

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2 290 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866 PROTECTION AGENCY-REG. II
2007 AUG 16 PM 2: 44
REGIONAL HEARING

AUG 1 3 2007

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mayer Lichtenstein First Lakewood Forest Associates, LLC 111 Forest Avenue Lakewood, New Jersey 08701

Re: COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A HEARING In the matter of: Bil-Jim Construction Company, Inc. & First Lakewood Forest Associates LLC Docket No. CAA 02-2007-1217

Dear Mayer Lichtenstein:

Enclosed is a copy of the above-referenced Complaint and Notice of Opportunity to Request a Hearing (Complaint) issued to Bil-Jim Construction Company, Inc. and First Lakewood Forest Associates, LLC, pursuant to Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq. (the Act), 42 U.S.C.§ 7413(d). The Complaint alleges violations of 40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart M (Asbestos NESHAP), promulgated pursuant to Section 112 and 114 of the Act. The total amount of the penalty proposed by the Complaint is \$408,884.

Pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, and as stated in the section of the Complaint entitled "Notice of Opportunity to Request a Hearing," if you wish to contest any of the allegations in the Complaint or the amount of the proposed penalty, you must file a written Answer to the Complaint within thirty (30) days of receipt, as established by the Certified Mail Return Receipt, or you may lose the opportunity for a hearing and EPA may file a motion for default judgment. If the motion is granted, the penalty proposed in the Complaint will become due and payable thirty (30) days after the effective date of a Final Order. A copy of the Consolidated Rules of Practice is enclosed for reference.

Counsel designated to appear on behalf of the Complainant in this matter is John F. Dolinar, who can be reached at (212) 637-3204 or by mail at the address listed below.

As stated in the section of the Complaint entitled "Settlement Conference," EPA is prepared to pursue settlement of this matter immediately.

I encourage you or your attorney, if you are represented, to contact EPA counsel.

Sincerely,

So Dore LaPosta, Director

Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance

Enclosures: COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A

HEARING

40 C.F.R. Part 22, Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation or Suspension of Permits

Clean Air Act Stationary Source Civil Penalty Policy, and Appendix III, Asbestos Demolitions & Renovation Civil Penalty Policy

cc: Regional Hearing Clerk (With: Original Complaint and Certificate of Service; and one copy of both the Complaint and Certificate of Service):

Karen Maples
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway - 16th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Counsel on behalf of EPA:

John F. Dolinar
Assistant Regional Counsel
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway - 16th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



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2007 AUG 16 PM 2: 44

REGIONAL HEARING

AUG 1 3 2007

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

James R. Johnson, Jr., President Bil-Jim Construction Company, Inc. 577 S Hope Chapel Road Jackson, New Jersey 08527

Re: COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A HEARING In the matter of: Bil-Jim Construction Company, Inc. & First Lakewood Forest Associates LLC Docket No. CAA-02-2007-1217

Dear James R. Johnson, Jr.:

Enclosed is a copy of the above-referenced Complaint and Notice of Opportunity to Request a Hearing (Complaint) issued to Bil-Jim Construction Company, Inc. and First Lakewood Forest Associates, LLC, pursuant to Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq. (the Act), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d). The Complaint alleges violations of 40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart M (Asbestos NESHAP), promulgated pursuant to Section 112 and 114 of the Act. The total amount of the penalty proposed by the Complaint is \$408.884.

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Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance

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cc: Regional Hearing Clerk (With: Original Complaint and Certificate of Service; and one copy of both the Complaint and Certificate of Service):

Karen Maples
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway - 16th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Counsel on behalf of EPA:

John F. Dolinar
Assistant Regional Counsel
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection
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290 Broadway - 16th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Region 2 PROTECTION AGENCY PROTECTION AGENCY PROTECTION AGENCY PROTECTION AGENCY-REG. II

NCY PECTION AGENCY-REGIL 2007 AUG 16 PM 2: 44 REGIONAL HEARING CLERK

In re:

