

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – ENFORCEMENT MATTER – CASE NO. 45329  
Alberto Suarez dba Berts Quik Stop  
RN102433745  
Docket No. 2012-2192-PST-E

**Order Type:**

Default Shutdown Order

**Media:**

PST

**Small Business:**

Yes

**Location(s) Where Violation(s) Occurred:**

404 South Broadway, Premont, Jim Wells County

**Type of Operation:**

convenience store with retail sales of gasoline

**Other Significant Matters:**

Additional Pending Enforcement Actions:	None
Past-Due Penalties:	None
Past-Due Fees:	None
Other:	None
Interested Third-Parties:	None

**Texas Register Publication Date:** April 26, 2013

**Comments Received:** None

**Penalty Information**

**Total Penalty Assessed:** \$4,500

**Total Paid to General Revenue:** \$0

**Total Due to General Revenue:** \$4,500

**Compliance History Classifications:**

Person/CN – Satisfactory  
Site/RN – Satisfactory

**Major Source:** No

**Statutory Limit Adjustment:** None

**Applicable Penalty Policy:** September 2011

**Investigation Information**

**Complaint Date(s):** N/A

**Date(s) of Investigation:** December 8, 2011; October 17, 2012

**Date(s) of NOV(s):** N/A

**Date(s) of NOE(s):** October 17, 2012

**Alberto Suarez dba Berts Quik Stop**

RN102433745

Docket No. 2012-2192-PST-E

**Violation Information**

Failed to monitor the USTs for releases at a frequency of at least once every month (not to exceed 35 days between each monitoring) [TEX. WATER CODE § 26.3475(c)(1) and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50(b)(1)(A)].

**Corrective Actions/Technical Requirements****Technical Requirements:**

1. Immediately shut down operations of all USTs at the Facility:
  - a. Cease dispensing fuel from the USTs;
  - b. Cease receiving deliveries of regulated substances into the USTs;
  - c. Padlock the dispensers;
  - d. Empty the USTs of all regulated substances; and
  - e. Temporarily remove the USTs from service.
2. The USTs shall remain out of service until such time as Respondent demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Executive Director that the violations have been corrected.
3. The Facility's UST fuel delivery certificate is revoked immediately. Respondent may submit an application for a new fuel delivery certificate only after Respondent has complied with all of the requirements.
4. Immediately upon the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall cease accepting fuel until such time as a valid delivery certificate is obtained from the TCEQ.
5. Within 10 days, Respondent shall surrender the Facility's UST fuel delivery certificate to the TCEQ.
6. Within 15 days, submit a detailed written report documenting the steps taken to comply with Technical Requirements Nos. 1, 4 and 5.
7. Prior to receiving deliveries of gasoline and resuming sales of gasoline:
  - a. Implement a release detection method for the USTs at the Facility; and
  - b. Obtain a new fuel delivery certificate.
8. Upon obtaining a new fuel delivery certificate, post the fuel delivery certificate in a location at the Facility where the delivery certificate is clearly visible at all times.
9. Within 10 days of resuming sales of gasoline, submit written certification to demonstrate compliance with Technical Requirements Nos. 7 and 8.

**Litigation Information****Date Petition(s) Filed:** February 15, 2013**Date Green Card(s) Signed:** February 19, 2013**Date Answer(s) Filed:** N/A**Contact Information****TCEQ Attorneys:** Rebecca M. Combs, Litigation Division, (512) 239-3400

Lena Roberts, Litigation Division, (512) 239-3400

Eli Martinez, Public Interest Counsel, (512) 239-6363

**TCEQ Enforcement Coordinator:** Sarah Davis, Enforcement Division, (512) 239-1653**TCEQ Regional Contact:** Hector Gonzales, Corpus Christi Regional Office, (361) 825-3100**Respondent Contact:** Alberto Suarez, P.O. Box 1201, Premont, Texas 78375**Respondent's Attorney:** N/A



# Penalty Calculation Worksheet (PCW)

Policy Revision 3 (September 2011)

