



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 REGION III  
 1650 Arch Street  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

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 EPA REGION III, PHILA. PA

<b>In the Matter of</b>	)	<b>U.S. EPA Docket No.: CERC/EPCR-03-2014-0009</b>
	)	
<b>Luke Paper Company, Inc.</b>	)	
<b>300 Pratt Street</b>	)	
<b>Luke, Maryland 21540,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Respondent.</b>	)	
	)	<b>Proceedings Pursuant to Sections 103 and</b>
<b>Luke Paper Company, Inc.</b>	)	<b>109 of the Comprehensive Environmental</b>
<b>300 Pratt Street</b>	)	<b>Response, Compensation and Liability</b>
<b>Luke, Maryland 21540,</b>	)	<b>Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9603 and 9609, and</b>
	)	<b>Sections 304 and 325 of the Emergency</b>
<b>Facility.</b>	)	<b>Planning and Community Right-to-Know</b>
	)	<b>Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11004 and 11045</b>
	)	

**CONSENT AGREEMENT**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

This Consent Agreement is proposed and entered into under the authority vested in the President of the United States by Section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (“CERCLA”), 42 U.S.C. § 9609, as re-delegated to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and under the authority vested in the Administrator of EPA by Section 325 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (“EPCRA”), 42 U.S.C. § 11045, and under the authority provided by 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 (“Part 22”). The Administrator has delegated these authorities to the Regional Administrator of EPA, Region III, who has in turn delegated them to the Director, Hazardous Site Cleanup Division, EPA Region III (“Complainant”).

The parties agree to the commencement and conclusion of this cause of action by issuance of this Consent Agreement and Final Order (referred to collectively herein as “CA/FO”) as prescribed by the Consolidated Rules of Practice pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b), and having consented to the entry of this CA/FO, agree to comply with the terms of this CA/FO.

**JURISDICTION**

1. The Consolidated Rules of Practice govern this administrative adjudicatory proceeding pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.1(a)(7) and 22.1(a)(8).
2. The Regional Judicial Officer has the authority to approve this settlement and conclude this proceeding pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.4(b) and 22.18(b)(3).
3. For the purpose of this proceeding, Respondent admits to the jurisdictional allegations in this Consent Agreement and agrees not to contest EPA's jurisdiction with respect to the execution or enforcement of this Consent Agreement.
4. With the exception of Paragraph 3, above, for the purpose of this proceeding, Respondent neither admits nor denies the factual allegations or conclusions of law set forth in this Consent Agreement, but expressly waives its rights to contest said allegations.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

5. Luke Paper Company, Inc. ("Respondent") is a Delaware corporation, with its principal place of business located at 300 Pratt Street, Luke, Maryland 21540.
6. As a corporation, Respondent is a "person" as defined by Section 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(21), Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7), and their respective regulations, 40 C.F.R. §§ 302.3 and 355.61.
7. At all times relevant to this CA/FO, Respondent has been in charge of the paper manufacturing facility located at 300 Pratt Street in Luke, Maryland 21540 ("Facility"), within the meaning of Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), and has been the owner or operator of the Facility, within the meaning of Section 304 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004.
8. The Facility is a "facility" as defined by Section 101(9) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9), Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4), and their respective regulations, 40 C.F.R. §§ 302.3 and 355.61.
9. On November 28, 2012, EPA conducted an inspection of the Facility to determine Respondent's compliance with Section 103 of CERCLA and Sections 302-312 of EPCRA.
10. Section 102(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9602(a), requires the Administrator of the EPA to publish a list of substances designated as hazardous substances, which, when released into the environment may present substantial danger to public health or welfare or to the environment, and to promulgate regulations establishing that quantity of any hazardous substance, the release of which shall be required to be reported under Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a) ("Reportable Quantity" or "RQ"). The list of hazardous substances is codified at 40 C.F.R. § 302.4.

11. Section 302(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11002(a), requires the Administrator of EPA to publish a list of Extremely Hazardous Substances (“EHSs”) and to promulgate regulations establishing that quantity of any EHS the release of which shall be required to be reported under Section 304(a) through (c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a) through (c), (“Reportable Quantity” or “RQ”). The list of EHSs and their respective RQs is codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Appendices A and B.

12. The State Emergency Response Commission (“SERC”) for the Facility is, and at all times relevant to this CA/FO has been, the Maryland Department of the Environment, located at 1800 Washington Boulevard in Baltimore, Maryland 21230, and the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, located at 199 Kanawha Boulevard East in Charleston, West Virginia 23505.

