

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In the matter of a request
for waiver by:
Tire Depot USA, Inc.
Sameer Hanania
1104 Cassat Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32205

OGC No.: 15-0293
SWVA No.:15-2

ORDER GRANTING WAIVER

The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Department) hereby gives notice that it is granting a waiver to Tire Depot USA, Inc. (Petitioner), pursuant to section 120.542, Florida Statutes (F.S.), for its facility located at 1104 Cassat Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32205 (Facility). On May 5, 2015, the Department received a petition for variance or waiver submitted by Paul Fitch, P.E., of Aerostar SES LLC, on behalf of the Petitioner to the Department (Petition for Waiver). The Petitioner requests a waiver from Rule 62-711.500(3)(a), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), which requires that owners and operators of waste tire sites provide financial assurance in the amount of the closing cost estimate for the facility.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner operates a waste tire processing facility, located at 1104 Cassat Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32205. Petitioner purchases loads of used tires which are then evaluated for marketability. Used tires that can be reused are sold. Used tires that cannot be sold due to their condition are sent to off-site disposal facilities. Section 403.717(1)(d), F.S., defines waste tires to include used tires, and section 403.717(3)(a), F.S., prohibits any person from storing more than 1,500 waste tires except at a permitted waste tire processing facility or other permitted solid waste management

facility. During operation, the Petitioner may store up to 7,000 waste tires at the Facility. This amount exceeds the statutory permitting threshold of 1,500 waste tires on-site.

2. On April 30, 2015, Petitioner submitted a permit application to operate a waste tire processing facility to the Department's Northeast District Office. The Facility has been assigned WACS ID #102353 and the permit application is being tracked under file number 334548-001-WT-02. Rule 62-711.500(3)(a), F.A.C., requires that proof of financial assurance for the closure of the facility be provided as a necessary part of the permit. The permit to operate a waste tire processing facility to be issued by the Department will limit the number of waste tires on-site to no more than 7,000 tires.

3. The closure cost estimate provided to the Department for the maximum number of waste tires stored at the Petitioner's Facility is \$7,000. The Petitioner provided documentation for two methods of financial assurance. The first method involves pre-payment for disposal of up to 7,000 tires by Viva Recycling of Florida, LLC. The second method involves the purchase of a \$7,000 surety bond from Bonds Only, Inc. for an initial fee of \$1,504.00 and an annual fee of \$1,504.00 for the life of the surety bond. Petitioner claims it would be unfair to pay the full cost of removal and disposal in advance of a cleanup event that may never occur. The Petitioner also believes that it would not be fair to pay the initial and annual fees for the surety bond due to the high administrative cost associated with it when compared to the small estimated closure costs.

4. On May 5, 2015, Petitioner submitted a waiver request seeking to have the provisions of Rule 62-711.500(3)(a), F.A.C., not apply to its permitted waste tire processing facility. The Petitioner has demonstrated that it will suffer a substantial and

unnecessary hardship if it is required to maintain proof of financial assurance for closure of the Facility.

5. No comments have been received from the public in response to the Notice of Receipt published in the Florida Administrative Register on May 21, 2015.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Section 120.542, F.S., authorizes the Department to grant a waiver from any of its rules upon a demonstration that the purpose of the underlying statute will be achieved by other means and that application of the rule would create a substantial hardship or would violate principles of fairness.

2. The Petitioner has demonstrated that it will suffer a substantial and unnecessary economic hardship if it is required to maintain proof of financial assurance for closure of its Facility. Because Petitioner's facility's closure costs are small, it has also demonstrated that granting the waiver would not be expected to pose any significant economic risk to Florida taxpayers and, therefore, is not expected to have any adverse environmental consequences.

3. The Department concludes the Petitioner has demonstrated that it has met the requirements for a waiver from Rule 62-711.500(3)(a), F.A.C., with the conditions below. The Department concludes that Petitioner would suffer a substantial economic hardship if the waiver was not granted, and that the grant of the waiver will be consistent with the general intent and purpose of Chapter 403, F.S.

4. This waiver, by itself, does not constitute authorization for Petitioner to proceed with the proposed project. Petitioner is required to operate the Facility only in accordance with the appropriate permit to be issued by the Department.

For these reasons, the Petition for Waiver is GRANTED, subject to the following conditions.

CONDITIONS

1. Petitioner shall comply with the applicable requirements for obtaining and maintaining a waste tire processing facility permit contained in Chapter 62-711, F.A.C., including all requirements for the appropriate closure of Petitioner's Facility, except it shall not be required to provide financial assurance for closure of the facility in accordance with Rule 62-711.500(3)(a), F.A.C.

2. Petitioner shall not store more than 7,000 waste tires on-site at the Facility at any one time. The Department reserves the right to revoke this Order if Petitioner fails to comply with this provision of its Permit.

3. The issuance of this waiver does not relieve the Petitioner from the need to comply with all other conditions of any solid waste permit that may be issued, or from any other requirements of federal, state, or local agencies.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

The Department's Order Granting Waiver will be considered final unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., before the deadline for filing a petition. The procedures for petitioning for a hearing are set forth below.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's proposed agency action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. The petition must contain the information set forth below and must be filed (received) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, or by electronic mail at Agency_Clerk@DEP.state.fl.us.

Petitions by the applicant or any of the parties listed below must be filed within 21 days of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by other persons must be filed within 21 days of publication of the notice or receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. Under section 120.60(3), F.S., however, any person who asked the Department for notice of agency action may file a petition within 21 days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication. The petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing. The failure of any person to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

A petition that disputes the material facts on which the Department's action is based must be in accordance with Rule 28-106.201, F.A.C., and contain the following information:

(a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;

(b) The name, address, any e-mail address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not represented by an attorney or a qualified representative; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination;

(c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision;

(d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;

(e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action;

(f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and

(g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

A petition that does not dispute the material facts on which the Department's action is based shall state that no such facts are in dispute and otherwise shall contain the same information as set forth above, as required by Rule 28-106.301, F.A.C.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means that the Department's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. Persons whose substantial interests will be affected by any such final decision of the Department have the right to petition to become a party to the proceeding, in accordance with the requirements set forth above.

In accordance with section 120.573, F.S., the Department advises that mediation is not available in this case under the provisions of that statute. This does not prevent any interested parties from agreeing to other forms of alternate dispute resolution.

Any party to this order has the right to seek judicial review of it under section 120.68, F.S., by filing a Notice of Appeal under Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, with the Clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, and by filing a copy of the Notice of Appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate District Court of Appeal. The Notice of Appeal must be filed within 30 days after this order is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

DONE AND ORDERED this 16th day of June, 2015, in Leon County, Florida.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT
OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



John A. Coates, P.E.
Assistant Director
Division of Waste Management
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned designated Department clerk, HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been sent by United States Mail to Mr. Sameer Hanania, Tire Depot USA, Inc., 1104 Cassat Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida, 32205, on this ___18___ day of _June_, 2015.

FILING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FILED, on this date, pursuant to §120.52(11), Florida Statutes, with the designated Department clerk, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.



(Clerk)

6/18/15
(date)

Electronic copies furnished to:

Ben Melnick, OGC
Michael Bogin, DEP NED
Richard Tedder, P.E, DEP Tallahassee
Tor Bejnar, DEP Tallahassee
Paul Fitch, P.E., Aerostar SES, LLC