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U.S. EPA. REGION IX
REGIONAL HEARING CLERK

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX

In the matter of)	U.S. EPA Docket No.
)	RCRA- 9 -2008- 0018
HYDRANAUTICS)	
)	09
EPA ID No. CAD 981679053)	CONSENT AGREEMENT AND
)	FINAL ORDER PURSUANT TO
Respondent.)	40 C.F.R. SECTIONS 22.13 AND
)	22.18

CONSENT AGREEMENT

A. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is a civil administrative enforcement action instituted pursuant to Section 3008(a)(1) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA"), as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(1), and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits, 40 Code of Federal Regulations ("C.F.R.") Part 22, as revised by 64 Fed. Reg. 141 (July 23, 1999). Complainant is the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 ("EPA"). Respondent is Hydranautics ("Hydranautics" or "Respondent").
2. Respondent owns and operates a facility located at 401 Jones Road, in Oceanside, California, 92054 (the "Facility"). The Facility's EPA Identification Number is CAD 981679053. Respondent manufactures industrial membrane filters for drinking and wastewater units.
3. This Consent Agreement and Final Order pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Sections 22.13 and 22.18 ("CA/FO"), simultaneously commences and concludes this proceeding, wherein EPA alleges that Respondent failed to: (1) obtain a permit or grant of interim status for storage of hazardous waste, a violation of California Health and Safety Code ("H&SC") Section 25200 and 22 California Code of Regulations ("C.C.R.") § 66270.1(c) [see also 40 C.F.R. § 270.1(c)]; (2) make a hazardous waste determination, a violation of 22 C.C.R. § 66262.11 [see also 40 C.F.R. § 262.11]; (3) comply with contingency plan requirements, a violation of 22 C.C.R. § 66265.50(d & e) [see also 40 C.F.R. § 265.52(d & e)]; (4) provide required aisle space, a violation of 22 C.C.R. § 66265.35 [see also 40 C.F.R. §

265.35]; and (5) meet universal waste requirements, a violation of 22 C.C.R. § 66273.15 [see also 40 C.F.R. § 273.15]. These are all in violation of Section 3001 *et seq.* of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6921 *et seq.*, and state regulations adopted pursuant thereto.¹

B. JURISDICTION

4. On August 1, 1992, the State of California received authorization to administer the hazardous waste management program in lieu of the federal program pursuant to § 3006 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6926, and 40 C.F.R. Part 271. The authorized program is established pursuant to the Hazardous Waste Control Law, Chapter 6.5 of Division 20 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the regulations promulgated thereunder at Title 22, Division 4.5 of the California Code of Regulations, 22 C.C.R. §§ 66001 *et seq.* The State of California has been authorized for all the regulations referenced in this CA/FO.
5. Respondent is a "person" as defined in 22 C.C.R. § 66260.10 [see also 40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
6. Respondent is the "operator" of a facility as defined in 22 C.C.R. § 66260.10 [see also 40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
7. Respondent's hazardous waste manifests indicate it is a large quantity "generator" of hazardous waste as defined in 22 C.C.R. § 66260.10 [see also 40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
8. Respondent is or has been engaged in "storage" of hazardous waste as defined in 22 C.C.R. § 66260.10 [see also 40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
9. Respondent generates and accumulates, or has generated and accumulated, materials that are "wastes" as defined in 22 C.C.R. §§ 66260.10 and 66261.2 [see also 40 C.F.R. §§ 260.10 and 261.2].

¹ All citations to the "C.C.R." refer to Division 4.5 of Title 22 of the current California Code of Regulations. EPA is enforcing California hazardous waste management program requirements as approved and authorized by the United States on August 1, 1992 (*see* 57 FR 32726, July 23, 1992) and September 26, 2001 (66 FR 49118, September 26, 2001). Corresponding Federal citations are provided in brackets.

