



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105**

CERTIFIED MAIL 7008 3230 0000 3862 9250
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

September 29, 2011

In Reply Refer To: CWA-309(a)-11-032

Gary Peel, Production Manager
Paris Precision
1650 Ramada Drive
Paso Robles, California 93446

Dear Mr. Peel:

This Administrative Order, issued under the authority of the Clean Water Act, establishes a schedule of corrective actions to eliminate built-in methods of bypassing treatment, and to ensure that all wastewaters discharged to the sewers are representatively sampled. This order also requires Paris Precision to self-monitor and report the monitoring results for one year. The key dates are as follows:

KEY DATES	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CWA-309(a)-11-032
12/30/11	1. Submit response to the September 16, 2011 EPA inspection report.
12/30/11	2. Submit a self-monitoring plan to ensure representative sampling.
12/30/11	4. Submit a preliminary engineering plan to eliminate bypassing.
01/01/12	6-8. Begin one year of self-monitoring under this Order. Monthly for pH, discharge flow rate, and salinity @ IWD-301.01. Quarterly for metals @ IWD-301.01. Twice per year for cyanide, TTO, and oil & grease @ IWD-301.01. Twice per year for pH, flow, salinity, metals, and toxics @ IWD-301.02.
03/30/12	3. Complete corrective actions to ensure representative sampling.
03/30/12	5. Complete corrective actions to eliminate bypassing.
12/31/12	End self-monitoring under this Order.
* * *	Self-monitoring reports are due on the 28th day of each month for the samples collected during the previous calendar month.

The enclosed Finding of Violation and Administrative Order is issued pursuant to Sections 308(a) and 309(a)(3), (a)(4) and (a)(5)(A) of the Clean Water Act ("the Act") as amended 33 U.S.C. Sections 1318(a) and 1319(a)(3), (a)(4) and (a)(5)(A). Section 309(a), (b), (d), and (g) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. Section 1319(a), (b), (d), and (g), provides administrative and/or civil judicial relief for failure to comply with the Act. In addition, Section 309(c) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. Section 1319(c), provides criminal sanctions for negligent or knowing violations of the Act, and for knowingly making false statements.

The request for information in the Administrative Order is not subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act because it is not a

"collection of information" within the meaning of 44 U.S.C. Sections 3502(3) and 5 CFR § 1320.5(c) because it is directed to fewer than ten persons. Furthermore, it is exempt from OMB review under the Paperwork Reduction Act because it is an administrative action against a specific entity [44 U.S.C. § 3518(c)(1)(B) and 5 CFR § 1320.4(a)(2)].

EPA has promulgated regulations to protect the confidentiality of the business information it receives at 40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B. A claim of business confidentiality may be asserted in the manner specified by 40 CFR Section 2.203(b) for all or part of the information requested. EPA will disclose business information covered by such a claim only as authorized under 40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B. If no claim accompanies the business information at the time EPA receives it, EPA may make it available to the public without further notice. Paris Precision may not withhold from EPA any information on the grounds that it is confidential business information.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Greg V. Arthur of my staff at (415) 972-3504 or at arthur.greg@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Alexis Strauss
Director, Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Patti Gwathmey Industrial Waste Manager, City of Paso Robles
Sorrel Marks, Central Coast RWQCB

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 9

In the Matter of)	
)	
Paris Precision, Inc.)	FINDING OF VIOLATION
Paso Robles, California)	
)	AND ORDER
Proceedings under Section 308(a) and 309(a)(3),)	
(a)(4) and (a)(5)(A) of the Clean Water Act, as)	Docket No. CWA-309(a)-11-032
amended, 33 U.S.C. Section 1318(a) and)	
1319(a)(3), (a)(4) and (a)(5)(A))	

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The following Finding of Violation and Administrative Order (Docket No. CWA-309(a)-11-032) is issued under the authority vested in the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to Sections 308(a) and 309(a)(3), (a)(4) and (a)(5)(A) of the Clean Water Act [33 U.S.C. Sections 1318(a) and 1319(a)(3), (a)(4) and (a)(5)(A)] (hereinafter the Act). This authority has been delegated by the Administrator and the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 9 to the Director of the Water Division of EPA Region 9.