First Lakewood Forest Associates, LLC Lakewood, New Jersey & Bil-Jim Construction Company, Inc. Jackson, New Jersey

Respondents

In a proceeding under the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seg., Section 113

COMPLAINT and NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A HEARING

CAA-02-2007-1217

Complaint

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues this Complaint and Notice of Opportunity to Request a Hearing (Complaint) and proposes to assess penalties pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq. (CAA or "the Act"), 42 U.S.C. § 7413, Section 113, in accordance with the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, 40 C.F.R. Part 22 ("Consolidated Rules of Practice"). The Complainant in this matter, the Director of the Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance, EPA, Region 2, is duly delegated the authority to issue Complaints on behalf of EPA Region 2, which includes the State of New York, the State of New Jersey, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

EPA alleges that Respondents violated, or are in violation of, requirements or prohibitions of Sections 112 and/or 114 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7412 and 7414, and the National Emission Standard for Asbestos, 40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart M, the national emission standard for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAP) promulgated, pursuant to Section 112 of the Act, to address asbestos ("Asbestos NESHAP").

Section 112 of the Act authorizes the Administrator to issue emission and/or work practice standards for hazardous air pollutants. Section 114 of the Act authorizes the Administrator to require that information be provided by affected sources to determine compliance with the Act.

Preliminary Statement

- 1. Respondent, First Lakewood Forest Associates, LLC, (Respondent Lakewood), located in Lakewood, New Jersey, hired Bil-Jim Construction Company, Inc. (Respondent Bil-Jim), located in Jackson, New Jersey, to demolish the Castle Apartments, located in Lakewood, New Jersey, which contained regulated asbestoscontaining material (RACM), as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 61.141.
- 2. Each of the Respondents is a "person" within the meaning of Section 302(e) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e), and is therefore subject to the assessment of administrative penalties pursuant to Section 113(d) of the Act.

Statutory and Regulatory Background

- 3. The Asbestos NESHAP specifies a set of work practice standards, set forth at 40 C.F.R. §§ 61.145 and 61.150, which are applicable to the owners and operators of renovation or demolition activities in which the amount of RACM that is stripped, removed, dislodged, cut, drilled or similarly disturbed is at least 80 linear meters (260 linear feet) on pipes or at least 15 square meters (160 square feet) on other facility components or at least 1 cubic meter (35 cubic feet) when the length or area could not be measured prior to the asbestos removal/demolition activity.
- 4. The term "owner or operator of a renovation or demolition activity" is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 61.141 to mean "any person who owns, leases, operates, controls or supervises the facility being demolished or renovated or any person who owns, leases, operates, controls or supervises the demolition or renovation operation, or both."
- 5. The term "renovation" is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 61.141 to mean "altering of a facility or one or more facility components in any way, including the stripping or removal of RACM from a facility component. Operations in which load-supporting structural members are wrecked or taken out are demolitions."
- 6. The term "demolition" is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 61.141 to mean "the wrecking or taking out of any load-supporting structural member of a facility together with any related handling operations or the intentional burning of any facility."
- 7. The term "facility" is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 61.141 to include any commercial, public, industrial, or residential structure of more than four (4) dwelling units.
- 8. The term "facility component" is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 61.141 to mean "any part of a facility including equipment."
- 9. The term "regulated asbestos-containing material" (RACM) is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 61.141 to include friable asbestos containing material.