13. At all times relevant to this CA/FO, the Facility was a facility at which a hazardous chemical was produced, used or stored.

14. Beginning on or about November 16, 2011, an estimated 30.5 pounds of chlorine, Chemical Abstracts Service (“CAS”) Registry No. 7782-50-5, was released from the Facility (the “Release”).

**EPA’S FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS RELATED TO THE  
VIOLATION OF SECTION 103(a) OF CERCLA**

15. The factual allegations contained in Paragraphs 5 through 14 of this CA/FO are incorporated by reference herein as though fully set forth at length.

16. Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), as implemented by 40 C.F.R. Part 302, requires, in relevant part, a person in charge of a facility to immediately notify the National Response Center (“NRC”) established under Section 311(d)(2)(E) of the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(d)(2)(E), as soon as he/she has knowledge of a release (other than a federally permitted release) of a hazardous substance from such facility in a quantity equal to or greater than the RQ.

17. The chemical chlorine is a hazardous substance, as defined under Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), and 40 C.F.R. § 302.3, with an RQ of 10 pounds, as listed in 40 C.F.R. § 302.4.

18. The Release from the Facility constitutes a release of a hazardous substance in a quantity equal to or exceeding the RQ for that hazardous substance, requiring immediate notification of the NRC pursuant to Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a).

19. The Release was not a “federally permitted release” as that term is used in Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), and 40 C.F.R. § 302.6, and defined in Section 101(10) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(10).

20. Respondent first became aware that a release of chlorine was occurring at approximately 11:07 a.m. on November 16, 2011. The release was terminated at approximately 11:30 a.m. the same day. Between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. that day, Respondent sampled the material released, conducted laboratory analysis of the sample, reviewed engineering drawings and conducted measurements of the holding vessels, conducted calculations, and determined that the amount of chlorine from the release exceeded the RQ for chlorine.

21. Respondent did not notify the NRC of the Release until approximately 5:30 p.m. on November 16, 2011.

22. Respondent failed to immediately notify the NRC of the Release as soon as Respondent knew or should have known that a release of a hazardous substance had occurred at the Facility in an amount equal to or exceeding the applicable RQ, as required by Section 103 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603, and 40 C.F.R. § 302.6.

**EPA'S CONCLUSION OF LAW RELATED TO THE VIOLATION OF SECTION 103 OF CERCLA**

23. Respondent's failure to immediately notify the NRC of the Release is a violation of Section 103 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603. Respondent is, therefore, subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609.

**EPA'S FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS RELATED TO THE VIOLATION OF SECTION 304(a) OF EPCRA – SERC**

24. The factual allegations contained in Paragraphs 5 through 23 of this CA/FO are incorporated by reference herein as though fully set forth at length.

25. Section 304(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a) as implemented by 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Subpart C, requires, in relevant part, the owner or operator of a facility at which hazardous chemicals are produced, used, or stored to notify the SERC immediately following a release of a hazardous substance or an EHS in a quantity equal to or exceeding the RQ for the hazardous substance or EHS. The list of EHSs and their respective RQs is codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Appendices A and B.

26. The chemical chlorine is a hazardous substance, as defined under Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), and 40 C.F.R. § 302.3, and an EHS as defined under Section 302(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11002(a), and 40 C.F.R. § 355.61, with an RQ of 10 pounds, as listed in 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Appendices A and B, and 40 C.F.R. § 302.4.

27. The Release required immediate notification to the SERC pursuant to Section 304(a)(3) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a).

28. Respondent did not notify the SERC of the Release until approximately 5:35 p.m. on November 16, 2011.

29. Respondent failed to immediately notify the SERC of the Release of chlorine as soon as Respondent knew that a release of a hazardous substance had occurred at the Facility in an amount equal to or exceeding its RQ, as required by Section 304(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a) and 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Subpart C.

**EPA'S CONCLUSION OF LAW RELATED TO THE  
VIOLATION OF SECTION 304(a) OF EPCRA – SERC**

30. Respondent's failure to notify the SERC immediately of the Release is a violation of Section 304(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a). Respondent is, therefore, subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 325(b) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(b).

**SETTLEMENT**

31. In full and final settlement and resolution of all allegations referenced in the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law, and in full satisfaction of all civil penalty claims pursuant thereto, for the purpose of this proceeding, the Respondent consents to the assessment of a civil penalty for the violations of Section 103 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603, in the amount of **\$4,983.50** ("CERCLA civil penalty"), and Section 304(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004 (a), in the amount of **\$4,983.50** ("EPCRA civil penalty"), for a total penalty of **\$9,967.00**

32. Respondent consents to the issuance of this Consent Agreement, and consents for purposes of settlement to the payment of the civil penalty cited in the foregoing Paragraph.

