

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

IN RE:

National Church of God, Inc.
6700 Bock Road
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Docket No. TSCA-03-2008-0342

Consent Agreement

Respondent

CONSENT AGREEMENT

I. Preliminary Statement

This Consent Agreement ("CA"), issued under the authority set forth in sections 16 and 207 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2615 and 2647, is entered into, through delegation, by the Director, Waste and Chemicals Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region III ("EPA" or "Complainant") and the National Church of God, Inc. ("Respondent"). This CA includes the assessment of a civil penalty against Respondent, because it is a local education agency liable for violations which occurred at the National Christian Academy, located at 6700 Bock Road, in Fort Washington, MD 20744 (the "Facility"), pursuant to the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA"), Subchapter II (the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act or "AHERA") 15 U.S.C. §§ 2641 to 2656; and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits ("Consolidated Rules of Practice"), 40 C.F.R Part 22, with specific reference to the provisions set forth at 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3).

This Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order (collectively referred to herein as the "CAFO") address violations by Respondent of AHERA and the federal regulations implementing AHERA as set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 763 Subpart E, and resolve Complainant's

civil claims against Respondent arising from the violations of TSCA alleged herein.

II. General Provisions

1. For purpose of this proceeding only, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth in this CAFO.
2. Except as provided in paragraph 1, above, Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations and conclusions of law set forth in this CAFO.
3. Respondent agrees not to contest EPA's jurisdiction with respect to the execution of this CA, the issuance of the accompanying Final Order, or the enforcement of the CAFO.
4. For the purposes of this proceeding only, Respondent hereby expressly waives its right to a hearing on any issue of law or fact set forth in this CA and any right to appeal the accompanying Final Order.
5. Respondent shall not deduct for civil taxation purposes the civil penalty specified in this CAFO.
6. Section 22.13(b) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice provides that where the parties agree to settlement of one or more causes of action before the filing of a complaint, a proceeding may be simultaneously commenced and concluded by the issuance of a consent agreement and final order.
7. By signing this CA, Respondent certifies to EPA that, upon investigation and to the best of its knowledge, the Facility is in compliance with the provisions of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act ("AHERA"), Subchapter II of TSCA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2641-2656, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

8. Respondent consents to the issuance of this CAFO and agrees to comply with its terms.
9. Respondent shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees.
10. Nothing in this CAFO shall relieve Respondent of its obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
11. By signing and executing this CA, Respondent certifies that it has already spent ten thousand one hundred seventy five dollars (\$10,175) since the Maryland Department of the Environment's ("MDE") May 8, 2007 inspection, for complying with Subchapter II of TSCA and the regulations promulgated thereunder, in accordance with § 207(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(a), and that Respondent has provided Complainant with all supporting cost documentation and information.
12. This CAFO shall apply to and be binding upon the EPA, Respondent, and the officers, directors, successors, and assigns of Respondent.

III. EPA's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

13. Complainant has determined that Respondent has violated requirements of TSCA and the federal regulations implementing AHERA set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 763, Subpart E. In accordance with the Consolidated Rules of Practice as set forth at 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3), Complainant alleges the following findings of fact and conclusions of law.

14. Respondent is the "Local Education Agency" ("LEA") as that term is defined under Section 202(7) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2642(7) and 40 C.F.R. § 763.83, because it is the owner of a nonpublic, non-profit elementary, or secondary school building, including the Facility, and as such, is responsible for ensuring that the Facility is in compliance with the requirements of AHERA.
15. The Facility is a "school" as that term is defined at Section 202(12) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2642(12) and 40 C.F.R. § 763.83.
16. The Facility is a "school building" as that term is defined at Section 202(13) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2642(13) and 40 C.F.R. § 763.83.

COUNT I

17. The allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 16 are incorporated herein by reference.
18. 40 C.F.R. § 763.85(a) requires that each LEA inspect each school building prior to use as a school for the presence of asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM), sample suspected ACBM as needed, and note the location of any ACBM or suspected ACBM in the management plan.
19. On May 8, 2007, MDE's duly authorized inspector conducted an inspection at the Facility.
20. During the inspection, MDE's inspector discovered that there had not been an initial inspection conducted at the Facility, to determine whether there was any ACBM located at the Facility prior to use as a school.

21. By failing to conduct an inspection, Respondent violated 40 C.F.R. § 763.85(a) and Section 207(a)(1) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(a)(1).

COUNT II

22. The allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 21 are incorporated herein by reference.
23. 40 C.F.R. § 763.93(a)(3) states that “if a [LEA] begins to use a building as a school after October 12, 1988, the [LEA] shall submit a management plan for the school to the Agency designated by the Governor prior to its use as a school.”
24. During the May 8, 2007 inspection, MDE’s inspector found that the Respondent began using the building housing the Facility as a school after October 12, 1988, and that the Respondent did not submit a management plan for the Facility to the Agency designated by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Maryland prior to its use as a school.
25. By failing to submit a management plan for the Facility, the Respondent violated 40 C.F.R. § 763.93(a)(3) and Section 207(a)(3) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(a)(3).

