

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE & INSPECTION**

**IN RE: Michael L. Goldman (d/b/a Nulco Lofts, LLC)**

**FILE NO.: OCI-HW-13-25**

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 party ("Respondent") has violated certain statutes and/or administrative regulations under the DEM's jurisdiction.

B. Administrative History

On 4 December 2013, the DEM notified the registered agent for Nulco Lofts, LLC by electronic correspondence that the company was storing hazardous waste on the property without a permit from the DEM and that the waste had to be removed and properly disposed. The DEM had telephone conversations with a representative for Nulco Lofts, LLC on 27 January 2014, 1 April 2014, 16 July 2014, 3 December 2014 and 13 August 2015. In each conversation the DEM was informed that the company either had made arrangements to remove the hazardous waste or was planning to do so. Thus far, the hazardous waste has not been removed from the property.

C. Facts

- (1) The property is located at 30 Beecher Street in the city of Pawtucket, Rhode Island (the "Property"). The Property includes a building that was used to manufacture lighting products.
- (2) Nulco Lofts, LLC ("Nulco") owns the Property. Nulco acquired the Property on 1 March 2012.
- (3) On 1 June 2015, the Rhode Island Secretary of State revoked the Certificate of Registration/Organization for Nulco. Michael L. Goldman is the last known manager for the corporation.
- (4) On 26 February 2013, the DEM inspected the Property. The inspection revealed floor trenches in the basement of the building that contained semi-solid material (the "Trench Material").

- (5) On 12 July 2013, the DEM received documents submitted by GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. ("GZA") on behalf of Nulco. The documents included analytical test results of samples collected of the Trench Material.
- (6) The DEM reviewed the results and determined that 4 samples contained selenium at levels that meet the definition of hazardous waste in the DEM's *Rules and Regulations for Hazardous Waste Management* (the "Hazardous Waste Regulations"). Specifically, the samples identified in the GZA documents as "3 Vibratory Trench-Sediment", "4-Oven Trench-Sediment", "5 Nickel Bath Trench-Sediment" and "7 Electro Cleaner Trench-Sediment" (collectively, the "Hazardous Waste").
- (7) The Respondent has not received approval from the DEM to store the Hazardous Waste.
- (8) As of the date of this Notice of Violation ("NOV"), the Respondent has failed to remove and properly dispose of the Hazardous Waste.

D. Violation

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

- (1) **R.I. Gen. Laws Section 23-19.1-10, the DEM's Hazardous Waste Regulations 7B.2 and Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Sections 262.34(b) and 270.1(c)** – requiring a person to obtain a permit from the DEM prior to storing hazardous waste for greater than 90 days.

E. 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 35 days of receipt of the NOV** remove the Hazardous Waste using a permitted hazardous waste transporter and ship the Hazardous Waste to a licensed Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (the "Designated Facility") and submit a copy of the uniform hazardous waste manifest signed by the Designated Facility to the DEM's Office of Compliance & Inspection.

F. 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:

**\$12,500**

- (2) The proposed administrative penalty is calculated pursuant to the DEM's *Rules and Regulations for Assessment of Administrative Penalties*, as amended, and must be paid to the DEM within 30 days of your receipt of the NOV. Payment shall be in the form of a certified check, cashiers check or money order made payable to the "General Treasury - Environmental Response Fund," and shall be forwarded to the DEM Office of Compliance and Inspection, 235 Promenade Street, Suite 220, Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767.
- (3) Penalties assessed against the Respondent in this 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 the DEM determines that reasonable efforts have been made to comply promptly with this NOV.

G. 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 the DEM's Administrative Adjudication Division regarding the allegations, orders and/or penalties set forth in Paragraphs B through F 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 the DEM's Administrative Adjudication Division, at the following address, within 20 days of your receipt of this NOV. See R.I. Gen. Laws Sections 42-17.1-2(21)(i) and 42-17.7-9:

Administrative Clerk  
DEM - Administrative Adjudication Division  
One Capitol Hill, 2<sup>ND</sup> Floor  
Providence, RI 02903

- (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 Rule 7.00(b) of the DEM's *Administrative Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Administrative Adjudication Division for Environmental Matters*.
- (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, 4<sup>TH</sup> Floor  
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 the 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 with regard to any violation set forth herein, then this 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 (v) and 42-17.6-4(b) and (c).
- (5) Failure to comply with this NOV may subject each respondent to additional civil and/or criminal penalties.
- (6) This NOV does not preclude the DEM 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 at the DEM Office of Legal Services at (401) 222-6607. All other inquiries should be directed to Tracey Tyrrell of the DEM Office of Compliance and Inspection at (401) 222-1360 ext. 7407.

