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HEARINGS CLERK
EPA -- REGION 10

BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. CWA-10-2013-0059

SALAMATOF SEAFOODS, INC.,

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND
FINAL ORDER

Respondent:

I. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

1.1. This Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) is issued under the authority vested in the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by Section 309(g)(2)(B) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(B).

1.2. The Administrator has delegated the authority to issue the Final Order contained in Part V of this CAFO to the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 10, who has redelegated this authority to the Regional Judicial Officer in EPA Region 10.

1.3. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(1) and (g)(2)(B) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(1) and (g)(2)(B), and in accordance with the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties," 40 C.F.R. Part 22, EPA issues, and Salamatof Seafoods, Inc. (Respondent) agrees to issuance of, the Final Order contained in Part V of this CAFO.

II. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

2.1. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.45(b), issuance of this CAFO commences this proceeding, which will conclude when the Final Order contained in Part V of this CAFO becomes effective.

2.2. The Director of the Office of Compliance and Enforcement, EPA Region 10 has

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been delegated the authority to sign consent agreements between EPA and the parties against whom Class II penalties pursuant to CWA Section 309(g), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g), are proposed to be assessed.

2.3. Part III of this CAFO contains a concise statement of the factual and legal basis for the alleged violations of the CWA, together with the specific provisions of the CWA and implementing regulations that Respondent is alleged to have violated.

III. ALLEGATIONS

3.1. CWA Section 301(a), 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), prohibits the “discharge of any pollutant by any person” except as authorized by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued pursuant to CWA Section 402, 33 U.S.C. § 1342. Section 502(12) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12), defines the term “discharge of a pollutant” to include “any addition of any pollutant to navigable waters from any point source.” Section 502(7) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7), defines “navigable waters” as “waters of the United States.”

3.2. Respondent is a corporation, and thus a “person” within the meaning of Section 502(5) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5).

3.3. At all times relevant to this action, Respondent owned and operated a shore-based seafood processing plant located at Mile 1.5 on Bridge Access Road in Kenai, Alaska (Facility).

3.4. Respondent discharges seafood processing waste from the butchering of seafood from the Facility. Seafood processing waste from the butchering of seafood is a “pollutant” which is “discharged” within the meaning of Sections 502(6) and (12) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1362(6) and (12).

3.5. Respondent discharges seafood processing waste from the Facility through Outfall 001 to the Kenai River, which flows into Cook Inlet. The Kenai River is a “navigable water” within the meaning of Section 502(7) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7), and a “water of the

United States" within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.

3.6. Outfall 001 at the Facility is a point source within the meaning of Section 502(14) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(14), and 40 C.F.R. § 122.2, and thus may discharge pollutants only when authorized by an NPDES permit.

3.7. During the times relevant to this action, Respondent was authorized to discharge seafood processing waste from the Facility into specified waters of the United States under the Seafood Processors in Alaska General Permit (AKG520481), effective July 27, 2001 and reissued on November 1, 2008.

3.8. In 2012, EPA conducted a review of the administrative record to determine the Facility's compliance with the Permit and the CWA. Between August 31, 2008 and August 31, 2012, Respondent violated the following Condition of the Permit:

3.8.1. Respondent failed to submit annual reports for Years 2008-2011 to EPA in violation of Section VI.B.4 of the Permit.

3.9. On August 12, 2008, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) conducted an unannounced inspection at the Facility to assess CWA and Permit compliance. At the time of ADEC inspections conducted on August 12, 2008, Respondent violated the following Conditions of the Permit:

3.9.1. Respondent failed to conduct a seafloor monitoring program in violation of Section VI.C.1 of the Permit.

3.9.2. Respondent failed to sign and certify the Notice of Intent in violation of Section IX.E of the Permit;

3.9.3. Respondent failed to promptly correct the inaccurate characterization that the grinder reduces waste to less than 0.25" in all directions in violation of Section IX.D of the Permit;

3.9.4. Respondent failed to route seafood processing wastes from the tote

washing area through a waste conveyance and waste treatment system prior to discharge in violation of V.C.1.b of the Permit;

3.9.5. Respondent discharged seafood processing wastewater from a severed, failed or leaking outfall line ten days past its severance, failure, or damage in violation of Section V.C.1.f of the Permit; and,

3.9.6. Respondent failed to grind waste to 0.5" in all directions in violation of Section II.A.1.a of the Permit.

3.10. Under CWA Section 309(g)(1), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(1), EPA may assess an administrative penalty when EPA finds that "any person has violated section 1311 [of the CWA], or has violated any permit condition or limitation ... in a permit issued under section 1342 [of the CWA]." Consequently under CWA 309(g)(2)(B), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(B), and 40 C.F.R. Part 19, Respondent is liable for the administrative assessment of civil penalties for violations at the Facility in an amount not to exceed \$11,000 per day for each violation that occurred on or after March 15, 2004 through January 12, 2009, and \$16,000 per day for each violation that occurred after January 12, 2009, up to a maximum of \$177,500.

IV. CONSENT AGREEMENT

4.1. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations contained in Part III of this CAFO.

4.2. Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations contained in Part III of this CAFO.