- 10. 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(a) provides that the affected facility, or part of a facility, where a demolition or renovation is to take place must be thoroughly inspected for the presence of asbestos prior to the commencement of the demolition or renovation activity.
- 11. 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(b) provides that each owner or operator of a demolition or renovation activity to which this Section applies shall: (1) provide the Administrator with written notice of the intention to demolish or renovate; (2) update the notice as necessary; and (3) postmark or deliver the notice as follows: at least ten (10) working days before demolition or renovation activity begins.
- 12. 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(c)(1) provides that each owner or operator of a demolition or renovation activity must remove all RACM from the facility being renovated or demolished before any activity begins that may break up, dislodge, or disturb the material.
- 13. 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(c)(6)(i) provides that the owner or operator of a demolition or renovation activity subject to the Asbestos NESHAP must adequately wet all RACM including the material that has been removed or stripped and ensure that it remains wet until collected and contained or treated in preparation for disposal.
- 14. 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(c)(8) provides that no RACM may be stripped, removed, or otherwise handled or disturbed at a facility regulated under the Asbestos NESHAP unless at least one on site representative, trained in the NESHAP is present. In addition, this section provides that every two years the trained on-site individual shall receive refresher training.
- 15. 40 C.F.R. § 61.150(a)(1)(iii) provides that each owner or operator of a demolition or renovation activity subject to the Asbestos NESHAP must seal all RACM in leak-tight containers while wet.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

- 16. Paragraphs 1-15 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 17. The three buildings that make up the Castle Apartments, located in Ocean County, New Jersey, constitute a facility within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 61.141, which shall hereinafter be called "the Facility."
- 18. On January 9, 2006, two New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) inspectors were called to inspect the demolition of the Facility which had been temporarily halted by an Ocean County Department of Labor inspector. The NJDHSS inspectors conducted an inspection of the Facility during the period of time in which the demolition was suspended.

- 19. During the inspection, referenced in paragraph 18, the NJDHSS inspectors observed that the Facility was undergoing a demolition, as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 61.145.
- 20. Respondents are owners and/or operators of a renovation/demolition activity within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 61.141.
- 21. During the inspection, referenced in paragraph 18, the inspectors observed and took bulk samples of dry material that had not been removed or had been left scattered about the Facility.
- 22. After the inspection, referenced in paragraph 18, the samples taken during the inspection were analyzed and the sample results indicated the material sampled contained greater than 1% asbestos.
- 23. During the inspection, referenced in paragraph 18, the inspectors observed that there were no individuals on-site during the demolition that were trained in the provisions of the Asbestos NESHAP and trained in the application of those provisions.
- 24. NJDHSS inspectors re-inspected the Facility on three occasions between the initial inspection date, referenced in paragraph 18 above, and January 20, 2006. During each of these separate inspections, the NJDHSS inspectors observed dry piles of debris on-site that were not yet contained for disposal.
- 25. EPA conducted a review of its physical files and computer databases but could find no notice of intent to demolish prior to the inspections referenced in paragraph 18.

COUNT I

26. Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, EPA determined that Respondents violated 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(b), a regulation promulgated pursuant to Sections 112 and 114 of the Act, by failing to notify EPA at least 10 working days prior to demolishing a regulated facility.

COUNT II

27. Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, EPA determined that Respondents violated 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(c)(1), a regulation promulgated pursuant to Section 112 of the Act by failing to remove all RACM from a facility being demolished or renovated before any activity begins that would break up, dislodge or similarly disturb the material.

COUNT III

28. Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, EPA determined that Respondents violated 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(c)(6)(i), a regulation promulgated pursuant to Section 112 of the Act, by failing to adequately wet all RACM including the material that has been removed or stripped and ensure it remains wet until collected and contained or treated in preparation for disposal.

COUNT IV

29. Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, EPA determined that Respondents violated 40 C.F.R. § 61.150(a)(iii), a regulation promulgated pursuant to Section 112 of the Act, by failing to seal all RACM in leak-tight containers while wet.

COUNT V

30. Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, EPA determined that Respondents violated 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(c)(8), a regulation promulgated pursuant to Section 112 of the Act, by failing to have someone on-site during the demolition who was trained in the provisions of the Asbestos NESHAP, and trained in the application of those provisions.

Proposed Civil Penalty

Section 113(d) of the Act provides that the Administrator may assess a civil administrative penalty of up to \$25,000 per day for each violation of the Act. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 requires EPA to periodically adjust its civil monetary penalties for inflation. On December 31, 1996 and February 13, 2004, EPA adopted regulations entitled Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation, 40 C.F.R. Part 18 (Part 18), which provide that the maximum civil penalty per day should be adjusted to \$27,500 per day for each violation that occurred from January 30, 1997 through March 14, 2004 and \$32,500 per day for each violation that occurred on or after March 15, 2004.