10. At the Facility, Respondent generates and accumulates, or has generated and accumulated, "hazardous waste" as defined in California Health & Safety Code § 25117, and 22 C.C.R. §§ 66260.10 and 66261.3 [*see also* RCRA § 1004(5), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 260.10 and 261.3]. These hazardous wastes include, but are not limited to, isoparaffinic hydrocarbons (RCRA waste code D001, di-methyl formamide (RCRA waste code D001), acetone and IPA solvents (RCRA waste codes D001 and F003), corrosives (RCRA waste code D002), and universal waste batteries and fluorescent light bulbs.
11. On May 14, 2007, EPA conducted a RCRA Compliance Evaluation Inspection ("CEI") at the Facility. Based upon the findings EPA made during the inspection, and additional information obtained subsequent to the inspection, EPA determined that Respondent had violated California Health & Safety Code § 25100 *et seq.* and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto, as approved and authorized by the United States.
12. Section 3006 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6926 provides, *inter alia*, that authorized state hazardous waste programs are carried out under Subtitle C of RCRA. Therefore, a violation of any requirement of law under an authorized state hazardous waste program is a violation of a requirement of Subtitle C of RCRA.
13. A violation of California's authorized hazardous waste program, found at H&SC §§ 25100 *et seq.*, constitutes a violation of Subtitle C of RCRA and, therefore, a person who violates California's authorized hazardous waste program is subject to the powers vested in the EPA Administrator by Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928.
14. Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928, authorizes the EPA Administrator to issue orders requiring compliance immediately or within a specified time for violation of any requirement of Subtitle C of RCRA, Section 3001 of RCRA *et seq.*, 42 U.S.C. § 6921 *et seq.*
15. The Administrator has delegated the authority under Section 3008 of RCRA to the EPA Regional Administrator for Region 9, who has redelegated this authority to the Director of the Waste Management Division.

C. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

COUNT I

Storage of Hazardous Waste Without a Permit

16. Paragraphs 1 through 15 above are incorporated herein by this reference as if they were set forth here in their entirety.
17. 22 C.C.R. § 66270.1(c) requires that each person owning or operating a facility where

hazardous waste is transferred, treated, stored, or disposed must have a permit. At the time of the inspection, Respondent did not have a permit or grant of interim status to store hazardous waste under 22 C.C.R. § 66270.1(c) [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 270.1(c)].

18. 22 C.C.R. § 66262.34(a) provides that large quantity generators may accumulate hazardous waste on-site for 90 days or less without a permit or grant of interim status provided the generator complies with the requirements which are set forth or incorporated by reference in 22 C.C.R. § 66262.34 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 262.34]. Failure to comply with these requirements subjects the generator to the permitting requirements of 22 C.C.R. § 66270.1(c) [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 270.1].
19. 22 C.C.R. §§ 66262.34(a) and 66262.34(f) require that generators who accumulate hazardous waste onsite without a permit or grant of interim status shall label containers with the words "hazardous waste" and with the date accumulation of the waste begins, and the label must be visible for inspection [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 262.34(a)]. Generators who fail to label containers of hazardous waste accordingly fail to meet the requirements of 22 C.C.R. § 66262.34, and are subject to the permitting requirements of 22 C.C.R. § 66270.1 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 270.1].
20. During the CEI, the EPA Inspector observed two 55-gallon containers containing D001 hazardous wastes. The accumulation start dates ("ASDs") on the labels of the two containers were February 6, 2006 and February, 2006, respectively, indicating that the containers had been stored over the maximum accumulation storage time limit.
21. During the CEI, the EPA Inspector noted a five-gallon container holding glue in the rolling area that was open and not labelled.
22. During the CEI, the EPA Inspector observed in the 90-day storage area five 55-gallon containers of ISOPAR (RCRA waste code D001) with no accumulation start date indicated on the labels.
23. Respondent's failure to meet the requirements set forth or referenced by 22 C.C.R. § 66262.34 subject it to the permit requirements of 22 C.C.R. § 66270.1 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34 and 270.1]. Therefore, EPA alleges that Respondent stored hazardous waste without a permit, a violation of 22 C.C.R. § 66270.1(c) [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 270.1(c)].