PCW Revision August 3, 2011

TCEQ

<b>DATES</b>	<b>Assigned</b>	22-Oct-2012			
	<b>PCW</b>	17-Jan-2013	<b>Screening</b>	26-Oct-2012	<b>EPA Due</b>

## RESPONDENT/FACILITY INFORMATION

<b>Respondent</b>	Alberto Suarez dba Berts Quik Stop			
<b>Reg. Ent. Ref. No.</b>	RN102433745			
<b>Facility/Site Region</b>	14-Corpus Christi	<b>Major/Minor Source</b>	Minor	

## CASE INFORMATION

<b>Enf./Case ID No.</b>	45329	<b>No. of Violations</b>	1
<b>Docket No.</b>	2012-2192-PST-E	<b>Order Type</b>	1660
<b>Media Program(s)</b>	Petroleum Storage Tank	<b>Government/Non-Profit</b>	No
<b>Multi-Media</b>		<b>Enf. Coordinator</b>	Sarah Davis
		<b>EC's Team</b>	Enforcement Team 1
<b>Admin. Penalty \$ Limit Minimum</b>	\$0	<b>Maximum</b>	\$25,000

## Penalty Calculation Section

<b>TOTAL BASE PENALTY (Sum of violation base penalties)</b>	<b>Subtotal 1</b>	\$3,750
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## ADJUSTMENTS (+/-) TO SUBTOTAL 1

Subtotals 2-7 are obtained by multiplying the Total Base Penalty (Subtotal 1) by the indicated percentage.

<b>Compliance History</b>	20.0% Enhancement	<b>Subtotals 2, 3, &amp; 7</b>	\$750
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<b>Notes</b>	Enhancement for one order with denial of liability.
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<b>Culpability</b>	No	0.0% Enhancement	<b>Subtotal 4</b>	\$0
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<b>Notes</b>	The Respondent does not meet the culpability criteria.
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<b>Good Faith Effort to Comply Total Adjustments</b>	<b>Subtotal 5</b>	\$0
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<b>Economic Benefit</b>	0.0% Enhancement*	<b>Subtotal 6</b>	\$0
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Total EB Amounts	\$108	*Capped at the Total EB \$ Amount
Approx. Cost of Compliance	\$1,500	

<b>SUM OF SUBTOTALS 1-7</b>	<b>Final Subtotal</b>	\$4,500
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<b>OTHER FACTORS AS JUSTICE MAY REQUIRE</b>	0.0%	<b>Adjustment</b>	\$0
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Reduces or enhances the Final Subtotal by the indicated percentage.

<b>Notes</b>	
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<b>Final Penalty Amount</b>	\$4,500
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<b>STATUTORY LIMIT ADJUSTMENT</b>	<b>Final Assessed Penalty</b>	\$4,500
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<b>DEFERRAL</b>	0.0% Reduction	<b>Adjustment</b>	\$0
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Reduces the Final Assessed Penalty by the indicated percentage. (Enter number only; e.g. 20 for 20% reduction.)

<b>Notes</b>	Deferral not offered for non-expedited settlement.
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<b>PAYABLE PENALTY</b>	\$4,500
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**Screening Date** 26-Oct-2012