COUNT III

26. The allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 25 are incorporated herein by reference.
27. 40 C.F.R. § 763.93(g)(4) states, in pertinent part, that: “...at least once each school year, the [LEA] shall notify in writing parent, teacher, and employee organizations of the availability of management plans and shall include in the management plan a description of the steps taken to notify such organizations, and a dated copy of the notification.”

28. During the May 8, 2007 inspection, the MDE inspector found that the Respondent failed to provide, at least once each school year, written notification, of the availability of the Facility's management plan, to parent, teacher, and employee organizations and to include in the management plan a description of the steps taken to notify each such organization, and a dated copy of each such notification.
29. By failing to provide the annual written notification, Respondent violated 40 C.F.R. § 263.93(g)(4) and Section 207(a)(3) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(a)(3).

IV. Settlement Recitation

30. Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, EPA concludes that Respondent is liable for a civil penalty pursuant to Section 207(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(a), for Respondent's TSCA violations. In full settlement of the violations alleged in this Consent Agreement, in consideration of each provision of this Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order, and pursuant to Sections 207(a) and (c) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2647(a) and (c), and other relevant factors, Complainant and Respondent have determined that a civil penalty of six thousand five hundred dollars (\$ 6,500) is appropriate.
31. The aforesaid assessed penalty is based upon EPA's consideration of a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the statutory factors set forth in Section 207(c) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(c), *i.e.*, the significance of the violation, the culpability of the violator, and the ability of the violator to continue to provide educational services to the community. These factors were applied to the particular facts and circumstances of this case with

specific reference to EPA's *Interim Final Enforcement Response Policy for the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act* ("ERP"), dated January 31, 1989, adjusted for inflation pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 19.

32. Respondent certifies that it has spent ten thousand one hundred seventy five dollars (\$10,175) since MDE's May 8, 2007 inspection to comply with Subchapter II of TSCA. Therefore, pursuant to sections 16(a)(2)(C) and 207(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2615(a)(2)(C) and 2647(a), EPA agrees to the remittance of six thousand five hundred dollar (\$6,500)- of the civil penalty assessed against the Respondent.
33. Respondent consents to the assessment of a six thousand five hundred dollar (\$6,500) civil penalty with a cash component of zero (\$0) dollars.

V. Reservation of Rights

34. This CAFO resolves only the civil claims for the specific violations alleged in this CAFO. EPA reserves the right to commence action against any person, including Respondent, in response to any condition which EPA determines may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, public welfare, or the environment. In addition, this settlement is subject to all limitations on the scope of resolution and to the reservation of rights set forth in Section 22.18(c) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice. Further, EPA reserves any rights and remedies available to it under Subchapter II of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2641 to 2656, the regulations promulgated thereunder, and any other federal laws or regulations for which EPA has jurisdiction, to enforce the provisions of this CAFO, following its filing with the Regional Hearing

Clerk.

VI. Effective Date

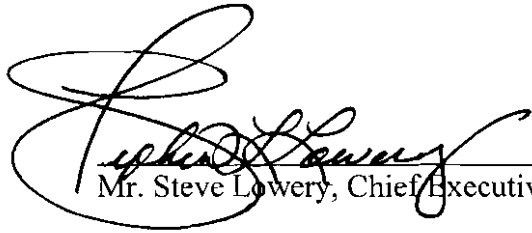
35. The effective date of this CAFO is the date on which the Final Order is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice.

VII. Execution

The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she is fully authorized by Respondent to execute this Consent Agreement and to legally bind Respondent to this Consent Agreement.

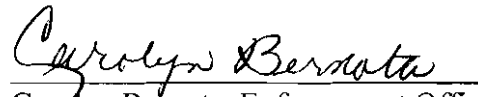
Respondent:

7/15/08
Date


Mr. Steve Lowery, Chief Executive

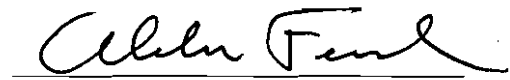
For Complainant:

7/18/08
Date


Carolyn Bernota, Enforcement Officer

Accordingly I hereby recommend that the Regional Administrator or his designee issue the Final Order attached hereto.

8/18/08
Date


Abraham Ferdas, Director
Waste and Chemicals Management Division

REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

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	:	Final Order
	:	
Respondent	:	

FINAL ORDER

The undersigned accepts and incorporates into this Final Order by reference all provisions set forth in the foregoing Consent Agreement.

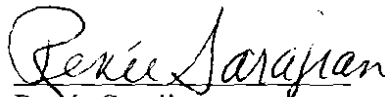
NOW, **THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT**, pursuant to Sections 16 and 207 of the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 2615 and 2647, and 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500), but that the cash component of that civil penalty will be zero (\$0) dollars.

In accordance with Section 207(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(a), the six thousand five hundred dollar (\$6,500) civil penalty assessed against the Respondent is hereby remitted.

The effective date of this Final Order is the date that it is filed with the Regional Hearing

Clerk.

8/21/08
Date


Renée Sarajian
Regional Judicial Officer