4.3. As required by Section 309(g)(3) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(3), EPA has taken into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the alleged violations as well as Respondent's economic benefit of noncompliance, ability to pay, and other relevant factors. After considering all of these factors, EPA has determined and Respondent agrees that an appropriate penalty to settle this action is FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$45,000).

4.4. Respondent agrees to pay the total civil penalty set forth in Paragraph 4.3 within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Final Order.

4.5. Payment under this CAFO must be made by cashier's check or certified check payable to the order of "Treasurer, United States of America" and delivered via United States mail to the following address:

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

Respondent must note on the check the title and docket number of this action.

4.6. Respondent must deliver via United States mail a photocopy of the check described in Paragraph 4.5 to the Regional Hearing Clerk and EPA Region 10 at the following addresses:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10, Mail Stop ORC-158
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101

Chris Gebhardt
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10, Mail Stop OCE-133
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101

4.7. If Respondent fails to pay the penalty assessed by this CAFO in full by the due date set forth in Paragraph 4.4, the entire unpaid balance of penalty and accrued interest shall become immediately due and owing. Such failure may also subject Respondent to a civil action to collect the assessed penalty under the CWA, together with interest, fees, costs, and additional penalties described below. In any collection action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of the penalty shall not be subject to review.

4.7.1. Interest. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(9) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(9), any unpaid portion of the assessed penalty shall bear interest at a rate established by the Secretary of Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717(a)(1) from the effective date of the Final Order set forth in Part V, provided however, that no interest shall be payable on any portion of the assessed penalty that is paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Final Order.

4.7.2. Attorneys Fees, Collection Costs, Nonpayment Penalty. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(9) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(9), if Respondent fails to pay on a timely basis the penalty set forth in Paragraph 4.3, Respondent shall pay (in addition to any assessed penalty and interest) attorneys fees and costs for collection proceedings and a quarterly nonpayment penalty for each quarter during which such failure to pay persists. Such nonpayment penalty shall be in an amount equal to twenty percent (20%) of the aggregate amount of Respondent's penalties and nonpayment penalties which are unpaid as of the beginning of such quarter.

4.8. The penalty described in Paragraph 4.3, including any additional costs incurred under Paragraph 4.7, above, represents an administrative civil penalty assessed by EPA and shall not be deductible for purposes of federal taxes.

4.9. The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she is authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and to bind Respondent to this document.

4.10. Except as described in Subparagraph 4.7.2, above, each party shall bear its own fees and costs in bringing or defending this action.

4.11. Respondent expressly waives any right to contest the allegations and waives any right to appeal the Final Order set forth in Part V.

4.12. The provisions of this CAFO shall bind Respondent and its agents, servants, employees, successors, and assigns.

4.13. The above provisions are STIPULATED AND AGREED upon by Respondent and EPA Region 10.

DATED:

FOR SALAMATOF SEAFOODS, INC.:

1/3/13



Name:

Title: *President*

DATED:

FOR U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:

1-8-13



EDWARD J. KOWALSKI

Director

Office of Compliance and Enforcement

V. FINAL ORDER

5.1. The terms of the foregoing Parts I-IV are ratified and incorporated by reference into this Final Order. Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of settlement.

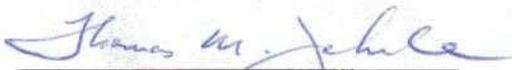
5.2. This CAFO constitutes a settlement by EPA of all claims for civil penalties pursuant to the CWA for the violations alleged in Part III. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(a), nothing in this CAFO shall affect the right of EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. This CAFO does not waive, extinguish or otherwise affect Respondent's obligations to comply with all applicable provisions of the CWA and regulations promulgated or permits issued thereunder.

5.3. In accordance with Section 309(g)(1) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(1), and 40 C.F.R. § 22.38(b), the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has been given the opportunity to consult with EPA regarding the assessment of the administrative civil penalty against Respondent.

5.4. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(4)(A) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(4)(A), and 40 C.F.R. § 22.45(b), EPA has issued public notice of and provided reasonable opportunity to comment on its intent to assess an administrative penalty against Respondent. More than 40 days have elapsed since issuance of this public notice and EPA has received no petition to set aside the Consent Agreement contained herein.

5.5. This Final Order shall become effective upon filing.

SO ORDERED this 6th day of February March year, 2013. 3/6/13



THOMAS M. JAHNKE

Regional Judicial Officer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that the original of the attached **CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER** in **In the Matter of: Salamatof Seafoods, Inc., DOCKET NO.: CWA-10-2013-0059**, was filed, and served as follows, on the signature date below.

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the document was delivered to:

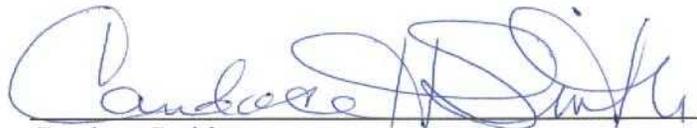
Endre M. Szalay, Esquire
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, ORC-158
Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101

Further, the undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the aforementioned document was placed in the United States mail, certified/return receipt, to:

James N. Butler, III, Esquire
Baldwin & Butler, LLC
125 N. Willow Street
Kenai, Alaska 99611

6 March 2013

Dated



Candace Smith
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

