



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
SAM NUNN
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA GEORGIA 30303-8960

AUG 20 2015

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Sandi Saffold
Director of Health, Safety and Environment
Power Partners, Inc.
200 Newton Bridge Road
Athens, Georgia 30607

Re: Power Partners, Inc.
Consent Agreement and Final Order
Docket Number: EPCRA-04-2015-2044(b)

Dear Ms. Saffold:

Enclosed is a copy of the ratified Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) in the above-referenced matter. The original CAFO has been filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk and served on the parties as directed in Section 22.6 of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

Please refer to Section V of the CAFO for penalty information and payment requirements. To ensure proper processing, the Respondent's name and Docket Number for this case, identified above and in the CAFO, should be noted on any cashier's or certified check submitted in payment of the penalty.

Also enclosed is a copy of a document entitled "Notice of Securities and Exchange Commission Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings." This document puts you on notice of your potential duty to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission any environmental enforcement actions taken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Where used in the document "SEC" refers to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Should you have any questions about this matter or your compliance status in the future, please contact Mr. Vinson Poole of the EPA Region 4 staff at (404) 562-9186.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. G. Toney", with a long, sweeping underline.

Anthony G. Toney
Chief
Chemical Safety & Enforcement Branch

Enclosures

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4**

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Power Partners, Inc.)
)
Respondent.)
_____)

Docket Number: EPCRA-04-2015-2044(b)

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CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

I. Nature of the Action

1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 325 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 11045, and pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22. Complainant is the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Region 4, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Respondent is Power Partners, Inc.

2. The authority to take action under Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045, is vested in the Administrator of EPA. The Administrator of EPA has delegated this authority under EPCRA to the Regional Administrators by EPA Delegation 22-3-A, dated May 11, 1994. The Regional Administrator, Region 4, has redelegated this authority to the Director, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, by EPA Region 4 Delegation 22-3-A, dated November 8, 1994. Pursuant to that delegation, the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division has the authority to commence an enforcement action as the Complainant in this matter.

3. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18 and desire to resolve this matter and settle the allegations described herein without a formal hearing. Therefore, without the taking of any evidence or testimony, the making of any argument, or the adjudication of any issue in this matter, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

II. Preliminary Statements

4. Respondent is Power Partners, Inc., a corporation doing business in the State of Georgia.

5. Respondent is a "person" and an "owner or operator" of a "facility" as those terms are defined by Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7), and Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4), respectively.

6. Respondent's facility is located at 200 Newton Bridge Road, Athens, Georgia.

III. EPA's Allegations of Violations

8. Section 312 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022, and the regulations found at 40 C.F.R. Part 370, provide that the owner or operator of a facility that is required to prepare or have available a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for hazardous chemicals under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) and regulations promulgated under that Act, shall submit to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the fire department with jurisdiction over the facility, on or before March 1 annually, a completed emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form (Tier I or Tier II) as described in 40 C.F.R. Part 370, containing the information required by that part for hazardous chemicals present at the facility at any one time in the calendar year in amounts equal to or greater than 10,000 pounds and containing the information required by that part for extremely hazardous substances (EHS) present at the facility at any one time in amounts equal to or greater than the threshold planning quantity (TPQ) or 500 pounds, whichever is less.

9. At some time during the calendar years of 2014 and 2013, sulfuric acid was present at the facility in an amount equal to or greater than 500 pounds.

10. Sulfuric acid is a "hazardous chemical" as defined under Section 329(5) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(5) and 40 C.F.R. § 355.61, and is an "extremely hazardous substance" as defined under Section 329(3) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(3), and 40 C.F.R. § 355.61, for which Respondent is required to prepare or have available an MSDS under OSHA at its facility. Sulfuric acid is also listed as an extremely hazardous substance in 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Appendix A.

11. Respondent failed to submit a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form for sulfuric acid to the SERC, the LEPC, and fire department with jurisdiction over the facility for calendar years 2014 and 2013 by March 1 of the following year.

12. Respondent violated the reporting requirements of Section 312 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022, at its facility for calendar years 2014 and 2013, and is therefore subject to the assessment of civil penalties under Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045.

13. Pursuant to Section 325(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c), and 40 C.F.R. Part 19, EPA may assess a civil penalty of not more than \$37,500 for each violation of EPCRA Section 312 that occurred on or after December 6, 2013. Each day a violation of EPCRA Section 312 continues constitutes a separate violation. Civil penalties under Section 325(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c), may be assessed by Administrative Order.