**Docket No.** 2012-2192-PST-E

**PCW**

**Respondent** Alberto Suarez dba Berts Quik Stop

*Policy Revision 3 (September 2011)*

**Case ID No.** 45329

*PCW Revision August 3, 2011*

**Reg. Ent. Reference No.** RN102433745

**Media [Statute]** Petroleum Storage Tank

**Enf. Coordinator** Sarah Davis

### Compliance History Worksheet

**>> Compliance History Site Enhancement (Subtotal 2)**

Component	Number of...	Enter Number Here	Adjust.
NOVs	Written notices of violation ("NOVs") with same or similar violations as those in the current enforcement action ( <i>number of NOVs meeting criteria</i> )	0	0%
	Other written NOVs	0	0%
Orders	Any agreed final enforcement orders containing a denial of liability ( <i>number of orders meeting criteria</i> )	1	20%
	Any adjudicated final enforcement orders, agreed final enforcement orders without a denial of liability, or default orders of this state or the federal government, or any final prohibitory emergency orders issued by the commission	0	0%
Judgments and Consent Decrees	Any non-adjudicated final court judgments or consent decrees containing a denial of liability of this state or the federal government ( <i>number of judgements or consent decrees meeting criteria</i> )	0	0%
	Any adjudicated final court judgments and default judgments, or non-adjudicated final court judgments or consent decrees without a denial of liability, of this state or the federal government	0	0%
Convictions	Any criminal convictions of this state or the federal government ( <i>number of counts</i> )	0	0%
Emissions	Chronic excessive emissions events ( <i>number of events</i> )	0	0%
Audits	Letters notifying the executive director of an intended audit conducted under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 ( <i>number of audits for which notices were submitted</i> )	0	0%
	Disclosures of violations under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 ( <i>number of audits for which violations were disclosed</i> )	0	0%
<i>Please Enter Yes or No</i>			
Other	Environmental management systems in place for one year or more	No	0%
	Voluntary on-site compliance assessments conducted by the executive director under a special assistance program	No	0%
	Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program	No	0%
	Early compliance with, or offer of a product that meets future state or federal government environmental requirements	No	0%

**Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 2)**

**>> Repeat Violator (Subtotal 3)**

**Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 3)**

**>> Compliance History Person Classification (Subtotal 7)**

**Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 7)**

**>> Compliance History Summary**

**Compliance History Notes**

Enhancement for one order with denial of liability.

**Total Compliance History Adjustment Percentage (Subtotals 2, 3, & 7)**

**>> Final Compliance History Adjustment**

**Final Adjustment Percentage \*capped at 100%**

**Screening Date** 26-Oct-2012 **Docket No.** 2012-2192-PST-E **PCW**  
**Respondent** Alberto Suarez dba Berts Quik Stop *Policy Revision 3 (September 2011)*  
**Case ID No.** 45329 *PCW Revision August 3, 2011*  
**Reg. Ent. Reference No.** RN102433745  
**Media [Statute]** Petroleum Storage Tank  
**Enf. Coordinator** Sarah Davis

**Violation Number**

**Rule Cite(s)**

**Violation Description**

**Base Penalty**

**>> Environmental, Property and Human Health Matrix**

OR	Release	Harm			Percent
		Major	Moderate	Minor	
	Actual	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="15.0%"/>
	Potential	<input type="text" value="x"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

**>> Programmatic Matrix**

	Falsification	Major	Moderate	Minor	Percent
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0.0%"/>

**Matrix Notes**

**Adjustment**

**Violation Events**

Number of Violation Events   Number of violation days

*mark only one with an x*

daily	<input type="text"/>
weekly	<input type="text"/>
monthly	<input type="text" value="x"/>
quarterly	<input type="text"/>
semiannual	<input type="text"/>
annual	<input type="text"/>
single event	<input type="text"/>

**Violation Base Penalty**

**Good Faith Efforts to Comply**  Reduction

	Before NOV	NOV to EDPRP/Settlement Offer
Extraordinary	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Ordinary	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
N/A	<input type="text" value="x"/>	(mark with x)

**Notes**

**Violation Subtotal**

**Economic Benefit (EB) for this violation** **Statutory Limit Test**

**Estimated EB Amount**  **Violation Final Penalty Total**

**This violation Final Assessed Penalty (adjusted for limits)**

# Economic Benefit Worksheet

**Respondent** Alberto Suarez dba Berts Quik Stop  
**Case ID No.** 45329  
**Reg. Ent. Reference No.** RN102433745  
**Media Violation No.** 1  
**Media** Petroleum Storage Tank

Percent Interest	Years of Depreciation
5.0	15

**Item Cost**   **Date Required**   **Final Date**   **Yrs**   **Interest Saved**   **Onetime Costs**   **EB Amount**  
**Item Description**   No commas or \$

### Delayed Costs

Equipment				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Buildings				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Engineering/construction				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Land				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Record Keeping System				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Training/Sampling				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Remediation/Disposal				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Permit Costs				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Other (as needed)	\$1,500	8-Dec-2011	17-May-2013	1.44	\$108	n/a	\$108

Notes for DELAYED costs

Estimated cost to provide release detection for the USTs at the Facility. The date required is the investigation date and the final date is the expected date of compliance.