In determining the amount of penalty to be assessed, Section 113(e) of the Act requires that the Administrator consider the size of the business, the economic impact of the penalty on the business, the violator's full compliance history and good faith efforts to comply, the duration of the violation as established by any credible evidence, the payment by the violator of penalties previously assessed for the same violation, the economic benefit of noncompliance, the seriousness of the violation and other factors as justice may require. EPA considered these factors and proposes a total penalty, for the violations alleged in this Complaint of four hundred eight thousand, eight hundred and eighty-four dollars (\$408,884).

The proposed penalty has been prepared in accordance with Section 113(e) of the Act, EPA's "Clean Air Act Stationary Source Civil Penalty Policy" (CAA Penalty Policy), and Appendix III to the CAA Penalty Policy, the "Asbestos Demolition and Renovation Civil Penalty Policy" dated May 5, 1992 (Asbestos Penalty Policy), copies of which are enclosed with this Complaint. The CAA Penalty Policy is EPA's policy concerning the application of the factors to be considered, under Section 113(e) of the CAA, in proposing a penalty for violations of the Act. The short narrative below explains the reasoning behind the penalty proposed for the violations alleged.

The Asbestos Penalty Policy directs EPA to propose a \$15,000 penalty for notification violations such as the notification violation set forth in Count I. It further requires that for every work practice violation at a facility with a quantity of RACM defined by the policy to be "large," EPA propose a penalty of \$15,000. EPA therefore proposes a penalty of \$15,000 each for Count II, Count III, Count IV and Count V. EPA also determined that Respondents' failure to maintain RACM wet (Count III) occurred over a period of eleven days after the initial inspection, referenced in paragraph 18 above. The Asbestos Penalty Policy directs that for each day on which a violation persists, EPA propose a penalty of 10% of the penalty for each additional day of violation. Therefore, in accordance with the Asbestos Penalty Policy, EPA proposes an additional \$16,500 penalty for the violation alleged in Count III (\$1,500 for each additional day of violation).

In addition, the CAA Penalty Policy directs that a penalty be proposed based upon the size of the violator, determined by the violator's net worth. Based on Region 2's experience, generally the net worth of asbestos contractors falls within the range for which the CAA Penalty Policy directs a \$10,000 penalty. Therefore, it is EPA Region 2's policy to propose a penalty of \$10,000 for the size of violator component. The size of violator penalty may be adjusted should information be discovered that indicates the contractor's net worth is less or more than hypothesized.

The penalties proposed above comprise what both penalty policies term the 'gravity component.' The total gravity component of the penalty, prior to adjustment for inflation is one hundred one thousand five hundred dollars (\$101,500). Part 18 provides that the gravity component of the penalty must be adjusted 28.95% for violations occurring during the period of time in which the violations alleged in the Complaint occurred. Therefore, \$29,384 is proposed for inflation, resulting in an adjusted proposed penalty of \$130,884.

The CAA Penalty Policy also provides that in addition to proposing a gravity component, an economic benefit component should be proposed. EPA determined that, in this case, there are records of at least two bid proposals for proper asbestos removal, the lower of which was in the amount of \$278,000. Accordingly, EPA proposes \$278,000 for economic benefit resulting in a total proposed penalty of \$408,884. The economic benefit resulting from noncompliance may be offset by clean up costs documented during settlement discussions.

Notice of Opportunity to Request a Hearing

The hearing in this matter is subject to the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 et seq. The procedures for this matter are found in EPA's Consolidated Rules of Practice, a copy of which is enclosed with the transmittal of this Complaint. References to specific procedures in this Complaint are intended to inform you of your right to contest the allegations of the Complaint and the proposed penalty and do not supersede any requirement of the Consolidated Rules of Practice.