FINDING OF VIOLATION

The Director of the Water Division of EPA Region 9 finds that Paris Precision, Inc., in Paso Robles, California is in violation of Section 307(d) of the Act [33 U.S.C. Section 1317(d)]. This Finding is made on the basis of the following facts:

1. Section 307(d) of the Act [33 U.S.C. Section 1317(d)] prohibits any owner or operator of any source from introducing pollutants into publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) in violation of any effluent standard or prohibition or pretreatment standard promulgated under Section 307 of the Act.
2. Under Section 307(b) of the Act [33 U.S.C. § 1317(b)], EPA promulgated the following general pretreatment regulations:
 - a. The national pretreatment standards in 40 CFR 403.17(d) for all industrial dischargers into publicly owned treatment works (“POTWs”) nationwide, which require industrial users to comply with the provisions restricting the bypassing of treatment necessary to comply with any pretreatment standard or requirement;
 - b. The national pretreatment standards in 40 CFR 403.12(g)(h) for significant industrial users subject to categorical pretreatment standards, which require each self-monitoring sample to be representative of the sampling day’s operations, and

for the sample record to be representative of the conditions occurring during the reporting period, which is defined as every-six months at a minimum;

- c. The definition in 40 CFR 403.3(v) of the term, Significant Industrial User, which in part means an industrial user that is subject to categorical pretreatment standards but does not qualify as non-significant categorical industrial user;
 - d. The definition in 40 CFR 403.3(v) of the term, Non-significant Categorical Industrial User, which means a Significant Industrial User subject to categorical pretreatment standards that never discharges over 100 gallons per day, and has obtained a determination from the permitting authority that it has no reasonable potential for adversely affecting the POTW's operation or for violating any pretreatment standards or requirement.
3. Paris Precision is a corporation and therefore a person within the meaning of Section 502(5) of the Act, [33 U.S.C. § 1362(5)]. Paris Precision is a non-domestic wastewater source in Paso Robles, California. Paris Precision introduces pollutants within the meaning of Section 502(6) of the Act [33 U.S.C. § 1362(6)], into the domestic sewer system that feeds into the Paso Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is a POTW within the meaning of Section 307(b) and the pretreatment regulations in 40 CFR 304.3(o). Paris Precision is therefore subject to the provision of the Act, [33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq.*, including Section 307, 33 U.S.C. § 1317].
4. On August 9, 2011, an EPA inspector and a representative of the City of Paso Robles conducted a compliance evaluation inspection of Paris Precision:
- a. Facility Description: Paris Precision owns and operates a sheet-metal products fabrication plant at 1650 Ramada Drive in Paso Robles, California:
 - i. The operations involve punch pressing, drilling, laser cutting, sheet metal forming, abrasion deburring, vibratory deburring, surface finishing, painting, electrostatic powder coating, oven curing, and silk screening. The surface finishing operations involve aluminum surface cleaning, steel passivation, and steel phosphating in a can washing line;
 - ii. Paris Precision qualifies as a new source metal finisher subject to the Federal metal finishing standards in 40 CFR 433 because the operations began in 2003 after promulgation of the rule, and involve the core metal finishing operations of chemical coating, and etching.
 - b. Wastewater Discharges to the Sewer: The operations generate spents, rinses, wash downs, bleeds, and residuals:
 - i. On April 19, 2011, the City of Paso Robles issued permit No.301 to Paris Precision authorizing discharge of non-domestic wastewater to the sewers;

