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**U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 7  
11201 RENNER BOULEVARD  
LENEXA, KANSAS 66219**

**BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR**

**In the Matter of:** )  
 )  
MESA Contracting, LLC, ) **Docket No. TSCA-07-2019-0219**  
 )  
Respondent )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER**

**Preliminary Statement**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 (“EPA” or “Complainant”), and MESA Contracting, LLC (“Respondent”) 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 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (“TSCA”), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a). Pursuant to Section 16(a)(2)(C), “[t]he Administrator may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, any civil penalty which may be imposed under this subsection.

2. This Consent Agreement and Final Order serves as notice that the EPA has reason to believe that Respondent has violated Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, by failing to comply with the regulatory requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E, *Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule*, promulgated pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §§ 2682, 2686 and 2687.

**Parties**

3. Complainant, by delegation from the Administrator of the EPA and the Regional Administrator, EPA, Region 7, is the Division Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, EPA, Region 7.

4. Respondent is MESA Contracting, LLC, a limited liability company in good standing under the laws of the state of, and doing business in, Missouri.

## Statutory and Regulatory Background

5. Congress passed the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (the “Act”), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4851 to 4856, to address the need to control exposure to lead-based paint hazards. One of the stated purposes of the Act is to implement a broad program to reduce lead-based paint hazards in the Nation’s housing stock. 42 U.S.C. § 4851a(2). The Act amended TSCA by adding *Title IV—Lead Exposure Reduction*, Sections 401 to 412, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2681 to 2692.

6. Section 402 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2682, requires that the Administrator of EPA promulgate regulations governing the training and certification of individuals and contractors engaged in lead-based paint activities, including renovation of target housing. Section 406 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2686, requires that the Administrator of EPA promulgate regulations requiring persons who perform for compensation a renovation of target housing to provide a lead hazard information pamphlet to the owner and occupant prior to commencing the renovation. Section 407 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2687, requires that the regulations promulgated pursuant to the TSCA include recordkeeping and reporting requirements to insure effective implementation.

7. Pursuant to Section 402(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2682(a), the EPA promulgated regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart L, *Lead Based Paint Activities*. See *Lead; Requirements for Lead-Based Paint Activities in Target Housing and Child-Occupied Facilities*, 61 Fed. Reg. 45778, 45813 (Aug. 29, 1996). Pursuant to Section 406(b) and Section 407 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2686(b) and 2687, the EPA promulgated regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E, *Residential Property Renovation*. See *Lead; Requirements for Hazard Education Before Renovation of Target Housing*, 63 Fed. Reg. 29908, 29919 (June 1, 1998). Finally, pursuant to Section 402(c)(3) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2682(c)(3), the EPA amended and re-codified regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subparts E and L, and added additional regulations at 40 C.F.R. Subpart L (“Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule”). See *Lead; Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program*, 73 Fed. Reg. 21692, 21758 (Mar. 31, 2008).

8. The regulations set forth at 40 C.F.R. Subpart E, *Residential Property Renovation*, including the Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule, require that owners and occupants of target housing and child-occupied facilities receive information on lead-based paint hazards before renovations begin, establish work practice standards for renovations that disturb painted surfaces in target housing and child-occupied facilities and requires that firms and individuals performing, offering, or claiming to perform such renovations are properly trained and obtain EPA certification.

9. The requirements set forth in the regulations at 40 C.F.R. Subpart E, *Residential Property Renovation*, apply to all renovations performed for compensation in target housing and child-occupied facilities, unless otherwise excluded as set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 745.82.

10. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83 defines “renovation” as the modification of any existing structure, or portion thereof, that results in the disturbance of painted surfaces, unless that activity is performed as part of an abatement as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 745.223. The term renovation includes, but is not limited to, the removal, modification, or repair of painted

surfaces or painted components (e.g., modification of painted doors, surface restoration, window repair, surface preparation activity (such as sanding, scraping, or other such activities that may generate paint dust)); the removal of building components (e.g., walls, ceilings, plumbing, windows); weatherization projects (e.g., cutting holes in painted surfaces to install blown-in insulation or to gain access to attics, planning thresholds to install weather stripping); and interim controls that disturb painted surfaces.

