health, safety, welfare or environment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">X TYPE II</p> <p><u>INDIRECTLY</u> related to protecting health, safety, welfare or environment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">___ TYPE III</p> <p><u>INCIDENTAL</u> to protecting health, safety, welfare or environment.</p>
DEVIATION FROM THE STANDARD		
THE DEGREE TO WHICH A VIOLATION IS OUT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENT VIOLATED.		
<p><u>FACTORS CONSIDERED:</u></p> <p>Taken from Part 1.10(A)(1)(b) of the <i>Rules and Regulations for Assessment of Administrative Penalties (250-RICR-130-00-1)</i> [effective 31 December 2001 to Current]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The extent to which the act or failure to act was out of compliance: Respondents failed to submit completed Compliance Certification Forms to DEM. The UST Regulations require all UST owners/operators to certify their compliance with the UST Regulations by completing and submitting the Compliance Certification Forms within the time frame specified by DEM. (2) Environmental conditions: Considered, but not utilized for this calculation. (3) Amount of the pollutant: Considered, but not utilized for this calculation. (4) Toxicity or nature of the pollutant: The volatile nature of gasoline presents both a public health hazard (due to the potential inhalation of benzene) and a public safety hazard (due to the potential for explosion). Gasoline and diesel fuel can cause significant soil and groundwater contamination if released to the environment. (5) Duration of the violation: Approximately 1½ years - the Compliance Certification Forms were due on or before 30 June 2019. (6) Areal extent of the violation: Considered, but not utilized for this calculation. 		
(continued)		

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- (7) **Whether the person took reasonable and appropriate steps to prevent and/or mitigate the noncompliance:** Respondents failed to take reasonable and appropriate steps to prevent and/or mitigate the non-compliance.
- (8) **Whether the person has previously failed to comply with any regulations, order, statute, license, permit or approval issued or adopted by the Department, or any law which the Department has the authority or responsibility to enforce:** Respondent INA Petroleum, Inc. was previously cited by DEM for this same violation in NOVs issued on 28 December 2005 and 10 February 2009 and in informal written notices issued on 27 September 2010 and 16 January 2014.
- (9) **The degree of willfulness or negligence, including but not limited to, how much control the violator had over the occurrence of the violation and whether the violation was foreseeable:** Respondents, as owner and operator of the Facility, had full control over the occurrence of the violation. DEM issued a letter to the UST owners/operators on 11 March 2019 requiring the owners/operators to comply by 30 June 2019 and directing the owners/operators to DEM's webpage to obtain the necessary forms and workbooks. DEM issued a second letter to the noncompliance UST owners/operators on 10 July 2019 requiring the owners/operators to comply by 31 July 2019. DEM issued an informal notice to Respondents on 11 February 2020 and 17 March 2020 by certified mail requiring Respondents to submit completed Compliance Certification Forms to DEM within 15 days. The notice to Respondent ROAD RUNNERS FOOD MART, INC. was delivered. The notice to Respondent INA Petroleum, Inc. issued on 11 February 2020 was not claimed. The notice to Respondent INA Petroleum, Inc issued on 17 March 2020 was returned to DEM.
- (10) **Any other factor(s) that may be relevant in determining the amount of a penalty:** Considered, but not utilized for this calculation.

<u> </u> MAJOR	<u> X </u> MODERATE	MINOR
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Penalty Matrix where the applicable statute provides for a civil penalty up to \$25,000		TYPE I	TYPE II	TYPE III
DEVIATION FROM STANDARD	MAJOR	\$12,500 to \$25,000	\$6,250 to \$12,500	\$2,500 to \$6,250
	MODERATE	\$6,250 to \$12,500	\$2,500 to \$6,250 \$6,250	\$1,250 to \$2,500
	MINOR	\$2,500 to \$6,250	\$1,250 to \$2,500	\$250 to \$1,250