



0000-0000-0002-2210

**Document Control Sheet**

<b>Sheet Title:</b>	<b>AIR CP 5 YD</b>
<b>Box ID:</b>	<b>5113</b>
<b>Control Sheet ID:</b>	<b>0000-0000-0002-2210</b>
<b>Record Series Name:</b>	<b>OCE / Air Compliance</b>
<b>Record Series:</b>	<b>AIR CP</b>
<b>Primary ID:</b>	<b>100825405</b>
<b>Secondary ID:</b>	
<b>Doc Type:</b>	<b>Compliance</b>
<b>Security:</b>	<b>Public</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>1/2/2018</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Investigation</b>
<b>Tertiary ID</b>	<b>1460817</b>

AIR CP\_100825405\_CP\_20180102\_INVESTIGATION\_1460817\_  
**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**  
**Investigation Report**

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**Customer: Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc.**  
**Customer Number: CN600505630**

**Regulated Entity Name: RIO GRANDE VALLEY SUGAR GROWERS W R  
COWLEY SUGAR HOUSE**

**Regulated Entity Number: RN100825405**

**Investigation #** 1460817

**Investigator:** YADIRA MARTINEZ

**Conducted:** 01/02/2018 -- 01/02/2018

**Program(s):** AIR OPERATING PERMITS  
AIR NEW SOURCE PERMITS

**Investigation Type:** Compliance Invest File Review

**Additional ID(s):** 4821500015  
995  
HN0083G  
114

**Address:** ,  
, ,

**Incident Numbers**

**Site Classification** PERMIT BY RULE  
MAJOR SOURCE

**SIC Code:** 2061  
**NAIC Code:** 311311  
**NAIC Code:** 311314

**Location:** 2 1/2 MILES WEST OF SANTA ROSA, ON  
HWY 107 AT FM 1425

RECEIVED  
JAN 29 2018

CENTRAL TCEQ

**Local Unit:** REGION 15 - HARLINGEN

**Activity Type(s):** ENFFIIH - AIR ENFFIIH - INHOUSE  
ENFORCEMENT FOLLOW-UP INV

**Principal(s):**

Role	Name
RESPONDENT	RIO GRANDE VALLEY SUGAR GROWERS INC

**Contact(s):**

Role	Title	Name	Phone
REGULATED ENTITY MAIL CONTACT	GIS SPECIALIST	MR SAMUEL J GONZALES	Work (956) 636-1411 x. 218 Fax (956) 636-2526 Work (956) 797-8007
REGULATED ENTITY CONTACT	GIS SPECIALIST	MR SAMUEL J GONZALES	Work (956) 636-1411 x. 218 Fax (956) 636-2526 Work (956) 797-8007

**Other Staff Member(s):**

Role	Name
QA Reviewer	MONICA GALVAN
Supervisor	MONICA GALVAN

### Associated Check List

**Checklist Name**

AIR GENERIC INVESTIGATION (10 ITEMS)

**Unit Name**

RGVSG

**Investigation Comments:**

**INTRODUCTION**

On January 2, 2018, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Environmental Investigator Ms. Yadira Martinez reviewed the November 1, 2016 through November 6, 2016 TCEQ Weekly Burn Report for the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. The burn reports were received in the TCEQ Harlingen Region Office on November 29, 2016. The investigation was conducted to ensure that the fields burned during that week were conducted in accordance with Commission Order 94-35.

**Daily Narrative**

In review of the burn report, the following information was obtained. On November 1, 2016 the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. burned 122.27 acres in zone 1, 105.76 acres in zone 2, 121.39 acres in zone 3 and 72.38 in zone 4. On November 2, 2016 the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. burned 91.33 acres in zone 1, 99.22 acres in zone 02, and 73.43 acres in zone 3. On November 3, 2017 the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. burned 186.15 acres in zone 2 and 78.03 acres in zone 3. On November 4, 2016 the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. burned 143.69 acres in zone 2 and 186.41 acres in zone 3. On November 5, 2016 the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. burned 75.64 acres in zone 1. On November 6, 2016 the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. burned 104.80 acres in zone 2 and 137.56 acres in zone 3. A copy of the TCEQ burn report for the period of November 1, 2016 through November 6, 2016 under review is located in the TCEQ Region 15 file room and it is available for public viewing.

In all instances, the sugarcane burning did not commence until after 10:00 hours Central Daylight Savings Time and the burned acres were extinguished at least one hour before sunset. Additionally, no more than 200 acres in each of the quadrants were burned per day. In a review of the meteorological data submitted by the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. for the sugarcane forecast, the average wind speed was less than or equal to 20 knots (23 miles per hour) and greater than or equal to 5 knots (5.6 miles per hour) during the burn time period. In addition, no significant atmospheric temperature inversions existed below 3000 feet and the expected surface temperature minus the 3000 feet temperature during the burn period was greater than or equal to 10 degrees Fahrenheit. During the review, the wind speed at 3000 feet was noted to be greater than or equal to 8 knots (9.2 miles per hour).

**Exit Interview**

Not applicable

**GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION**

**Process Description**

The Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. are granted authority under Commission Order 94-35 to conduct outdoor burning in connection with the harvesting of sugarcane and ordering the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. to develop and conduct an air quality monitoring program.

**BACKGROUND**

The Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. is identified in the TCEQ Central Registry as Regulated Entity Number RN100825405, Customer Reference Number CN600505630, and Account Number HN0083G. The regulated entity has a performance classification of "satisfactory" and a compliance history rating of "0.70". The customer has a performance classification of "satisfactory" and a compliance history rating of "0.70".

**Agreed Orders, Court Orders, and Other Compliance Agreements**

There have not been any agreed orders, court orders, and other compliance agreements at this site in the past two years related to air quality.

**Prior Enforcement Issues**

There have been no prior enforcement issues in the past two years related to air quality.

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY SUGAR GROWERS W R COWLEY SUGAR HOUSE - SANTA ROSA**

**1/2/2018 Inv. # - 1460817**

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**Complaints**

There have been two complaints in the past two years (CCEDS Incident Numbers 245796, 252327). All complaints were related to the burning of sugar cane.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Conclusions, Recommendations and Current Enforcement Issues**

No violations or concerns were noted during the review of the weekly burn report.

**Additional Issues**

No additional issues are noted at this time.

**No Violations Associated to this Investigation**

Signed

*Yvonne May*

Environmental Investigator

Date

*1/2/18*

Signed

*Genevieve L. Shaw*

Supervisor

Date

*1/8/2018*

**Attachments: (in order of final report submittal)**

\_\_\_ Enforcement Action Request (EAR)

\_\_\_ Letter to Facility (specify type) : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Investigation Report

\_\_\_ Sample Analysis Results

\_\_\_ Manifests

\_\_\_ Notice of Registration

\_\_\_ Maps, Plans, Sketches

\_\_\_ Photographs

\_\_\_ Correspondence from the facility

\_\_\_ Other (specify) : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_