

1 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
2 SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
3 JOSEPHINE LEE, SBN 308439  
4 Senior Deputy District Counsel  
5 Email: [jlee4@aqmd.gov](mailto:jlee4@aqmd.gov)  
6 21865 Copley Drive  
7 Diamond Bar, California 91765  
8 TEL: 909.396.3400 • FAX: 909.396.2961

9 Attorneys for Petitioner  
10 South Coast Air Quality Management District

11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD OF THE  
SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**In the Matter of**

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,

Petitioner,

vs.

QUAKER CITY PLATING COMPANY &  
SILVERSMITH LTD

[Facility ID No. 52525]

Respondent.

CASE NO. 5348-2

**DECLARATION OF ALEMAYEHU  
SOLOMON IN SUPPORT OF PETITION  
FOR A STIPULATED ORDER FOR  
ABATEMENT**

District Rules 202 and 1469

Date: April 22, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Hearing Board

South Coast Air Quality

Management District

21865 Copley Drive

Diamond Bar, CA 91765

## DECLARATION OF ALEMAYEHU SOLOMON

1. I, Alemayehu Solomon, declare:

2. I am an Air Quality Inspector III for the Office of Compliance and Enforcement division for the South Coast Air Quality Management District (“District”). Unless otherwise stated expressly below, I make this declaration based on personal knowledge and, if called as a witness in this action, could and would testify competently to the matters discussed herein.

3. I received an undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences from the University of California, Riverside. I received a graduate degree in Environmental Science from California State University, Fullerton.

4. I have been employed at the District since April of 2015.

5. I am familiar with the decorative electroplating facility (“Facility”) that Respondent Quaker City Plating Company & Silversmith LTD (“Respondent”) that operates in Whittier.

6. As relevant to this case (Case No. 5348-2), I am familiar with the Tank HTL-POP-1, a Tier III Hexavalent Chromium tank and Tank HTL-39, a Trivalent Chrome tank under A/N 614351 at Respondent’s Facility.

7. Also, as relevant to this case, I am familiar with the air pollution control system associated with the two aforementioned tanks under A/N 613916 at Respondent’s Facility.

8. I am familiar with District Rule 202-Temporary Permit to Operate, and Rule 1469-Hexavalent Chromium Emissions from Chromium Electroplating and Chromic Acid Anodizing Operations, adopted in October 1998.

9. Respondent’s Tanks HTL-POP-1 and HTL-39 as well as the associated air pollution control system are subject to Rules 202 and 1469.

10. The most recent NOV from the District to Respondent was issued on or around March 7, 2025, alleging violations of South Coast AQMD Rules 202(b), 203(b), 1469(h)(4)(A)(iv), and 1469(h)(3), for operating tanks contrary to permits to construct and permits to operate, failing to demonstrate that the facility meets the hexavalent chromium emissions for Tank HTL-POP-1, and failing to demonstrate that the facility failed to meet the total chromium emissions limit for Tank HTL-39. This violation is not currently in compliance, as Respondent has yet to conduct passing

1 source tests for the tanks.

2 11. The Facility was notified that the prior source results on the tanks were “indeterminate” via  
3 email on or around December 3, 2024 by Air Quality Engineer II Armando Coronado.

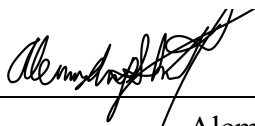
4 12. The prior source test results provided by Facility indicate that the tank slot velocities were  
5 measured below the 2,000 feet per minute standard established to ensure that emissions are being  
6 captured and filtered by the associated air pollution control system. Respondent has not yet  
7 demonstrated compliance with slot velocity limits and the emissions limits delineated in both  
8 South Coast AQMD Rules and within the Facility’s permits to operate and construct.

9 13. I have reviewed the Stipulated Proposed Findings & Decision submitted in advance of the  
10 April 22, 2025 hearing for this matter.

11 14. I agree that Respondent’s compliance with the conditions set forth in the Stipulated  
12 Proposed Findings & Decision provide an expedited path to compliance with District rules and  
13 regulations.

14 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the  
15 foregoing is true and correct.

16 Executed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025, at Diamond Bar, California.

17  
18  4/16/2025  
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
Alemayehu Solomon