COUNT II

Failure to Conduct a Hazardous Waste Determination

24. Paragraphs 1 through 23 above are incorporated herein by this reference as if they were set forth here in their entirety.
25. Pursuant to 22 C.C.R. § 66262.11 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 262.11], a person who generates a solid waste, as defined in 22 C.C.R. 66261.2 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 261.2], must determine if that waste is a hazardous waste.
26. At the time of the CEI, the EPA Inspector observed a five-gallon container of glue that was not labelled and the facility representative did not know if the waste glue was a hazardous waste.
27. Therefore, EPA alleges that Respondent has violated 22 C.C.R. § 66262.11 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 262.11].

COUNT III

Failure to Comply with Contingency Plan Requirements

28. Paragraphs 1 through 27 above are incorporated herein by this reference as if they were set forth here in their entirety.
29. 22 C.C.R. § 66265.51 requires that each owner or operator shall have a contingency plan for the facility designed to minimize hazards to human health or the environment from fires, explosions or any unplanned sudden or non-sudden release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents to air, soil, or surface water. 22 C.C.R. § 66265.52 details the required content of the contingency plan. 22 C.C.R. § 66265.52(e) states that the plan must include a list of all emergency equipment at the facility, and it must include the location of each item on the list [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 265.52].
30. During the CEI, the EPA Inspector found that the contingency plan at the Facility did not list the home addresses of all persons qualified to act as emergency coordinators and did not include the location, physical description, and capabilities of the fire extinguishers.
31. Therefore, EPA alleges that Respondent has violated 22 C.C.R. § 66265.52 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 265.52].

COUNT IV

Failure to Provide Required Aisle Space

32. Paragraphs 1 through 31 above are incorporated herein by this reference as if they were set forth here in their entirety.

33. 22 C.C.R. §66265.35 requires that the owner or operator maintain aisle space to allow the unobstructed movement of personnel, fire protection equipment, spill control equipment and decontamination equipment to any area of the facility operation in an emergency [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 265.35].
34. During the CEI, the EPA Inspector found that the Facility did not have adequate aisle space between containers.
35. Therefore, EPA alleges that Respondent has violated 22 C.C.R. § 66265.35 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 265.35].

COUNT V

Failure to Meet the Universal Waste Requirements

36. Paragraphs 1 through 35 above are incorporated herein by this reference as if they were set forth here in their entirety.
37. 22 C.C.R. § 66273.15 prohibits handlers of universal waste from accumulating universal waste for longer than one year and requires the handler of universal waste to demonstrate the length of time that the universal waste has been accumulated [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 273.15].
38. During the CEI, the EPA Inspector found two five-gallon containers of batteries stored for longer than one year and two boxes of fluorescent light bulbs stored for more than one year. The batteries and light bulbs are “universal wastes” within the definition of 22 C.C.R. § 66261.9 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 261.9].
39. Therefore, EPA alleges that Respondent has violated 22 C.C.R. § 66273.15 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 273.15].

D. CIVIL PENALTY

40. Section 3008(g) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(g), as adjusted by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, *see* 61 Fed. Reg. 69360 (Dec. 31, 1996), and the Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule, *see* 69 Fed. Reg. 7121 (Feb. 13, 2004), authorizes a civil penalty of up to TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$27,500) per day for violations of Subtitle C of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6921 *et seq.*, occurring between January 31, 1997 and March 15, 2004. The Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule issued in February 2004 authorizes a civil penalty of up to THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$32,500) for violations that occur after March 15, 2004. 69 Fed. Reg. 7121 (Feb. 13, 2004). Based upon the facts alleged herein and upon those factors which EPA must consider pursuant to Section 3008(a)(3) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(3), and the RCRA Civil Penalty

Policy, including the seriousness of the violations, any good faith efforts by Respondent to comply with applicable requirements, and any economic benefit accruing to Respondent, as well as such other matters as justice may require, EPA proposes that Respondent be assessed TEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NINE DOLLARS (\$10,509.00) as the civil penalty for the violations alleged herein. The proposed penalties were calculated in accordance with the "June 2003 RCRA Civil Penalty Policy." Under the penalty policy, EPA uses a penalty assessment matrix to determine a gravity-based penalty. That penalty amount is then adjusted to take into account multi-day violations, for case-specific circumstances, and for the economic benefit gained from non-compliance, where appropriate.