11. Section 401(17) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2681(17), defines “target housing” as any housing constructed prior to 1978, except housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities or any zero-bedroom dwelling (unless any child who is less than six years of age resides or is expected to reside in such housing).

12. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83 defines “firm” as a company, partnership, corporation, sole proprietorship or individual doing business, association, or other business entity; a Federal, State, Tribal, or local government agency; or a nonprofit organization.

13. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83 defines “person” as any natural or judicial person including any individual, corporation, partnership, or association; any Indian Tribe, State, or political subdivision thereof; any interstate body; and any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government.

14. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 745.87(a) provides that failure or refusal to comply with any provision of 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E, is a violation of Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689. Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to fail to comply with, *inter alia*, any provision of 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E.

15. Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), and 40 C.F.R. § 745.87(d), authorize the EPA Administrator to assess a civil penalty for each violation of Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689. Each day that such a violation continues constitutes a separate violation. The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. § 2461, as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701, and implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 19, increased the statutory maximum penalty to \$37,500 for violations that occurred after January 12, 2009. Congress amended TSCA in June 2016, increasing the statutory maximum penalty to \$37,500. P.L. No: 114-182. Most recently, the 2019 Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule, 84 Fed. Reg. 2056 (Feb. 6, 2019), promulgated pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, 28 U.S.C. § 2461, increased these statutory maximum penalties to \$39,873 for violations that occur after November 2, 2015.

### General Factual Allegations

16. On or about April 25, 2018, and pursuant to Section 11 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2610, a representative of the EPA conducted a records inspection (“EPA Inspection”) to evaluate Respondent’s compliance with TSCA and the requirements of the Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule. The EPA inspection specifically reviewed renovation activity records for a property located at [REDACTED] (“the Property”).

17. A copy of the EPA Inspection report was mailed to Respondent by letter dated June 1, 2018.

18. Respondent is, and at all times referred to herein was, a limited liability company doing business in the state of Missouri under the name MESA Contracting, LLC.

19. Respondent, at all times referred to herein, was a “person” and “firm” as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.

20. At the time of the EPA inspection, and at all times relevant to this Consent Agreement and Final Order, Respondent was engaged in a “renovation” of the Property as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 745.83. The renovation work included converting a former school into residential apartments which entailed among other work: wall stabilization, plastering, preparing walls for painting and painting at/of the Property (“the renovation”).

21. At all times relevant to this Consent Agreement and Final Order, Respondent’s renovation was a “renovation for compensation” per 40 C.F.R. § 745.82(a).

22. At all times relevant to this Consent Agreement and Final Order, the Property was “target housing” as defined by Section 401(17) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2681(17). The EPA inspection and subsequent investigation revealed that the Property was built in 1907.

23. At all times relevant to this Consent Agreement and Final Order, the Property was owned by a party other than Respondent and was not occupied.

24. As a result of the EPA inspection and additional information obtained by the agency, Complainant has determined that violations of the Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule, 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E, and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, occurred as a result of Respondent’s renovation activities at the Property.

### **Allegations of Violation**

25. Complainant hereby states and alleges that Respondent has violated TSCA and federal regulations promulgated thereunder as follows:

#### **Count 1**

26. The facts stated above are herein incorporated

27. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(a)(1), firms that perform renovations for compensation must apply to EPA for certification to perform renovations. With certain exceptions not relevant here, 40 C.F.R. § 745.81(a)(2)(ii) prohibits firms from performing, offering, or claiming to perform renovations without certification from EPA in target housing or child-occupied facilities.

28. The EPA inspection revealed that Respondent failed to apply for and obtain EPA certification prior to commencing the renovation for compensation on the Property.

29. Respondent's failure to apply to the EPA for certification pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(a)(1) prior to performance of the renovation on the Property is a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.81(a)(2)(ii). Respondent, therefore, violated Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

### **Count 2**

30. The facts stated above are herein incorporated.

31. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(2), firms performing renovations must ensure that a certified renovator is assigned to each renovation performed by the firm and discharges all of the certified renovator responsibilities identified in 40 C.F.R. §745.90.