**PAYMENT TERMS**

33. In order to avoid the assessment of interest, administrative costs, and late payment penalties in connection with the civil penalties described in this CA/FO, Respondent shall pay the CERCLA civil penalty of \$4,983.50 and the EPCRA civil penalty of \$4,983.50 no later than thirty (30) days after the effective date of the Final Order (the "Final Due Date") by either cashier's check, certified check, or electronic wire transfer, as set forth in the following paragraphs.

34. Payment of the CERCLA civil penalty shall be made in the following manner:
- a. All payments by Respondent shall reference Respondent's name and address, and the Docket Number of this action, CERC/EPCR-03-2014-0009;
  - b. All checks shall be made payable to **EPA-Hazardous Substances Superfund**;
  - c. All payments made by check and sent by regular mail shall be addressed to:

U.S. EPA  
ATTN: Superfund Payments  
Cincinnati Finance Center  
P.O. Box 979076  
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000  
Contact: Heather Russell (513-487-2044)

- d. All payments made by check and sent by overnight delivery service shall be addressed for delivery to:

U.S. EPA  
ATTENTION: Superfund Payments  
U.S. Bank  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
Contact: 314-418-1028

- e. All payments made by check in any currency drawn on banks with no USA branches shall be addressed for delivery to:

Cincinnati Finance  
US EPA, MS-NWD  
26 W. M.L. King Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45268-0001

- f. All payments made by electronic wire transfer shall be directed to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
ABA = 021030004  
Account No. = 68010727  
SWIFT address = FRNYUS33  
33 Liberty Street  
New York, NY 10045  
Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read:  
D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency

- g. All electronic payments made through the Automated Clearinghouse (ACH), also known as Remittance Express (REX), shall be directed to:

US Treasury REX / Cashlink ACH Receiver

ABA = 051036706  
Account No.: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency  
CTX Format Transaction Code 22 - Checking

Physical location of U.S. Treasury facility:  
5700 Rivertech Court  
Riverdale, MD 20737  
Contact: Jesse White 301-887-6548 or REX, 1-866-234-5681

h. On-Line Payment Option:

WWW.PAY.GOV/PAYGOV

Enter sfo 1.1 in the search field. Open and complete the form.

i. Additional payment guidance is available at:

[http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/finservices/make\\_a\\_payment.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/finservices/make_a_payment.htm)

35. Payment of the EPCRA civil penalty shall be made in the following manner:

- a. All payments by Respondent shall reference Respondent's name and address, and the Docket Number of this action, CERC/EPCR-03-2014-0009;
- b. All checks shall be made payable to United States Treasury;
- c. All payments made by check and sent by regular mail shall be addressed to:

U.S. EPA  
Fines and Penalties  
Cincinnati Finance Center  
P.O. Box 979077  
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000  
Contact: Heather Russell (513-487-2044)

- d. All payments made by check and sent by overnight delivery service shall be addressed for delivery to:

U.S. EPA  
Fines and Penalties  
U.S. Bank  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL  
St. Louis, MO 63101

Contact: 314-418-1028

- e. All payments made by check in any currency drawn on banks with no USA branches shall be addressed for delivery to:

Cincinnati Finance  
US EPA, MS-NWD  
26 W. M.L. King Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45268-0001

- f. All payments made by electronic wire transfer shall be directed to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
ABA = 021030004  
Account No. = 68010727  
SWIFT address = FRNYUS33  
33 Liberty Street  
New York, NY 10045

Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read:  
D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency

- g. All electronic payments made through the Automated Clearinghouse (ACH), also known as Remittance Express (REX), shall be directed to:

US Treasury REX /Cashlink ACH Receiver  
ABA = 051036706  
Account No.: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency  
CTX Format Transaction Code 22 - Checking

Physical location of U.S. Treasury facility:  
5700 Rivertech Court  
Riverdale, MD 20737  
Contact: Jesse White 301-887-6548 or REX, 1-866-234-5681

- h. On-Line Payment Option:

WWW.PAY.GOV/PAYGOV

Enter sfo 1.1 in the search field. Open and complete the form.