### Avoided Costs

**ANNUALIZE [1] avoided costs before entering item (except for one-time avoided costs)**

Disposal				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personnel				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inspection/Reporting/Sampling				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies/equipment				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Financial Assurance [2]				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
ONE-TIME avoided costs [3]				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0

Notes for AVOIDED costs

Approx. Cost of Compliance

\$1,500

**TOTAL**

\$108

The TCEQ is committed to accessibility.

To request a more accessible version of this report, please contact the TCEQ Help Desk at (512) 239-4357.



# Compliance History Report

**PENDING** Compliance History Report for CN603854621, RN102433745, Rating Year 2012 which includes Compliance History (CH) components from September 1, 2007, through August 31, 2012.

**Customer, Respondent, or Owner/Operator:** CN603854621, SUAREZ, ALBERTO **Classification:** SATISFACTORY **Rating:** 45.00  
**Regulated Entity:** RN102433745, BERTS QUIK STOP **Classification:** SATISFACTORY **Rating:** 45.00  
**Complexity Points:** 4 **Repeat Violator:** NO  
**CH Group:** 01 - Gas Stations with convenience Stores and other Gas Stations  
**Location:** 404 S BROADWAY PREMONT, TX 78375, JIM WELLS COUNTY  
**TCEQ Region:** REGION 14 - CORPUS CHRISTI

**ID Number(s):**  
**PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK REGISTRATION**  
REGISTRATION 1907

**Compliance History Period:** September 01, 2007 to August 31, 2012 **Rating Year:** 2012 **Rating Date:** 9/1/2012

**Date Compliance History Report Prepared:** 10/24/2012

**Agency Decision Requiring Compliance History:** Enforcement

**Component Period Selected:** October 24, 2007 to October 24, 2012

## TCEQ Staff Member to Contact for Additional Information Regarding This Compliance History.

**Name:** Sarah Davis **Phone:** (512) 239-1653

## Site and Owner/Operator History:

- 1) Has the site been in existence and/or operation for the full five year compliance period? YES
- 2) Has there been a (known) change in ownership/operator of the site during the compliance period? YES
- 3) If YES for #2, who is the current owner/operator? SUAREZ, ALBERTO OWNER OPERATOR since 3/31/2011
- 4) If YES for #2, who was/were the prior owner(s)/operator(s)? Cantu-Alaniz-Martinez, Inc., OWNER OPERATOR, 2/1/2004 to 3/31/2011
- 5) If YES, when did the change(s) in owner or operator occur? 3/31/2011

## Components (Multimedia) for the Site Are Listed in Sections A - J

### A. Final Orders, court judgments, and consent decrees:

- 1 **Effective Date:** 02/18/2008 **ADMINORDER 2007-0801-PST-E (1660 Order)**  
Classification: Moderate  
Citation: 2D TWC Chapter 26, SubChapter A 26.3475(a)  
30 TAC Chapter 334, SubChapter C 334.50(b)(2)  
Description: 30 Tex. Admin. Code Section 334.50(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I) - Failure to conduct a piping tightness test at least once per year for pressurized piping.  
Classification: Moderate  
Citation: 2D TWC Chapter 26, SubChapter A 26.3475(a)  
30 TAC Chapter 334, SubChapter C 334.50(b)(2)(A)(i)(III)  
Description: 30 Tex. Admin. Code Section 334.50(b)(2)(A)(i)(III) - Failure to test a line leak detector at least once per year for performance and operational reliability.  
Classification: Moderate  
Citation: 2D TWC Chapter 26, SubChapter A 26.3475(c)(1)  
30 TAC Chapter 334, SubChapter C 334.50(a)(1)(A)  
Description: 30 Tex. Admin. Code Section 334.50(a)(1)(A) - Failure to have a release detection method capable of detecting a release from any portion of the UST system which contains regulated substances including the tanks, piping, and other ancillary equipment.

