

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75270

22 SEP -7 AM 11:38

REGIONAL HEARING CLERK
EPA REGION VI

In the Matter of

Goodyear Houston Chemical Plant,

Respondent.

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Docket No. CAA-06-2022-3340

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

Preliminary Statement

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 (“EPA” or “Complainant”), and The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, as owner and operator of the Goodyear Houston Chemical Plant (“Respondent”) have agreed to a settlement of this action before the filing of a complaint, and thus this action is simultaneously commenced and concluded pursuant to Rules 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits, 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2).

Jurisdiction

1. This proceeding is an administrative action for the assessment of civil penalties instituted pursuant to Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act (“CAA”), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d).
2. This Consent Agreement and Final Order serves as notice that the EPA has reason to believe that Respondent has violated the Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions in 40 C.F.R. Part 68, promulgated pursuant to Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), and that Respondent is therefore in violation of Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7). Furthermore, this Consent Agreement and Final Order serves as notice pursuant to Section 113(d)(2)(A) of the CAA,

42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(2)(A), and 40 C.F.R. § 22.34, of the EPA's intent to issue an order assessing penalties for these violations.

Parties

3. Complainant is the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division of EPA, Region 6, as duly delegated by the Administrator of the EPA and the Regional Administrator, EPA, Region 6.

4. Respondent is Goodyear Houston Chemical Plant, a corporation incorporated in the state of Ohio and conducting business in the state of Texas.

Statutory and Regulatory Background

5. On November 15, 1990, the President signed into law the CAA Amendments of 1990. The Amendments added Section 112(r) to Title I of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r). The objective of Section 112(r) is to minimize the consequences of any such release of any substance listed pursuant to Section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3), or any other extremely hazardous substance.

6. Section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3), requires the Administrator to promulgate a list of regulated substances which, in the case of an accidental release, are known to cause or may reasonably be anticipated to cause death, injury, or serious adverse effects to human health or the environment. Section 112(r)(5) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(5), mandates that the Administrator establish a threshold quantity for any substance listed pursuant to Section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3). The list of regulated substances and respective threshold quantities is codified at 40 C.F.R. § 68.130.

7. Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), requires the Administrator to promulgate regulations that address release prevention, detection, and correction requirements for stationary sources with threshold quantities of regulated substances listed pursuant to Section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3). On June 20, 1996, EPA promulgated a final rule known as the Risk

Management Program, 40 C.F.R. Part 68 – Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions, which implements Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7).

8. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 68 require owners and operators to develop and implement a Risk Management Program at each stationary source with over a threshold quantity of regulated substances. The Risk Management Program must include, among other things, a hazard assessment, a prevention program, and an emergency response program. The Risk Management Program is described in a Risk Management Plan (RMP) that must be submitted to the EPA.

9. Pursuant to Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), and 40 C.F.R. § 68.150, an RMP must be submitted for all covered processes by the owner or operator of a stationary source subject to 40 C.F.R. Part 68 no later than the latter of June 21, 1999, or the date on which a regulated substance is first present above the threshold quantity in a process.

10. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 68.10 set forth how the Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions of 40 C.F.R. Part 68 apply to each program level of covered processes. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.10(i), a covered process is subject to Program 3 requirements if the process does not meet the requirements of Program 1, as described in 40 C.F.R. § 68.10(g), and if it is in a specified North American Industrial Classification System code or is subject to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) process safety management standard, 29 C.F.R. § 1910.119.

11. Section 113(d) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), states that the Administrator may issue an administrative order against any person assessing a civil administrative penalty of up to \$25,000 per day of violation whenever, on the basis of any available information, the Administrator finds that such person has violated or is violating any requirement or prohibition of Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), and its implementing regulations. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701, as amended, and the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, 28 U.S.C. § 2461, and implementing regulations at 40

C.F.R. Part 19, increased these statutory maximum penalties to \$37,500 for violations that occurred before November 2, 2015, and to \$51,796 for violations that occur after November 2, 2015, and are assessed after January 12, 2022.

Definitions

12. Section 302(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e), defines “person” to include any individual, corporation, partnership, association, State, municipality, political subdivision of a State, and any agency department, or instrumentality of the United States and any officer, agent, or employee thereof.