- i. Additional payment guidance is available at:

[http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/finservices/make\\_a\\_payment.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/finservices/make_a_payment.htm)



36. Respondent shall submit copies of the check, or verification of wire transfer or ACH, to the following persons:

Lydia Guy (3RC00) Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. EPA, Region III 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029	and	Suzanne Parent (3RC42) Associate Regional Counsel U.S. EPA, Region III 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
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37. The CERCLA civil penalty and EPCRA civil penalty stated herein are based upon Complainant's consideration of a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the following: the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation, and with respect to the violator, ability to pay, any prior history of such violations, the degree of culpability, economic benefit (if any) resulting from the violation, and such matters as justice may require. The penalty is consistent with 40 C.F.R. Part 19 and the Enforcement Response Policy for Sections 304, 311 and 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and Section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (September 30, 1999).

38. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, EPA is entitled to assess interest and late payment penalties on outstanding debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the costs of processing and handling a delinquent claim, as more fully described below. Accordingly, Respondent's failure to make timely payment by the final due date or to comply with the conditions in this CA/FO shall result in the assessment of late payment charges, including interest, penalties, and/or administrative costs of handling delinquent debts.

39. Interest on the civil penalty assessed in this CA/FO will begin to accrue on the date that a copy of this fully executed CA/FO is mailed or hand-delivered to Respondent. However, EPA will not seek to recover interest on any amount of the civil penalties that is paid within thirty (30) calendar days after the date on which such interest begins to accrue. Interest will be assessed at the rate of the United States Treasury tax and loan rate in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a).

40. The costs of the Agency's administrative handling of overdue debts will be charged and assessed monthly throughout the period the debt is overdue in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). Pursuant to Appendix 2 of EPA's Resources Management Directives - Cash Management, Chapter 9, EPA will assess a \$15.00 administrative handling charge for administrative costs on unpaid penalties for the first thirty (30) day period after the Final Due Date and an additional \$15.00 for each subsequent thirty (30) day period the penalties remain unpaid.

41. A penalty charge of six (6) percent per year will be assessed monthly on any portion of the civil penalties which remain delinquent more than ninety (90) calendar days in

accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(c). Should assessment of the penalty charge on the debt be required, it shall accrue from the first day payment is delinquent, in accordance with 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d).

42. Failure by the Respondent to pay the CERCLA civil penalty and the EPCRA civil penalty assessed by the Final Order in full by the Final Due Date may subject Respondent to a civil action to collect the assessed penalties, plus interest, pursuant to Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, and Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045. In any such collection action, the validity, amount and appropriateness of the penalty shall not be subject to review.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

43. For the purpose of this proceeding, Respondent expressly waives its right to a hearing and to appeal the Final Order under to Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, and Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045.

44. The provisions of the CA/FO shall be binding upon Respondent, its officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, and successors or assigns. By his or her signature below, the person signing this Consent Agreement on behalf of the Respondent is acknowledging that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to execute this Consent Agreement and to legally bind Respondent to the terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement and accompanying Final Order.

45. This CA/FO resolves only those civil claims which are alleged herein. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the authority of the Complainant to undertake action against any person, including the Respondent, in response to any condition which Complainant determines may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, public welfare or the environment. Nothing in this CA/FO shall be construed to limit the United States' authority to pursue criminal sanctions.

46. Each party to this action shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees.

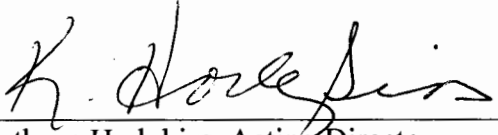
FOR LUKE PAPER COMPANY, INC.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

December 19, 2013  
Date

Name: Laszlo M. Lukacs  
Vice President

FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn Hodgkiss, Acting Director  
Hazardous Site Cleanup Division

12/30/2013  
Date



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 REGION III  
 1650 Arch Street  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

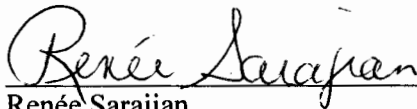
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Facility.	)	Planning and Community Right-to-Know
	)	Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11004 and 11045
	)	

**FINAL ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 109 of the Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, and Section 325 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11045, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. Part 22, and based on the representations in the Consent Agreement, the foregoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order. The Respondent is ordered to pay the \$9,967.00 penalty and otherwise comply with the terms of the referenced Consent Agreement.

**Effective Date**

This Final Order shall become effective upon the date of its filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

  
 Renée Sarajian  
 Regional Judicial Officer

11/30/14  
 DATE