- ii. Most process wastewaters discharge to a main sewer connection through an industrial wastewater treatment plant comprising surge tanks, metals precipitation, flocculation, Lamella clarification, sand filtration, and a filter press. The Paso Robles permit identifies the industrial wastewater treatment plant discharge as the final compliance sample point, designated in this Order, after the permit number, as IWD-301.01;
 - iii. Drainage from a silk screening station also discharges through a second sewer connection into the Paso Robles sewers. The Paso Robles permit does not identify this discharge, designated in this Order as IWD-301.02;
 - iv. Filter press filtrate and the bypass lines discharge to the main sewer connection below the sampling point, IWD-301.01. Solutions are changed out once or twice per year. The filter press processes sludges continually.
- c. **Pretreatment Standards:** The following Federal standards, national prohibitions, and local limits apply to the discharges to the sewers at IWD-301.01 and 301.02:

Pollutants of Concern	Fed stds (d-max)	Fed stds (mo-avg)	nat'l pro (instant)	local lim (inst/dmax)
cadmium (mg/l)	0.11	0.07	-	0.10
chromium (mg/l)	2.77	1.71	-	3.70
cobalt (mg/l)	-	-	-	0.075
copper (mg/)	3.38	2.07	-	0.30
lead (mg/l)	0.69	0.43	-	-
molybdenum (mg/l)	-	-	-	1.10
nickel (mg/l)	3.98	2.38	-	1.90
selenium (mg/l)	-	-	-	0.27
silver (mg/l)	0.43	0.24	-	-
zinc (mg/l)	2.61	1.48	-	4.00
total cyanide (mg/l)	1.20	0.65	-	0.01
total toxic organics (mg/l)	-	2.13	-	-
ammonia (mg/l)	-	-	-	20.0
boron (mg/l)	-	-	-	5.0
oil and grease (mg/)	-	-	-	100
sulfate (mg/l)	-	-	-	200
total suspended solids (mg/l)	-	-	-	360
total dissolved solids (mg/l)	-	-	-	1000
sodium (mg/l)	-	-	-	200
chloride (mg/l)	-	-	-	150
biochem oxygen demand (mg/l)	-	-	-	360
temperature (°F)	-	-	-	150°F
pH (s.u.)	-	-	<5.0	6.0-9.0
explosivity	-	-	<140°F ④	<140°F ④

5. Representative Sampling - Paris Precision violated Section 307(d) of the Act [33 U.S.C. § 1317(d)] in that:
 - a. EPA reviewed the April-August 2011 sample record for Paris Precision and determined that all samples were collected once per month following treatment from a sampling tank, designated as the final compliance sample point, IWD-301.01;
 - b. EPA determined that the self-monitoring sampling record for Paris Precision is not representative of the discharge to the sewers over the reporting period, as required by 40 CFR 403.12(g)(h), for the following reasons:
 - i. Spent solutions are not metered through treatment. Instead the solution baths are changed out and drained through treatment once or twice per year, on average, as needed. This means that without concurrent samples during change out, the sampling record is not representative of the discharge of various spent solutions;
 - ii. Not all process-related wastewaters delivered for treatment are discharged through the permitted sample point, IWD-301.01. These untreated and unmonitored discharges include the filter press filtrate, bypassed flows from the inlet sump, and bypassed flows from the surge tanks;
 - iii. The silk screening sink drainage discharges through a second sewer connection, IWD-301.02, without treatment and unmonitored;
6. Bypassing Treatment - Paris Precision violated Section 307(d) of the Act [33 U.S.C. § 1317(d)] in that:
 - a. EPA determined that there are built-in methods of bypassing untreated wastewaters and returns around treatment to the sewers, and that these bypasses cannot be used without violating the Federal bypass prohibition in 40 CFR 403.17(d):
 - i. The inlet sump pump splits into three lines, with one line hard-piped directly for discharge to the main sewer connection immediately below and after the IWD-301.01 sampling tank;
 - ii. The filter press filtrate return line and a drain line from the third of three influent holding tanks together also drain by hard-pipe directly for discharge to the main sewer connection after IWD-301.01;
 - iii. Both bypass lines were valved closed. However, their existence allows the untreated discharge of nearly all wastewaters generated by Paris Precision.
7. The September 16, 2011 report of the August 9, 2011 inspection of Paris Precision is by reference made part of this Finding of Violation and Administrative Order.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Taking these Findings into consideration and considering the potential environmental and human health effects of the violations and all good faith efforts to comply, EPA has determined that compliance in accordance with the following requirements is reasonable. Pursuant to Section 308(a) and 309(a)(3), (a)(4) and (a)(5)(A) of the Act [33 U.S.C. Section 1318(a) and 1319(a)(3), (a)(4) and (a)(5)(A)], IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Paris Precision comply with the following requirements:

