

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor



New Jersey Site Remediation Professional Licensing Board

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www.nj.gov/lrspboard

March 9, 2026

Board Determination and Offer of Settlement

By Email afree@eaststarenv.com

Albert Free

East Star Environmental Group, Inc.

Ellicott City, MD 21042

RE: In the Matter of Albert Free, LSRP 575600
SRPL Board Complaint 016-2025

Dear Mr. Free:

This letter is to advise you that in the process of conducting your audit, the Audit Committee of the New Jersey Site Remediation Professional Licensing Board found that you failed to make notifications as required by N.J.A.C. 7:26I-6.5(b). This provision requires LSRPs to submit a notification of dismissal through the Online Business Portal when an LSRP decides to terminate his or her position as the retained LSRP prior to issuing an RAO, within 15 days after terminating his or her position.

Board Determination

The Board has determined that you violated N.J.A.C. 7:26I-6.5(b) in two instances in which you failed to submit a notification of dismissal through the Online Business Portal. The Board has summarized each instance for which you did not submit a notification in Exhibit A, attached to this letter.

Penalties

The Board finds that each of the violations presented in Exhibit A is a Category 1 first violation pursuant to the Board's policy as set forth in the guidance document "Using Categories of Misconduct and Applying Board Discretion To Assess a Civil Administrative Penalty When

Board Members

Paul Hauge, Chairperson
Joann Held, Vice-Chairperson
Philip Brilliant
Michele Christina
Lawra Dodge
Steven Domber
Nicholas Huszar
Jay Meegoda
Michael Renzulli
Charles Stebbins
Kathi Stetser

Finding a Violation” and carries a base penalty amount of \$500.00 with a discretionary penalty range of \$0 - \$1,500.00. Based on mitigating factors, the Board intends to assess a civil administrative penalty in the amount of \$250.00 for each of the violations listed in Exhibit A, for a total civil administrative penalty of \$500.00. The Board’s intended assessment is in accordance with the aforementioned guidance, which permits considering mitigating factors for calculating the amount of an administrative penalty.

Offer of Settlement

As a result of the foregoing, the Board will pursue formal disciplinary proceedings against you for the violations enumerated in Exhibit A to assess the above referenced penalties for these violations. Notwithstanding this decision, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle these violations before instituting formal disciplinary proceedings if you consent to the following terms:

Agree to pay a civil administrative penalty in the amount of \$400.00, which is 80% of the civil administrative penalty of \$500.00 the Board intends to assess in formal disciplinary proceedings. Payment to “Treasurer, State of New Jersey” shall be made through arrangement with the SRPL Board.

If we are unwilling or unable to settle this matter, the Board will pursue formal disciplinary proceedings for these violations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 58:10C-17.f. to assess the above referenced penalties and you will be afforded an opportunity to request a hearing regarding this matter. In that event, the Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 58:10C-17.f., may also enter an order assessing and requiring you to pay the costs for the investigation which led to the establishment of the violations, and its costs for successfully enforcing its penalty action against you. In addition, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 58:10C-17.e., any person who violates the Site Remediation Reform Act, or any rule, regulation or order of the Board, or who fails to pay a civil administrative penalty assessed by the Board, shall be subject, upon order of the Superior Court, to pay a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000.00 for the first violation and not more than \$20,000.00 for every subsequent violation. The Board reserves its right to amend its findings and conclusions based on further review or investigation if this matter is not settled.

If you elect to settle this matter, you must sign the attached Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Board Offer of Settlement and return it along with payment to the Board within thirty-five (35) days following your receipt of this Board Determination and Offer of Settlement. Here, and throughout this document, the beginning date to calculate this 35-day time period is the date of delivery as indicated on the return receipt of this document. If the Board receives no response from you within thirty-five (35) days, the Board’s settlement offer shall be considered withdrawn and the Board will pursue formal disciplinary proceedings.

Complaint 016-2025
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LSRP 575600

Should you have any questions concerning this Board Determination and Offer of Settlement or the Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Board Offer of Settlement, you may contact the SRPL Board at 609-984-3424 or SRPLBoardContact@dep.nj.gov or seek the advice of your legal counsel. This Board Determination and Offer of Settlement does not constitute a formal enforcement order, a final agency action or a final legal determination that may be appealed or contested. Please note that the Board Determination and Offer of Settlement and this Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Board Offer of Settlement are public documents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Hauge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Paul Hauge, Chairperson
Site Remediation Professional Licensing Board

Enc: Acknowledgement
Exhibit A

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT and ACCEPTANCE OF BOARD OFFER OF SETTLEMENT

I, Albert Free, hereby acknowledge that I have reviewed the attached March 3, 2026 Board Determination and Offer of Settlement and the settlement offer of the Board set forth therein.

I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I accept the settlement offer of the Board and agree to the following to settle the violations addressed in the March 3, 2026 Board Determination and Offer of Settlement pursuant to the following terms:

Immediate payment of a civil administrative penalty of \$400.00.

I acknowledge that if I fail to perform any of the foregoing settlement terms the Board may terminate or enforce this settlement agreement upon 30 days prior written notice to me.

I am aware that by signing this Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Board Offer of Settlement I have entered into a binding settlement agreement and I am waiving any rights I may have to an administrative hearing for the matters addressed in the Board Determination and Offer of Settlement and this Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Board Offer of Settlement. I am aware that the findings of the Board in connection with this matter are a matter of public record and that this Board Determination and Offer of Settlement and this Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Board Offer of Settlement are public documents.

Dated: _____

Albert Free, LSRP 575600

Complaint 016-2025
Albert Free
LSRP 575600

EXHIBIT A
Complaint 016-2025

PI 165591 Filed dismissal form 10/20/25 with date of dismissal as 12/31/19

PI 000820 Filed dismissal form 10/20/25 with a date of dismissal as 10/12/18