IV. Consent Agreement

14. For the purposes of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set out above but neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set out above.

15. Respondent waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement.

16. Respondent consents to the assessment of and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.

17. Respondent certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of EPCRA at the facility.

18. Compliance with this CAFO shall resolve the allegations of violations contained herein. This CAFO shall not otherwise affect any liability of Respondent to the United States other than as expressed herein. Neither EPA nor Complainant waives any right to bring an enforcement action against Respondent for a violation of any federal or state statute, regulation or permit; to initiate an action for imminent and substantial endangerment; or to pursue criminal enforcement.

19. Complainant and Respondent agree to settle this matter by their execution of this CAFO. The parties agree that the settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that this CAFO is consistent with the applicable requirements of EPCRA.

V. Final Order

20. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of TWELVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS (\$12,480), for the EPCRA violations alleged in Section III. Payment shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CAFO.

21. Respondent shall pay the penalty by forwarding a cashier's or certified check, payable to: "Treasurer, United States of America," to the following address:

BY MAIL

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979077
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

BY OVERNIGHT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Government Lockbox 979077
1005 Convention Plaza
Mail Station SL-MO-C2-GL
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 425-1818

The check shall reference on its face the name and the Docket Number of the CAFO.

22. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of the check, and a written statement that payment has been made in accordance with this CAFO, to the following persons at the following addresses:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Vinson Poole
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Air, Pesticides & Toxics Management Division
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Saundi Wilson
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Office of Environmental Accountability
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

23. For the purposes of state and federal income taxes, Respondent shall not be entitled, and agrees not to attempt, to claim a deduction for any civil penalty payment made pursuant to this CAFO. Any attempt by Respondent to deduct any such payments shall constitute a violation of this CAFO.

24. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, EPA is entitled to assess interest and penalties on debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the cost of processing and handling a delinquent claim. Interest will therefore begin to accrue on the civil penalty from the effective date of this CAFO if the penalty is not paid by the date required. Interest will be assessed at the rate established by the Secretary of Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717. A charge will be assessed to cover the costs of debt collection, including processing and handling costs and attorney fees. In addition, a penalty charge will be assessed on any portion of the debt that remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days after payment is due.

25. Complainant and Respondent shall bear their own costs and attorney fees in this matter.

26. This CAFO shall be binding upon the Respondent, its successors and assigns.

27. The following individual is authorized to receive service for EPA in this proceeding:

Verne H. George
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Chemical Management and Emergency Planning Section
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 562-9740

28. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this CAFO certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into this CAFO and legally bind that party to it.

THIS SECTION INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

VI. Effective Date

29. The effective date of this CAFO shall be the date upon which the CAFO is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

Power Partners, Inc.

By: Sandi Saffold Date: 7/27/15
Name: Sandi Saffold (Typed or Printed)
Title: Director of HSE (Typed or Printed)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By: Carol H. Kembenyan Date: 8/7/15
Beverly H. Banister
Director
Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this 18th day of August, 2015.

Tanya Floyd
Tanya Floyd
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true and correct copy of the foregoing

Consent Agreement and Final Order, In the Matter of, Power Partners, Inc., Docket

Number: EPCRA-04-2015-2044(b), on the parties listed below in the manner indicated:

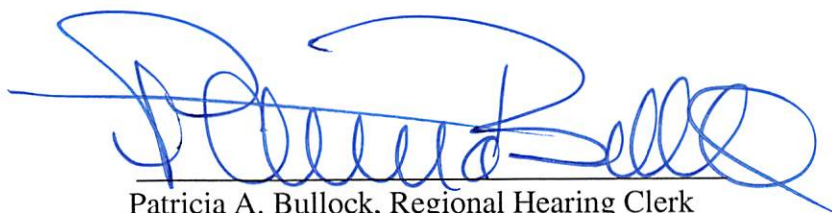
Verne H. George (Via EPA's internal mail)
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Chemical Management and Emergency Planning Section
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

Robert Caplan (Via EPA's internal mail)
Senior Attorney
U.S. EPA Region 4
Office of Environmental Accountability
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

Sandi Saffold (Via Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested)
Director of Health, Safety and Environment
Power Partners, Inc.
200 Newton Bridge Road
Athens, GA 30607

Date:

8-20-15



Patricia A. Bullock, Regional Hearing Clerk
United States Environmental
Protection Agency, Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-9511