Response to Findings

1. By **DECEMBER 30, 2011**, Paris Precision shall submit short responses to the findings in Sections 2.0, 3.0, 3.2, 3.5, 4.0 and 5.0 of the September 16, 2011 EPA inspection report.

Representative Sampling

2. By **DECEMBER 30, 2011**, Paris Precision shall submit a self-monitoring plan of the corrective actions to be taken to ensure representative sampling of all wastewater discharges to the sewers over each six-month reporting period, defined as January to June, and July to December. This self-monitoring plan shall include:
 - a. A detailed description of the design and operation of any method to ensure that all spent solutions are representatively sampled over each six-month reporting period;
 - b. A detailed description of the design and operation of any method to ensure that all silk screening wastewaters are representatively sampled over each six-month reporting period;
 - c. A detailed description of the design and operation of any method to ensure that all filter press filtrate and untreated or partially treated bypasses are representatively sampled over each six-month reporting period;
 - d. A schedule of corrective actions that does not extend past March 30, 2012.
3. By **MARCH 30, 2012**, Paris Precision shall complete the corrective actions to ensure representative self-monitoring of all wastewaters discharged to the sewers over a six-month reporting period, as required by item 2 of this Order, and submit a notice of completion.

Elimination of Bypassing

4. By **DECEMBER 30, 2011**, Paris Precision shall submit a preliminary engineering plan of the corrective actions to be taken in order to eliminate all built-in methods of bypassing treatment. This preliminary engineering plan shall include:
 - a. A detailed description of the design and operation of any method to ensure all wastewaters generated during emergency conditions do not bypass treatment on-

site and discharge untreated or partially treated to the sewers. These emergency conditions should include instances of full or partial treatment plant failure, inlet flow overloading, scheduled maintenance, and unscheduled maintenance;

- b. A detailed description of the design and operation of any method to ensure that all filter press filtrate does not bypass treatment on-site and discharge untreated to the sewers;
 - c. A detailed description of the design and operation of any method to remove, redirect, or tag-out and lock-out any remaining emergency bypass lines, in order to ensure no untreated or partially treated wastewaters bypass on-site treatment;
 - d. An explanation of how each proposed wastewater handling method required in Items 2(a), 2(b), and 2(c) above, will eliminate built-in methods of bypassing treatment, and a schematic of all wastewater piping, tankage, equalization, sumps, reagent tanks, mixers, control valves, reagent feed lines, and measurement points;
 - e. A schedule of corrective actions that does not extend past March 30, 2012.
5. By **MARCH 30, 2012**, Paris Precision shall complete the corrective actions to eliminate built-in methods of bypassing treatment, as required by item 4 of this Order, and submit a notice of completion.