E. ADMISSIONS AND WAIVERS OF RIGHTS

41. For the purposes of this proceeding, Respondent admits to the jurisdictional allegations set forth in Section B of this CA/FO. Respondent consents to and agrees not to contest EPA's jurisdiction and authority to enter into and issue this CA/FO and to enforce its terms. Further, Respondent will not contest EPA's jurisdiction and authority to compel compliance with this CA/FO in any enforcement proceedings, either administrative or judicial, or to impose sanctions for violations of this CA/FO.
42. Respondent neither admits nor denies any allegations of fact or law set forth in Section C of this CA/FO. Respondent hereby waives any rights Respondent may have to contest the allegations set forth in this CA/FO, waives any rights Respondent may have to a hearing on any issue relating to the factual allegations or legal conclusions set forth in this CA/FO, including without limitation a hearing pursuant to Section 3008(b) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(b), and hereby consents to the issuance of this CA/FO without adjudication. In addition, Respondent hereby waives any rights Respondent may have to appeal the Final Order attached to this Consent Agreement and made part of this CA/FO.

F. PARTIES BOUND

43. This CA/FO shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and its successors and assigns, until such time as the civil penalty required under Sections D and G has been paid in accordance with Section G, any delays in performance and/or stipulated penalties have been resolved. At such time as those matters are concluded, this CA/FO shall terminate and constitute full settlement of the violations alleged herein.
44. No change in ownership or corporate, partnership or legal status relating to the Facility will in any way alter Respondent's obligations and responsibilities under this CA/FO.
45. The undersigned representative of Respondent hereby certifies that he or she is fully authorized by Respondent to enter into this CA/FO, to execute and to legally bind Respondent to it.

G. PAYMENT OF CIVIL PENALTY

46. Respondent consents to the assessment of and agrees to pay a civil penalty of TEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NINE DOLLARS (\$10,509.00) in full settlement of the federal civil penalty claims set forth in this CA/FO.
47. Respondent shall submit payment of the TEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NINE DOLLARS (\$10,509.00) within thirty (30) calendar days of the Effective Date of this CA/FO. The Effective Date of this CA/FO is the date the Final Order, signed by the Regional Judicial Officer, is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk. All payments shall indicate the name of the Facility, EPA identification number of the Facility, the Respondent's name and address, and the EPA docket number of this action. Payment shall be made by certified or cashier's check payable to "Treasurer of the United States" and sent to:

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

At the time payment is made, a copy of the check shall be sent to:

Danielle Carr
Regional Hearing Clerk (RC-1)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

and

Daniel Fernandez (WST-3)
Waste Management Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105.

48. In accordance with the Debt Collection Act of 1982 and U.S. Treasury directive (TFRM 6-8000), each payment must be received by the due date set forth in this CA/FO to avoid additional charges. If payment is not received by the due date, interest will accrue from the Effective Date of this CA/FO at the current rate published by the United States Treasury as described at 40 C.F.R. § 13.11. A late penalty charge of \$15.00 will be imposed after thirty (30) calendar days with an additional \$15.00 charge for each subsequent 30-day period. A 6% per annum penalty will further apply on any principal amount not paid within ninety (90) calendar days of its due date. Respondent further will

be liable for stipulated penalties as set forth below for any payment not received by its due date.

H. DELAY IN PERFORMANCE/STIPULATED PENALTIES

49. In the event Respondent fails to meet any requirement set forth in this CA/FO, Respondent shall pay stipulated penalties as set forth below:

For failure to submit a payment to EPA by the time required in this CA/FO: ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000) per day for first to fifteenth day of delay, ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500) per day for sixteenth to thirtieth day of delay, and TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500) per day for each day of delay thereafter.