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 G above.

FOR THE DIRECTOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
David E. Chopy, Chief  
DEM Office of Compliance and Inspection

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATION

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

Michael L. Goldman  
200 Connecticut Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06854

by Certified Mail.

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# ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY SUMMARY

Program: OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AND INSPECTION, HAZARDOUS WASTE  
 File No.: OCI-HW-13-25  
 Respondent: Michael L. Goldman (d/b/a Nulco Lofts, LLC)

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	
D (1) - Storage of Hazardous Waste without a Permit	Type I (\$25,000 Max. Penalty)*	Moderate	\$12,500	1 violation	\$12,500
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>					<b>\$12,500</b>

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

ECONOMIC BENEFIT FROM NONCOMPLIANCE
<p>COSTS OF COMPLIANCE, EQUIPMENT, O&amp;M, STUDIES OR OTHER DELAYED OR AVOIDED COSTS, INCLUDING INTEREST AND/OR ANY COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE DERIVED OVER ENTITIES THAT ARE IN COMPLIANCE. NOTE: ECONOMIC BENEFIT MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE PENALTY UNLESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- THERE IS NO IDENTIFIABLE BENEFIT FROM NONCOMPLIANCE; OR</li> <li>- THE AMOUNT OF ECONOMIC BENEFIT CAN NOT BE QUANTIFIED.</li> </ul>
<p>A review of the record in this matter has revealed that the Respondent has either enjoyed no identifiable benefit from the noncompliance alleged in this enforcement action or that the amount of economic benefit that may have resulted can not 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 the 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= \$12,500**

**PENALTY MATRIX WORKSHEET**

CITATION: Storage of Hazardous Waste without a Permit  
 VIOLATION NO.: D (1)

<b>TYPE</b>		
<u>  X  </u> <b>TYPE I</b> <u>DIRECTLY</u> related to protecting health, safety, welfare or environment.	<u>      </u> <b>TYPE II</b> <u>INDIRECTLY</u> related to protecting health, safety, welfare or environment.	<u>      </u> <b>TYPE III</b> <u>INCIDENTAL</u> to protecting health, safety, welfare or environment.

**DEVIATION FROM THE STANDARD**  
 THE DEGREE TO WHICH A PARTICULAR VIOLATION IS OUT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENT VIOLATED.

**FACTORS CONSIDERED:**

Taken from Section 10 (a) (2) of the DEM's *Rules and Regulations for Assessment of Administrative Penalties*

- (A) **The extent to which the act or failure to act was out of compliance:** The Respondent stored hazardous waste on the property for greater than 90 days without first obtaining a permit from the DEM. The DEM's Hazardous Waste Regulations establish time limits allowing generators to temporarily store hazardous waste without obtaining a permit. A hazardous waste storage permit requires owners and operators of facilities designated to store and manage hazardous waste to install and maintain safety equipment to minimize the possibility of fires, explosions or unplanned releases involving the waste. The requirement to obtain a hazardous waste storage permit is a major component of the regulatory program.
- (B) **Environmental conditions:** The wastes were stored indoors at the facility.
- (C) **Amount of the pollutant:** Unknown.
- (D) **Toxicity or nature of the pollutant:** The waste contains selenium, which is a toxic metal that is capable of causing liver damage and selenosis when ingested.
- (E) **Duration of the violation:** Full duration unknown - at least 26 months. The Respondent became aware that hazardous waste was present at the facility on 10 July 2013, when GZA submitted its report. The waste was first identified by the DEM inspector on 26 February 2013 (which would require removal of the waste 90 days from that date).
- (F) **Areal extent of the violation:** Considered, but not utilized for this calculation.

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- (G) **Whether the person took reasonable and appropriate steps to prevent and/or mitigate the noncompliance:** The Respondent failed to take reasonable and appropriate steps to mitigate the violation by removing and properly disposing of the hazardous waste to a licensed facility.
- (H) **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:** Considered, but not utilized for this calculation.
- (I) **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:** The Respondent had complete control over the occurrence of the violation and failed to take steps to prevent the occurrence. The DEM communicated with the Respondent on multiple occasions from December 2013 through August 2015 to try to get the Respondent to properly remove the hazardous waste. On each occasion the DEM was informed that the company either had made arrangements to remove the hazardous waste or was planning to do so. Thus far, the hazardous waste has not been removed from the property.
- (J) **Any other factor(s) that may be relevant in determining the amount of a penalty:** Considered, but not utilized for this calculation.

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