Self-Monitoring Requirements

6. From **JANUARY 1, 2012** through **DECEMBER 31, 2012**, Paris Precision shall self-monitor wastewater discharges to the sewers in accordance with the following schedule:

At the compliance sampling point following the industrial wastewater treatment plant to the sewers, designated in this Order as IWD-301.01:

- a. **ONCE EVERY MONTH**, Paris Precision shall self-monitor for pH, discharge flow rate, total dissolved solids (“TDS”), sodium, chloride, and sulfates;
- b. **ONCE EACH QUARTER**, Paris Precision shall self-monitor for cadmium, chromium copper, lead, nickel, silver, and zinc;
- c. **ONCE EVERY SIX MONTHS**, Paris Precision shall self-monitor for total cyanide, total toxic organics, ammonia, and oil and grease;

At the compliance sampling point for the silk screening drain to the sewers, designated in this Order as IWD-301.02:

- d. **ONCE EVERY SIX MONTH**, Paris Precision shall self-monitor for discharge flow rate, pH, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, nickel, silver, zinc, total cyanide, and total toxic organics.

7. The sewer sampling of the discharges required in item 6 of this Order shall be representative of the overall discharge to the Paso Robles sewers at the compliance sampling points IWD-301.01 and IWD-301.02, unless EPA approves new sample points.
8. Paris Precision shall self-monitor and analyze using the sampling protocols and EPA approved analytical methods (or equivalent) to achieve the listed detection limits indicated below:

Parameters	Sampling Protocols	Req'd Detect Limits
flow rate	calibrated flow meter or meter reading	-
pH	calibrated meter	0.1 s.u.
total dissolved solids	24-hour flow-weighted composite	1 mg/l
sodium	24-hour flow-weighted composite	1 mg/l
chloride	24-hour flow-weighted composite	1 mg/l
sulfates	24-hour flow-weighted composite	1 mg/l
cadmium	24-hour flow-weighted composite	10 µg/l
chromium	24-hour flow-weighted composite	10 µg/l
copper	24-hour flow-weighted composite	10 µg/l
lead	24-hour flow-weighted composite	10 µg/l
nickel	24-hour flow-weighted composite	10 µg/l
silver	24-hour flow-weighted composite	10 µg/l
zinc	24-hour flow-weighted composite	10 µg/l
total cyanide	grab	10 µg/l
total tox organics	grab or TOMP self-certification	10 µg/l
oil and grease	grab	1 mg/l
ammonia	24-hour flow-weighted composite	1 mg/l

Submissions

9. By the **TWENTY-EIGHTH (28th) DAY OF EACH MONTH**, Paris Precision shall submit all self-monitoring results for the previous month. The first monthly report is due on February 28, 2012 for the January 2012 self-monitoring. The 12th-and-last monthly report is due on January 28, 2013 for the December 2012 self-monitoring.
10. For each sample, Paris Precision shall record the following:
 - a. The sample results;
 - b. Type of sample (ie. 24-hour composite, grab, or continuous);
 - c. The name of the laboratory used;
 - d. The EPA analytical methods used;
 - e. The date, time, location of sampling, and sampling point (ie: IWD-301.01);

11. All reports submitted pursuant to this Order shall be signed by a principal executive officer of Paris Precision and shall include the following statement:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, I certify that the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I certify that all wastewater samples analyzed and reported herein are representative of the ordinary process wastewater flow from this facility. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

12. All submissions shall be mailed to the following addresses:

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105
Attn: Greg V. Arthur (WTR-7)

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906
Attn: Sorrel Marks

CITY OF PASO ROBLES
3200 Sulphur Springs Road
Paso Robles, California 93446
Attn: Patti Gwathmey

13. This Administrative Order is not and shall not be interpreted to be a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit under Section 402 of the Act, [33 U.S.C. § 1342], nor a local industrial user permit under 40 CFR Part 403.8(f)(iii). In addition, this Order shall not in any way extinguish, waive, satisfy, or otherwise affect Paris Precision's obligation to comply with the Act or its regulations, as well as any other Federal, State or local law, including the sewer use ordinance for the City of Paso Robles.
14. This Order takes effect upon signature.

Original signed by:

Alexis Strauss
Director, Water Division

September 29, 2011

Dated