Classification: Moderate

Citation: 2D TWC Chapter 26, SubChapter A 26.3475(c)(1)  
30 TAC Chapter 334, SubChapter C 334.50(d)(1)(B)(ii)

Description: 30 Tex. Admin. Code Section 334.50(d)(1)(B)(ii) - Failure to conduct reconciliation of detailed inventory control records at least once each month, sufficiently accurate to detect a release which equals or exceeds the sum of 1.0 percent of the total substance flowthrough for the month plus 130 gallons.

Classification: Moderate

Citation: 30 TAC Chapter 334, SubChapter D 334.74(1)

Description: 30 Tex. Admin. Code Section 334.74(1) - Failure to conduct UST system tests to determine whether a leak exists in that portion of the tank that routinely contains product, the attached delivery piping, or both, within 30 days of discovery of a suspected release.

**B. Criminal convictions:**

N/A

**C. Chronic excessive emissions events:**

N/A

**D. The approval dates of investigations (CCEDS Inv. Track. No.):**

N/A

**E. Written notices of violations (NOV) (CCEDS Inv. Track. No.):**

A notice of violation represents a written allegation of a violation of a specific regulatory requirement from the commission to a regulated entity. A notice of violation is not a final enforcement action, nor proof that a violation has actually occurred.

N/A

**F. Environmental audits:**

N/A

**G. Type of environmental management systems (EMSs):**

N/A

**H. Voluntary on-site compliance assessment dates:**

N/A

**I. Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program:**

N/A

**J. Early compliance:**

N/A

**Sites Outside of Texas:**

N/A

Pending *Compliance History Report for CN603854621, RN102433745, Rating Year 2012 which includes Compliance History (CH) components from October 24, 2007, through October 24, 2012.*



# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



**IN THE MATTER OF AN  
ENFORCEMENT ACTION  
CONCERNING  
ALBERTO SUAREZ D/B/A  
BERTS QUIK STOP;  
RN102433745**

§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§

**BEFORE THE  
TEXAS COMMISSION ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

## **DEFAULT AND SHUTDOWN ORDER**

**DOCKET NO. 2012-2192-PST-E**

At its \_\_\_\_\_ agenda meeting, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("Commission" or "TCEQ") considered the Executive Director's Preliminary Report and Petition, filed pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE chs. 7 and 26 and the rules of the TCEQ, which requests appropriate relief, including the imposition of an administrative penalty, corrective action of the respondent, and revocation of the facility's fuel delivery certificate. The Commission also considered the Executive Director's Motion requesting the entry of an Order requiring the respondent to shutdown and remove from service the underground storage tanks ("USTs") located at 404 South Broadway in Premont, Jim Wells County, Texas. The respondent made the subject of this Order is Alberto Suarez d/b/a Berts Quik Stop ("Respondent").

The Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent owns and operates, as defined in 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.2(73) and (70), a UST system and a convenience store with retail sales of gasoline located at 404 South Broadway in Premont, Jim Wells County, Texas (Facility ID No. 1907) (the "Facility"). The USTs at the Facility are not exempt or excluded from regulation under the Texas Water Code or the rules of the Commission, and contain a regulated petroleum substance as defined in the rules of the TCEQ.
2. During an investigation conducted on December 8, 2011, and a record review conducted on October 17, 2012, a University of Texas-Arlington Petroleum Storage Tank Program investigator documented that Respondent failed to monitor the USTs for releases at a frequency of at least once every month (not to exceed 35 days between each monitoring).
3. By letter dated October 17, 2012, the University of Texas-Arlington Petroleum Storage Tank Program provided Respondent with notice of the violations and of TCEQ's authority to shut down and remove from service USTs not in compliance with release detection, spill and/or overfill prevention, corrosion protection, and/or financial assurance requirements if the violations were not corrected.
4. The Executive Director filed the "Executive Director's Preliminary Report and Petition Recommending that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Enter an Enforcement Order Assessing an Administrative Penalty Against and Requiring Certain Actions of Alberto Suarez d/b/a Berts Quik Stop" (the "EDPRP") in the TCEQ Chief Clerk's office on February 15, 2013.