32. The EPA Inspection revealed that individuals performing renovation activities at the Property on behalf of Respondent were not certified renovators nor had they been trained by a certified renovator.

33. Respondent's failure to ensure that a certified renovator was assigned to the renovation that the firm performed on each unit of the Property are violations of 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(2). Respondent, therefore, violated Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

### **Count 3**

34. The facts stated above are herein incorporated.

35. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(3) requires firms to perform renovation work in accordance with the work practice standards in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85.

36. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(1) requires firms to post signs clearly defining the work area and warning occupants and other persons not involved in renovation activities to remain outside of the work area.

37. The EPA inspection revealed that Respondent failed to post protective signs as required by 40 C.F.R. §745.85(a)(1).

38. Respondent's failure to post signs clearly defining the work area and warning occupants and other persons not involved in renovation to remain outside of the work area is a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(1). Respondent, therefore, violated Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

**CONSENT AGREEMENT**

39. 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.

40. 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.

41. 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**

42. The EPA has considered the appropriateness of the penalty pursuant to Section 16(a)(2)(B) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. 2615(a)(2)(B), and has determined that the appropriate penalty for the violation(s) is \$0.00. This penalty has been adjusted to reflect Respondent's size of business.

**Conditions**

43. Respondent certifies by the signing of this Consent Agreement and Final Order that one of its owners completed EPA-accredited renovator training on May 10, 2018, to become a certified renovator. Respondent further certifies by signing this Consent Agreement and Final Order that MESA Contracting, LLC does not plan to continue to perform renovations for compensation on target housing as defined by 40 C.F.R § 745 *et seq.*, and understands that if the company does perform renovations for compensation on target housing in the future the company will need to attain proper certification and follow all requirements of 40 C.F.R § 745, *et seq.*

### **Effect of Settlement and Reservation of Rights**

44. Performance of the conditions 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 TSCA or any other applicable law.

45. 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.

46. Respondent certifies by the signing of this Consent Agreement that it is presently in compliance with all requirements of TSCA and its implementing regulations.

47. Issuance of 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 TSCA and regulations promulgated thereunder.

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

### **General Provisions**

49. By signing this Consent Agreement, the undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she 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 he or she represents to this Consent Agreement.

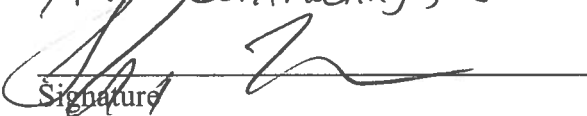
50. This Consent Agreement shall not dispose of the proceeding without a final order from the Regional Judicial Officer or Regional Administrator ratifying the terms of this Consent Agreement. This Consent Agreement and Final Order shall be effective upon the filing of the Final Order by the Regional Hearing Clerk for EPA, Region 7. Unless otherwise stated, all time periods stated herein shall be calculated in calendar days from such date.

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

52. 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.

**RESPONDENT**  
**MESA CONTRACTING, LLC**

Date: July 3, 2019

By: Mesa Contracting, LLC  
  
Signature

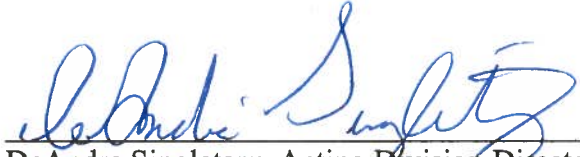
Stephen Levin  
Print Name

Member  
Title



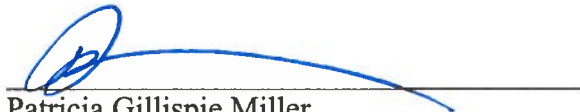
**COMPLAINANT**  
**U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

Date: 7-15-19



DeAndre Singletary, Acting Division Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

Date: 7/11/2019



Patricia Gillispie Miller  
Office of Regional Counsel

**FINAL ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), 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.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Karina Borromeo  
Karina Borromeo  
Regional Judicial Officer

July 22, 2019  
Date

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy via Email to Complainant:

Patricia Gillispie Miller  
*Miller.patriciag@epa.gov*

Copy via Email to Respondent:

Amy Levin  
*helixrealty@gmail.com.*

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2019.

Lisa Hugen  
Signed