13. Section 112(r)(2)(A) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(A), and the regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “accidental release” as an unanticipated emission of a regulated substance or other extremely hazardous substance into the ambient air from a stationary source.

14. Section 112(r)(2)(C) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(C), and the regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “stationary source,” in part, as any buildings, structures, equipment, installations or substance-emitting stationary activities which belong to the same industrial group, which are located on one or more contiguous properties, which are under the control of the same person (or persons under common control), and from which an accidental release may occur.

15. Section 112(r)(2)(B) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(B), and the regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 define “regulated substance” as any substance listed pursuant to Section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, as amended, in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130.

16. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “threshold quantity” as the quantity specified for regulated substances pursuant to Section 112(r)(5) of the CAA, as amended, listed in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130 and determined to be present at a stationary source as specified in 40 C.F.R. § 68.115.

17. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “process” as any activity involving a regulated substance including any use, storage, manufacturing, handling or on-site movement of such substances,

or combination of these activities. For the purposes of this definition, any group of vessels that are interconnected, or separate vessels that are located such that a regulated substance could be involved in a potential release, shall be considered a single process.

18. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “covered process” as a process that has a regulated substance present in more than a threshold quantity as determined under 40 C.F.R. § 68.115.

EPA Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

19. Respondent is, and at all times referred to herein was, a “person” as defined by Section 302(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e).

20. Respondent is the owner and operator of a facility located at: 2000 Goodyear Drive, Houston, TX 77017 (the “Facility”).

21. Pursuant to Section 114 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7414, the EPA conducted an inspection of the Facility on June 22, 2021, to June 24, 2021, to determine Respondent’s compliance with Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), and 40 C.F.R. Part 68 (the “Inspection”).

22. On March 23, 2022, the EPA sent Respondent a Notice of Potential Violation and Opportunity to Confer letter. On April 6, 2022, the EPA responded to the documentation and information received from Respondent as a result of the opportunity to confer and articulated the EPA’s position concerning Respondent’s compliance with Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r).

23. The Facility is a “stationary source” pursuant to Section 112(r)(2)(C) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(C), and the regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3.

24. Respondent has a synthetic rubber manufacturing process at the Facility, meeting the definition of “process”, as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 68.3.

25. Respondent manufactures synthetic rubber at the facility. To produce it, two petrochemicals, butadiene and styrene, are reacted with several chemical agents in a soap and water solution. The temperature of the reaction is controlled by anhydrous ammonia.

As a result, Respondent, processes, handles and stores 1, 3-butadiene and ammonia (anhydrous) at the Facility.

26. 1, 3-Butadiene and Ammonia (anhydrous) are substances listed pursuant to Section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3), in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130.

27. 1, 3-Butadiene and Ammonia (anhydrous) are “regulated substances” pursuant to Section 112(r)(2)(B) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(B), and the regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3. The threshold quantity for 1, 3-Butadiene and Ammonia (anhydrous), as listed in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130 is 10,000 pounds.

28. Respondent has greater than a threshold quantity of 1, 3-Butadiene and Ammonia (anhydrous), in a process at the Facility, meeting the definition of “covered process” as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 68.3.

29. From the time Respondent first had on-site greater than a threshold quantity of 1, 3-Butadiene and Ammonia (anhydrous) in a process, Respondent was subject to the requirements of Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), and 40 C.F.R. Part 68 because it was the owner or operator of a stationary source that had more than a threshold quantity of a regulated substance in a process.

30. From the time Respondent first had on-site greater than a threshold quantity of 1, 3-Butadiene and Ammonia (anhydrous) in a process, Respondent was required to submit an RMP pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(a) and comply with the Program 3 prevention requirements because pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.10(i), the covered process at the Facility did not meet the eligibility requirements of Program 1 and is subject to the OSHA process safety management standard, 29 C.F.R. § 1910.119.

EPA Findings of Violation

31. The facts stated in the EPA Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law above are herein incorporated.

32. Complainant hereby states and alleges that Respondent has violated the CAA and federal regulations promulgated thereunder as follows:

Count 1 - Training

33. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d)(3) requires the owner or operator of a stationary source with a process subject to Program 3 to implement the prevention requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.65 through 68.87. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.71(c), the owner or operator shall ascertain that each employee involved in operating a process has received and understood the training required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.71 (a) and (b). The owner or operator shall prepare a record which contains the identity of the employee, the date of training, and the means used to verify that the employee understood the training. Respondent failed to provide training documentation in some cases that verifies that the employees/contractors that completed their respective trainings understood the trainings being provided.