5. By letter dated February 15, 2013, sent to Respondent's last known address via certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, the Executive Director served Respondent with notice of the EDPRP. According to the return receipt "green card," Respondent received notice of the EDPRP on February 19, 2013, as evidenced by the signature on the card.
6. More than 20 days have elapsed since Respondent received notice of the EDPRP. Respondent failed to file an answer and failed to request a hearing.
7. By letter dated March 29, 2013, the Executive Director provided Respondent with notice of TCEQ's intent to order the USTs at the Facility to be shut down and removed from service if Respondent failed to correct the release detection violation within 30 days after Respondent's receipt of the notice.
8. As of the date of entry of this Order, Respondent has not provided the Executive Director with documentation demonstrating that the release detection violation alleged in Finding of Fact No. 2 has been corrected.
9. The USTs at the Facility do not have release detection as required by TEX. WATER CODE § 26.3475(c)(1) and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50(b)(1)(A), and may be releasing petroleum products to the environment. Therefore, conditions at the Facility constitute an imminent peril to public health, safety, and welfare.
10. On or about January 29, 2013, Respondent filed a petition for bankruptcy relief pursuant to Chapter 13 of the United States Code.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 1, Respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the TCEQ pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE ch. 26 and the rules of the Commission.
2. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 2, Respondent failed to monitor the USTs for releases at a frequency of at least once every month (not to exceed 35 days between each monitoring), in violation of TEX. WATER CODE § 26.3475(c)(1) and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50(b)(1)(A).
3. As evidenced by Findings of Fact Nos. 4 and 5, the Executive Director timely served Respondent with proper notice of the EDPRP, as required by TEX. WATER CODE § 7.055 and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.104(b)(1).
4. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 6, Respondent failed to file a timely answer as required by TEX. WATER CODE § 7.056 and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.105. Pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE § 7.057 and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.106, the Commission may enter a Default Order against Respondent and assess the penalty recommended by the Executive Director.
5. Pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE § 7.051, the Commission has the authority to assess an administrative penalty against Respondent for violations of state statutes within the Commission's jurisdiction, for violations of rules adopted under such statutes, or for violations of orders or permits issued under such statutes.
6. An administrative penalty in the amount of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) is justified by the facts recited in this Order, and considered in light of the factors set forth in TEX. WATER CODE § 7.053. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 10, Respondent filed a petition for bankruptcy relief pursuant to Chapter 13 of the United States Code. The Automatic Stay imposed by the Bankruptcy Code (specifically, 11 USC § 362(a)) does not apply to the commencement or continuation of an action or proceeding by a governmental unit to enforce such governmental

unit's police or regulatory power, by virtue of the exception set out at 11 USC § 362(b)(4). Accordingly, TCEQ (a governmental unit as defined under 11 USC § 101(27)) is expressly excepted from the automatic stay in pursuing enforcement of the State's environmental protection laws, and in seeking to liquidate its damages for such violations. So long as Respondent's bankruptcy proceedings are pending and/or until relief from the automatic stay is granted, the TCEQ will not, however, seek to execute upon any monetary judgment obtained without first approaching the United States Bankruptcy Court where Respondent's bankruptcy case is pending as necessary.

