

Environmental Violation by Vulcan Materials Company Under the EPA (2015)

Introduction

In 2015, Vulcan Materials Company faced an environmental enforcement action issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The violation resulted in a penalty of \$26,040 paid to the EPA. The case involved a federal environmental compliance issue and demonstrated the EPA's role in ensuring that companies follow environmental regulations designed to protect communities, emergency responders, and natural resources.

Background of the Company

Vulcan Materials Company is one of the largest suppliers of construction materials in the United States. The company produces and distributes materials such as aggregates, asphalt, and other products used in construction and infrastructure projects.

As a large industrial company, Vulcan operates facilities that are subject to a variety of federal environmental laws. These regulations address issues including air emissions, water protection, hazardous materials management, waste handling, and environmental reporting requirements. Compliance with these laws helps reduce environmental risks and ensures transparency between industrial facilities, regulators, and the public.

Nature of the Violation

In 2015, Vulcan Materials Company was cited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for an environmental violation involving requirements under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).

EPCRA is a federal law that requires certain facilities to report information about hazardous chemicals and chemical storage to government agencies. The purpose of these reporting requirements is to help communities, emergency responders, and officials prepare for and respond to potential chemical emergencies.

The violation involved noncompliance with EPCRA reporting obligations. Although the violation was related to reporting requirements rather than a direct pollution release, accurate environmental reporting is an important part of protecting public safety and maintaining regulatory oversight.

Enforcement Action

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued the enforcement action against Vulcan Materials Company in 2015. As part of the resolution, Vulcan paid a civil penalty of \$26,040 to the EPA.

The penalty served as an enforcement measure to encourage compliance with federal environmental reporting laws. EPA penalties are intended to hold companies accountable, promote corrective actions, and discourage future violations.

Importance of Environmental Reporting Compliance

Environmental reporting requirements provide regulators and communities with important information about industrial activities and potential hazards. Accurate reporting allows emergency planning agencies and first responders to better understand risks and prepare appropriate response strategies.

Companies operating industrial facilities are responsible for maintaining accurate records and submitting required reports within established deadlines. Failure to meet these obligations can limit the ability of authorities to effectively monitor environmental risks and respond to emergencies.

Conclusion

The 2015 environmental violation involving Vulcan Materials Company resulted in a \$26,040 penalty issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The case involved a violation of federal environmental reporting requirements under EPCRA and highlighted the importance of transparency and regulatory compliance. While the violation did not involve a documented pollution release, it demonstrated the EPA's role in enforcing environmental laws and ensuring that industrial companies meet their responsibilities to protect communities and the environment.