

Environmental Reporting Violation by Vulcan Materials Company Under EPCRA (2015)

Introduction

In 2015, Vulcan Materials Company faced an environmental enforcement action from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a violation involving environmental reporting requirements under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The company was assessed a penalty of \$26,040, which was paid directly to the EPA. The case focused on compliance with federal reporting obligations designed to provide communities and emergency responders with information about hazardous chemicals present at industrial facilities.

Background of the Violation

Vulcan Materials Company is one of the nation's largest suppliers of construction materials, including aggregates, asphalt, and related products. Like many industrial companies, Vulcan operates facilities that are subject to federal environmental regulations, including requirements for reporting information about certain chemicals stored or used at their locations.

The 2015 enforcement action involved an EPCRA reporting violation. EPCRA was enacted to help communities prepare for and respond to potential chemical emergencies by requiring facilities to report information about hazardous substances to government agencies. Accurate and timely reporting allows emergency planners, first responders, and the public to better understand potential risks associated with industrial operations.

Enforcement Action

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued the enforcement action against Vulcan Materials Company in 2015. The violation was related to the company's failure to meet certain EPCRA environmental reporting requirements. As part of the resolution, Vulcan was required to pay a civil penalty of \$26,040 to the EPA.

The penalty served as an enforcement measure to encourage compliance with federal environmental reporting laws. While the violation did not involve an air or water discharge event, accurate environmental reporting is an important part of pollution prevention and emergency preparedness programs.

Importance of EPCRA Compliance

EPCRA reporting requirements play an important role in environmental protection by ensuring that regulators and communities have access to information about hazardous materials at industrial facilities. These reports help government agencies develop emergency response plans and allow the public to better understand potential environmental risks in their communities.

Industrial companies are required to maintain accurate records and submit reports when necessary to comply with EPCRA and other environmental regulations. Failure to provide required information can reduce the ability of authorities to respond effectively to environmental emergencies.

Conclusion

The 2015 EPCRA reporting violation involving Vulcan Materials Company resulted in a \$26,040 penalty issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The case highlights the importance of environmental reporting requirements in maintaining transparency, supporting emergency preparedness, and ensuring that industrial facilities comply with federal environmental laws. Although the penalty was smaller than some pollution-related enforcement actions, it demonstrated the EPA's role in holding companies accountable for meeting their reporting responsibilities.