You have a right to request a hearing: (1) to contest any material facts set forth in the Complaint; (2) to contend that the amount of the penalty proposed in the Complaint is inappropriate; or (3) to seek a judgment with respect to the law applicable to this matter. In order to request a hearing you must file a written Answer to this Complaint along with the request for a hearing with the EPA Regional Hearing Clerk within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this Complaint. The Answer and request for a hearing must be filed at the following address:

Karen Maples Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 2 290 Broadway - 16th Floor New York, New York 10007-1866

A copy of the Answer and the request for a hearing, as well as copies of all other papers filed in this matter, are to be served on EPA to the attention of EPA counsel at the following address:

John Dolinar
Assistant Regional Counsel
Office of Regional Counsel, Air Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 2
290 Broadway - 16th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Your Answer should, clearly and directly, admit, deny, or explain each factual allegation contained in this Complaint with regard to which you have any knowledge. If you have no knowledge of a particular factual allegation of the Complaint, you must so state and the allegation will be deemed to be denied. The Answer shall also state: (1) the circumstances or arguments which you allege to constitute the grounds of a defense; (2) whether a hearing is requested; and (3) a concise statement of the facts which you intend to place at issue in the hearing.

If you fail to serve and file an Answer to this Complaint within thirty (30) days of its receipt, Complainant may file a motion for default. A finding of default constitutes an admission of the facts alleged in the Complaint and a waiver of your right to a hearing.

The total proposed penalty becomes due and payable without further proceedings thirty (30) days after the issue date of a Default Order.

Settlement Conference

EPA encourages all parties against whom the assessment of civil penalties is proposed to pursue the possibilities of settlement by informal conferences. However, conferring informally with EPA in pursuit of settlement does not extend the time allowed to answer the Complaint and to request a hearing. Whether or not you intend to request a hearing, you may confer informally with the EPA concerning the alleged violations or the amount of the proposed penalty. If settlement is reached, it will be in the form of a written Consent Agreement which will be forwarded to the Regional Administrator with a proposed Final Order. You may contact EPA counsel, John Dolinar, at (212) 637-3204 or at the address listed above, to discuss settlement. If Respondent is represented by legal counsel in this matter, Respondent's counsel should contact EPA.

Payment of Penalty in lieu of Answer, Hearing and/or Settlement

Instead of filing an Answer, requesting a hearing, and/or requesting an informal settlement conference, you may choose to pay the full amount of the penalty proposed in the Complaint. Such payment should be made by a cashier's or certified check payable to the Treasurer, United States of America, marked with the docket number and the name of the Respondent(s) which appear on the first page of this Complaint. The check must be mailed to:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 2
P.O. Box 360188M
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15251

A copy of your letter transmitting the check and a copy of the check must be sent simultaneously to EPA counsel assigned to this case at the address provided under the section of this Complaint entitled Notice of Opportunity to Request a Hearing. Payment of the proposed penalty in this fashion does not relieve one of responsibility to comply with any and all requirements of the Clean Air Act.

Dated: 813 67

Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance

TO: James R. Johnson, Jr.
President
Bil-Jim Construction Company, Inc.
577 S Hope Chapel Road

Jackson, New Jersey 08527

Mayer Lichtenstein First Lakewood Forest Associates, LLC 111 Forest Avenue Lakewood, New Jersey 08701

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this day caused to be mailed a copy of the foregoing Complaint, bearing Docket Number CAA-02-2007-1217, a copy of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. Part 22 (64 Federal Register 40176 [July 23, 1999]), Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits and a copy of the Clean Air Act Statutory Source civil Penalty Policy, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to Mr. Mayer Lichtenstein, First Lakewood Forest Associates, LLC, 111 Forest Avenue, Lakewood, New Jersey 08701 and Mr. James R. Johnson, Jr., President, Bil-Jim Construction Company, Inc., 577 S Hope Chapel Road, Jackson, New Jersey 08527. I hand-carried the original and a copy of the foregoing Complaint to the office of the Regional Hearing Clerk, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2.

Dated: August 16, 2007

New York, New York

relia Lewis. Secretary