50. All penalties owed to EPA under this Section shall be due within thirty (30) days of receipt of a notification of noncompliance. Such notification shall describe the noncompliance and shall indicate the amount of penalties due. Interest at the current rate published by the United States Treasury, as described at 40 C.F.R. §13.11, shall begin to accrue on the unpaid balance at the end of the thirty-day period.
51. All penalties shall be made payable by certified or cashier's check to "Treasurer of the United States" and shall be remitted as described in Paragraph 47.
52. The payment of stipulated penalties shall not alter in any way Respondent's obligation to complete the performance required hereunder.
53. The stipulated penalties set forth in this Section do not preclude EPA from pursuing any other remedies or sanctions which may be available to EPA by reason of Respondent's failure to comply with any of the requirements of this CA/FO.

I. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

54. Except to the extent settled herein, EPA hereby reserves all of its statutory and regulatory powers, authorities, rights and remedies, both legal and equitable, including the right to require that Respondent perform tasks in addition to those required by this CA/FO. EPA further reserves all of its statutory and regulatory powers, authorities, rights and remedies, both legal and equitable, which may pertain to Respondent's failure to comply with any of the requirements of this CA/FO, including without limitation, the assessment of penalties under Section 3008(c) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(c). This CA/FO shall not be construed as a covenant not to sue, release, waiver or limitation of any rights, remedies, powers or authorities, civil or criminal, which EPA has under RCRA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA"), or any other statutory, regulatory or common law enforcement authority of the United States.

- 55. Compliance by Respondent with the terms of this CA/FO shall not relieve Respondent of its obligations to comply with RCRA or any other applicable local, State or federal laws and regulations.
- 56. The entry of this CA/FO and Respondent's consent to comply shall not limit or otherwise preclude EPA from taking additional enforcement actions should EPA determine that such actions are warranted except as they relate to Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the specific alleged violations and facts as set forth in Section C of this CA/FO.
- 57. This CA/FO is not intended to be nor shall it be construed as a permit. This CA/FO does not relieve Respondent of any obligation to obtain and comply with any local, State or federal permits.

J. OTHER CLAIMS

- 58. Nothing in this CA/FO shall constitute or be construed as a release from any other claim, cause of action or demand in law or equity by or against any person, firm, partnership, entity or corporation for any liability it may have arising out of or relating in any way to the generation, storage, treatment, handling, transportation, release, or disposal of any hazardous constituents, hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, pollutants, or contaminants found at, taken to, or taken from the Facility.

K. MISCELLANEOUS

- 59. This CA/FO may be amended or modified only by written agreement executed by both EPA and Respondent.
- 60. The headings in this CA/FO are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect interpretation of this CA/FO.
- 61. The Effective Date of this CA/FO is the date the Final Order, signed by the Regional Judicial Officer, is filed by the Regional Hearing Clerk.

IT IS SO AGREED.

29 July 2008
Date

9/3/08
Date

M. E. Concannon
[Name, Title] *Mike Concannon, Executive Vice President*
Hydranautics

Jeff Scott
Jeff Scott, Director
Waste Management Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

FINAL ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Consent Agreement and Final Order pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Sections 22.13 and 22.18 (U.S. EPA Docket No. RCRA-2008-0018) be entered and that Hydranautics pay a civil penalty of TEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NINE DOLLARS (\$10,509 .00) due within thirty (30) days from the Effective Date of this Consent Agreement and Final Order. Payment must be made pursuant to Section G of the Consent Agreement.

This Final Order shall be effective upon filing by the Regional Hearing Clerk.

09/09/08

Date

Steven Jawgiel

Steven Jawgiel
Regional Judicial Officer
United States Environmental Protection Agency,
Region 9

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the date below, the original copy of the foregoing Complaint, Consent Agreement and Final Order, was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, Region IX, and that copies were sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Cristina G. Kwong, MSPH
QA and EH&S Manager
Hydranautics
401 Jones Road
Oceanside, CA 92054

SEP 10 2008

Date



Danielle Carr
Regional Hearing Clerk
Office of Regional Counsel, Region IX