34. Respondent's failure to provide training documentation that verifies that the employees understood the training pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.71(c), as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d)(3), is a violation of Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7).

Count 2 – Compliance Audit

35. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d)(3) requires the owner or operator of a stationary source with a process subject to Program 3 to implement the prevention requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.65 through 68.87. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.79(d), the owner or operator shall promptly determine and document an appropriate response to each of the findings of the compliance audit, and document that deficiencies have been corrected.

36. Respondent failed to promptly document an appropriate response and identify those

deficiencies were corrected for some of the findings of the compliance audit. Specifically, Respondent's 2017 compliance audit recommendations associated with process hazard analysis, operating procedures and training were found again in the 2020 compliance audit, demonstrating that these deficiencies were not corrected. Respondent failed to document those deficiencies have been promptly corrected for each finding of their compliance audit.

37. Respondent's failure to promptly document an appropriate response and identify those deficiencies were corrected pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.79(d), as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d)(3), is a violation of Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7).

Count 3 – Emergency Response Program

38. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d) (4) requires the owner or operator of a stationary source with a process subject to Program 3 to implement an emergency response program as provided in 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.90 through 68.95. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.95(a)(2), the owner or operator shall develop and implement an emergency response program for the purpose of protecting public health and the environment. Such program shall include procedures for the use of emergency response equipment and for its inspection, testing, and maintenance.

39. In some cases, Respondent failed to develop and/or centralize formal procedures for the use of emergency response equipment and for its inspection, testing, and maintenance. Specifically, Respondent's emergency management plan, emergency action plan, emergency response training for plant personnel, and the emergency response site safety and health plan did not formally capture as procedures all of Respondent's practices related to the use of emergency response equipment and for its inspection, testing, and maintenance.

40. Respondent's failure to develop, implement, and/or centralize formal procedures for the use of emergency response equipment and for its inspection, testing, and maintenance pursuant to 40

C.F.R. § 68.95(a)(2), as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d) (4), is a violation of Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7).

CONSENT AGREEMENT

41. For the purpose of this proceeding, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2), Respondent:
- a. admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth herein;
 - b. neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations stated herein;
 - c. consents to the assessment of a civil penalty, as stated herein;
 - d. consents to the issuance of any specified compliance or corrective action order;
 - e. consents to any conditions specified herein;
 - f. consents to any stated Permit Action;
 - g. waives any right to contest the allegations set forth herein; and,
 - h. waives its rights to appeal the Final Order accompanying this Consent Agreement.
42. Respondent consents to the issuance of this Consent Agreement and Final Order and consents for the purposes of settlement to the payment of the civil penalty specified herein.
43. Respondent and EPA agree to conciliate this matter without the necessity of a formal hearing and to bear their respective costs and attorneys' fees.

Penalty Payment

44. Respondent agrees that, in settlement of the claims alleged herein, Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of **one hundred thousand, four hundred and thirty-nine dollars (\$100,439.00)**, as set forth below.
45. Respondent shall pay the penalty within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Final Order. Such payment shall identify Respondent by name and docket number and shall be by certified or cashier's check made payable to the "United States Treasury" and sent to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
PO Box 979077
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

or by alternate payment method described at <http://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>.

46. A copy of the check or other information confirming payment shall simultaneously be sent to the following:

Lorena S. Vaughn
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500 (ORC)
Dallas, Texas 75270-2102
vaughn.lorena@epa.gov; and

Daniel Williams
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
Air Enforcement Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500 (ECDAC)
Dallas, Texas 75270-2101
Williams.daniel.d@epa.gov

47. Respondent understands that its failure to timely pay any portion of the civil penalty may result in the commencement of a civil action in Federal District Court to recover the full remaining balance, along with penalties and accumulated interest. In such case, interest shall begin to accrue on a civil or stipulated penalty from the date of delinquency until such civil or stipulated penalty and any accrued interest are paid in full. 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(b)(1). Interest will be assessed at a rate of the United States Treasury Tax and loan rates in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 3717. Additionally, a charge will be assessed to cover the costs of debt collection including processing and handling costs, and a non-payment penalty charge of six percent (6%) per year compounded annually will be assessed on any portion of the debt which remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days after payment is due. 31 U.S.C. § 3717(e)(2).