7. As evidenced by Findings of Fact Nos. 2, 3, 7, and 8, Respondent failed to correct documented violations of Commission release detection requirements within 30 days after Respondent received notice of the violations and notice of the Executive Director's intent to shut down the USTs at the Facility.
8. TEX. WATER CODE §§ 26.3475(e) and 26.352(i) authorize the Commission to order a UST owner or operator to shut down a UST system if, within 30 days after receiving notice of the violations, the owner or operator fails to correct violations of Commission regulatory requirements relating to release detection for tanks and/or piping, spill and/or overfill protection for tanks, corrosion protection for tanks and/or piping, and/or acceptable financial assurance.
9. TEX. WATER CODE §§ 5.102 and 7.002 authorize the Commission to issue orders and make determinations necessary to effectuate the purposes of the statutes within its jurisdiction.
10. Pursuant to 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.8(c)(6), the Commission has authority to revoke the Facility's UST fuel delivery certificate if the Commission finds that good cause exists.
11. Good cause for revocation of the Facility's UST fuel delivery certificate exists as justified by Findings of Fact Nos. 2 and 4 through 6, and Conclusions of Law Nos. 2 through 4.
12. As evidenced by Findings of Fact Nos. 8 and 9, current conditions at the Facility constitute an imminent peril to public health, safety, and welfare. Therefore, pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, TEX. GOV'T CODE § 2001.144(a)(3), this Order is final and effective on the date rendered.

#### **ORDERING PROVISIONS**

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ORDERS that:

1. Immediately upon the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall take the following steps to shut down operations of all USTs at the Facility:
  - a. Cease dispensing fuel from the USTs;
  - b. Cease receiving deliveries of regulated substances into the USTs;
  - c. Padlock the dispensers;
  - d. Empty the USTs of all regulated substances in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.54(d); and
  - e. Temporarily remove the USTs from service in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.54.
2. The USTs at the Facility shall remain out of service, pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE § 26.3475(e) and as directed by Ordering Provisions Nos. 1.a. through 1.e., until such time as Respondent demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Executive Director

that the release detection violation noted in Conclusion of Law No. 2 has been corrected.

3. If Respondent elects to permanently remove from service any portion of the UST system at the Facility, Respondent shall, immediately upon the effective date of this Order, permanently remove the UST system from service in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.55, and within 15 days after the effective date of this Order, shall submit a written report documenting compliance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.55 to:

Petroleum Storage Tank Registration Team, MC 138  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

4. The Facility's UST fuel delivery certificate is revoked immediately upon the effective date of this Order. Respondent may submit an application for a new fuel delivery certificate only after Respondent has complied with all of the requirements set forth in this Order.
5. Immediately upon the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall cease accepting fuel until such time as a valid delivery certificate is obtained from the TCEQ in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 334.7 and 334.8.
6. Within 10 days after the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall send the Facility's UST fuel delivery certificate to:

Petroleum Storage Tank Registration Team, MC 138  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

7. Within 15 days after the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall submit a detailed written report, in accordance with Ordering Provision No. 13, below, documenting the steps taken to comply with Ordering Provisions Nos. 1.a. through 1.e., 5 and 6.
8. Respondent is assessed an administrative penalty in the amount of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00), as set forth in Conclusion of Law No. 6, above, for violations of state statutes and rules of the TCEQ. The assessment of this administrative penalty and Respondent's compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Order completely resolve the matters set forth by this Order in this action. The Commission shall not be constrained in any manner from requiring corrective actions or penalties for other violations which are not raised here.
9. Checks submitted to pay the penalty assessed by this Order, made payable to "Texas Commission on Environmental Quality," shall include the notation "Re: Alberto Suarez d/b/a Berts Quik Stop; Docket No. 2012-2192-PST-E" and shall be mailed to:

Financial Administration Division, Revenues Section  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Attention: Cashier's Office, MC 214  
P.O. Box 13088  
Austin, Texas 78711-3088

10. Prior to receiving deliveries of gasoline and resuming retail sales of gasoline, Respondent shall undertake the following technical requirements:
  - a. Implement a release detection method for the USTs at the Facility, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50; and
  - b. Obtain a new fuel delivery certificate from the TCEQ.
11. Upon obtaining a new fuel delivery certificate, Respondent shall post the fuel delivery certificate in a location at the Facility where the delivery certificate is clearly visible at all times, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.8(c)(5)(A)(iii).
12. Within 10 days of resuming retail sales of gasoline, Respondent shall submit written certification, in accordance with Ordering Provision No. 13, below, to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provisions Nos. 10 and 11.
13. The certifications required by these Ordering Provisions shall be accompanied by detailed supporting documentation, including photographs, receipts, and/or other records, shall be notarized by a State of Texas Notary Public, and shall include the following certification language:

“I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted and all attached documents, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the submitted information is true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.”

Respondent shall submit the written certifications and supporting documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance with these Ordering Provisions to:

Order Compliance Team  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Enforcement Division, MC 149A  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

and:

Hector Gonzales, Waste Section Manager  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Corpus Christi Regional Office  
NRC Bldg., Ste. 1200  
6300 Ocean Dr., Unit 5839  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5839

14. All relief not expressly granted in this Order is denied.
15. The provisions of this Order shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent. Respondent is ordered to give notice of this Order to personnel who maintain day-to-day control over the Facility operations referenced in this Order.
16. If Respondent fails to comply with any of the Ordering Provisions in this Order within the prescribed schedules, and that failure is caused solely by an act of God, war, strike, riot, or other catastrophe, Respondent's failure to comply is not a violation of this Order. Respondent shall have the burden of establishing to the Executive Director's satisfaction that such an event has occurred. Respondent shall notify the Executive Director within seven days after Respondent becomes aware of a delaying event and shall take all reasonable measures to mitigate and minimize any delay.

17. The Executive Director may grant an extension of any deadline in this Order or in any plan, report, or other document submitted pursuant to this Order, upon a written and substantiated showing of good cause. All requests for extensions by Respondent shall be made in writing to the Executive Director. Extensions are not effective until Respondent receives written approval from the Executive Director. The determination of what constitutes good cause rests solely with the Executive Director.
18. The Executive Director may refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas ("OAG") for further enforcement proceedings without notice to Respondent if the Executive Director determines that Respondent has not complied with one or more of the terms or conditions in this Order.
19. This Order shall terminate five years from its effective date or upon compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Order, whichever is later.
20. The Chief Clerk shall provide a copy of this Order to each of the parties. By law, the effective date of this Order shall be the date this Order was rendered, pursuant to TEX. GOV'T CODE § 2001.144(a)(3).

**S I G N A T U R E   P A G E**

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For the Commission

**AFFIDAVIT OF REBECCA M. COMBS**

**STATE OF TEXAS**

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**COUNTY OF TRAVIS**

"My name is Rebecca M. Combs. I am of sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and the facts stated in this affidavit are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

On behalf of the Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the "Executive Director's Preliminary Report and Petition Recommending that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Enter an Enforcement Order Assessing an Administrative Penalty Against and Requiring Certain Actions of Alberto Suarez d/b/a Berts Quik Stop" (the "EDPRP") was filed in the TCEQ Chief Clerk's office on February 15, 2013.

The EDPRP was mailed to Respondent's last known address on February 15, 2013, via certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid. According to the return receipt "green card," Respondent received notice of the EDPRP on February 19, 2013, as evidenced by the signature on the card.

More than 20 days have elapsed since Respondent received notice of the EDPRP. Respondent failed to file an answer and failed to request a hearing.

By letter dated March 28, 2013, sent via first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested article no. 7009 1680 0002 2323 7341, I provided Respondent with notice of the TCEQ's intent to order the USTs at the Facility be shut down and removed from service if the violation pertaining to release detection was not corrected within 30 days of Respondent's receipt of the letter. According to the return receipt "green card," Respondent received the notice on April 12, 2013.

As of the date of this affidavit, I am not aware of any evidence that indicates that Respondent has corrected the release detection violation noted during the December 8, 2011, investigation."

*Rebecca M. Combs*

Rebecca M. Combs, Staff Attorney  
Office of Legal Services, Litigation Division  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Rebecca M. Combs, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that she executed the same for the purposes and consideration herein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, A.D. 2013.

*Monica Wadleigh*

Notary Signature