Effect of Settlement and Reservation of Rights

48. Full payment of the penalty proposed in this Consent Agreement shall only resolve Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations alleged herein. Complainant reserves the right to take any enforcement action with respect to any other violations of the CAA or any other applicable law.

49. The effect of settlement described in the immediately preceding paragraph is conditioned upon the accuracy of Respondent's representations to the EPA, as memorialized in paragraph directly below.

50. Respondent certifies that as of the date of the execution of this Consent Agreement, Respondent has addressed or is addressing the violations alleged herein, and is, to the best of its knowledge, presently in compliance with all other requirements of Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r).

51. Full payment of the penalty proposed in this Consent Agreement shall not in any case affect the right of the Agency or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. This Consent Agreement and Final Order does not waive, extinguish, or otherwise affect Respondent's obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of the CAA and regulations promulgated thereunder.

52. Complainant reserves the right to enforce the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

General Provisions

53. By signing this Consent Agreement, the undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that it is fully authorized to execute and enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and has the legal capacity to bind the party it represents to this Consent Agreement.

54. This Consent Agreement shall not dispose of the proceeding without a final order from

the Regional Judicial Officer or Regional Administrator ratifying the terms of this Consent Agreement.

This Consent Agreement and Final Order shall be effective upon filing of the Final Order by the Regional Hearing Clerk for EPA, Region 6. Unless otherwise stated, all time periods stated herein shall be calculated in calendar days from such date.

55. The penalty specified herein shall represent civil penalties assessed by EPA and shall not be deductible for purposes of Federal, State, and local taxes.

56. This Consent Agreement and Final Order shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and Respondent's agents, successors and/or assigns. Respondent shall ensure that all contractors, employees, consultants, firms, or other persons or entities acting for Respondent with respect to matters included herein comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

57. The EPA and Respondent agree to the use of electronic signatures for this matter pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.6. The EPA and Respondent further agree to electronic service of this Consent Agreement and Final Order by email to the following:

To EPA: *mcdonald.ashley@epa.gov*

To Respondent: *tom_baldauf@goodyear.com*

**RESPONDENT:
THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY**

Date: 8/25/2022

DocuSigned by:
Ryan Waldron
Signature 618A9A6FB61C4A3...

Ryan Waldron
Print Name

Vice President, Global Off-Highway Business
Title

**COMPLAINANT:
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

Cheryl T. Seager
Digitally signed by
CHERYL SEAGER
Date: 2022.08.31
14:00:26 -05'00'

Cheryl T. Seager
Director
Enforcement and
Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. EPA, Region 6

FINAL ORDER

Pursuant to Section 113(d) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/ Termination or Suspension of Permits, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, the foregoing Consent Agreement resolving this matter is hereby ratified and incorporated by reference into this Final Order.

Respondent is ORDERED to comply with all of the terms of the Consent Agreement. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b), the effective date of the foregoing Consent Agreement and this Final Order is the date on which this Final Order is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

This Final Order shall resolve only those causes of action alleged in the Consent Agreement. Nothing in this Final Order shall be construed to waive, extinguish, or otherwise affect Respondent's (or its officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, or assigns) obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations, including the regulations that were the subject of this action.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

THOMAS
RUCKI

Digitally signed by THOMAS RUCKI
DN: cn=U.S. Government,
ou=Environmental Protection Agency,
o=THOMAS RUCKI,
c=US, 1.2.840.113549.1.1=68001003655804
Date: 2022.09.07 12:03:43 -0400

Thomas Rucki
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was delivered to the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA, Region 6, 1201 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas 75270-2102, and that a true and correct copy was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy via Email to Complainant:

mcdonald.ashley@epa.gov

Copy via Email to Respondent:

tom_baldauf@goodyear.com

Tom Baldauf
Manufacturing Director
Goodyear Houston Chemical Plant
2000 Goodyear Dr.
Houston, TX 77017

Copy via Email to Regional Hearing Clerk:

Vaughn.lorena@epa.gov

Signed
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region 6