

V



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200

Dallas, Texas 75202 - 2733

AUG 09 2016

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED: 7009 2820 0004 2109 1618

Mr. Glen Kusak  
President  
Yoakum Packing Company  
PO Box 192  
Yoakum, Texas 77995

Re: Consent Agreement and Final Order, EPA Docket No. CAA-06-2016-3316  
*In the Matter of Yoakum Packing Co.*

Dear Mr. Kusak:

Enclosed is a copy of the Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk in the matter referenced above. As provided in the CAFO, Yoakum Packing Co. is required to pay the civil penalty of \$1,000.00 within thirty (30) days from the effective date of the CAFO.

If you have any questions regarding this CAFO, please contact Marie Stucky, Enforcement Officer, at (214) 665-7560.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Blevins".

John Blevins  
Director  
Compliance Assurance and  
Enforcement Division

Enclosure

FILED

2016 AUG -9 AM 11:00

REGIONAL HEARING CLERK  
EPA REGION VI

UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6  
DALLAS, TEXAS

In the Matter of:

Yoakum Packing Co.  
Yoakum, Texas

Respondent

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

EPA Docket No. CAA 06-2016-3316

**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER**

The Director of the Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), Region 6 ("Complainant") and Yoakum Packing Co. ("Respondent") in the above-referenced proceeding, hereby agree to resolve this matter through the issuance of this Consent Agreement and Final Order ("CAFO").

**I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. This proceeding for the assessment of civil penalties is brought by EPA pursuant to sections 113(a)(3) and 113(d)(1)(B) of the Clean Air Act, as amended ("Act" or "CAA"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 7413(a)(3) and 7413(d)(1)(B), and is simultaneously commenced and concluded through the issuance of this CAFO pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b), 22.18(b)(2) and (3), and 22.34.

2. For purposes of this proceeding, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations contained herein; however, Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations contained in this CAFO.

3. Respondent explicitly waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed Final Order set forth herein, and waives all defenses, which have been raised or could have been raised to the claims set forth in this CAFO.

4. Compliance with all the terms and conditions of this CAFO shall only resolve Respondent's liability for federal civil monetary penalties for those violations and facts alleged in this CAFO.

5. Respondent consents to the issuance of this CAFO and to the assessment and payment of the stated civil penalty in the amount and by the method set forth in this CAFO.

## II. ALLEGATIONS

6. Respondent is a business association, which is authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

7. Respondent owns and operates a meat processing plant known as the Yoakum Packing Co. ("Facility") located in Yoakum, Texas.

8. The Respondent stores and handles anhydrous ammonia, which is used as a coolant in the Facility's refrigeration system.

9. Anhydrous ammonia is identified as a regulated extremely hazardous substance at 40 C.F.R. Part 68.130 due to its toxic nature.

10. On August 20, 2015, an employee began draining oil from the ammonia re-circulator, a part of the refrigeration system at the Facility.

11. The employee opened the re-circulator valve too far and was not prepared for the ammonia breakthrough which occurred. After oil is drained off the valve is closed to prevent the release of ammonia.

12. The employee failed to close the valve once the oil was drained.

13. The employee was startled by oil that splashed into his face and onto his arms as the last oil was drained and ammonia began to emerge from the valve.

14. The employee tried unsuccessfully to close the valve but was unable to do so. The employee dropped the wrench he was using to control the valve, and left the room, leaving the valve open and ammonia releasing from the re-circulator.

15. No formal on-the-job training was provided by the facility to train the employee on draining oil from the re-circulator.

16. No written operating procedures were produced by Respondent or available to the employee for undertaking the oil draining process.

17. The Respondent called the local fire department who closed the valve in their third attempt, as Level A suits and a water fog were required to enter the facility to complete the task.

18. The Yoakum Fire Department closed Front Street due to the presence of an ammonia odor.

19. Pursuant to section 112(r)(1) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(1), an owner/operator of a stationary source producing, processing, handling or storing substances listed pursuant to section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3), or any other extremely hazardous substance, has a general duty to: (1) identify hazards which may result from accidental releases of such substances using appropriate hazard assessment techniques; (2) design and maintain a safe facility, taking such steps as are necessary to prevent releases; and (3) minimize the consequences of accidental releases that do occur.

20. Respondent is a "person" as that term is defined by section 302(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e).

21. The Facility is a "stationary source" as that term is defined by section 112(r)(2)(C) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(C).

22. Respondent is the "owner or operator" of the Facility.

23. At the Facility, Respondent produces, processes, handles, or stores substances listed in, or pursuant to, CAA § 112(r)(3) or other extremely hazardous substances identified as such due to toxicity, reactivity, flammability, volatility, or corrosivity.

24. The Respondent is required to take measures to ensure that a safe facility is maintained, and that these measure achieve a level of quality, accuracy, and completeness in order to prevent releases.

25. Respondent failed to maintain a safe facility so as to prevent releases of regulated substances or other extremely hazardous substances by not having a written operating procedure for draining oil from the re-circulator, and not adequately training the employee in maintenance activities related to the ammonia refrigeration system.

26. Respondent's failures constitutes violations of the general duty clause in section 112(r)(1) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(1).

### III. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

#### A. CIVIL PENALTY

27. Pursuant to the authority granted in sections 113(a)(3) and 113(d)(1)(B) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7413(a)(3) and 7413(d)(1)(B), and taking into consideration the size of the Respondent's business, the economic impact of the penalty on the Respondent's business, the Respondent's full compliance history and good faith efforts to comply, the duration of the violation, payment by Respondent of penalties previously assessed for the same violation (if any), the economic benefit of noncompliance, and the seriousness of the violation, as well as other factors which justice may require, EPA and Respondent agree that an appropriate penalty to settle this matter is \$37,500. However, Respondent identified an ability-to-pay issue and supplied appropriate documentation to Complainant. Complainant's financial expert reviewed the documentation, utilized the ABEL computer program to assess Respondent's financial ability

to pay the penalty, and determined that \$1,000.00 was an appropriate amount for Respondent to pay in settlement of the alleged violations.

28. Respondent shall pay the assessed penalty within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CAFO. Respondent shall pay the assessed civil penalty by certified check, cashier's check, or wire transfer, made payable to "Treasurer, United States of America, EPA - Region 6." Payment shall be remitted in one of three ways: regular U.S. Postal mail (including certified mail), or U.S. Postal Service express mail - the check should be remitted to:

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

For overnight mail (non-U.S. Postal Service), the check should be remitted to:

U.S. Bank  
Government Lockbox 979077  
U.S. EPA, Fines and Penalties  
1005 Convention Plaza  
SL-MO-C2-GL  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
Phone No. (314) 418-1028

For wire transfer, the payment should be remitted 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"

**PLEASE NOTE:** Docket number CAA 06-2016-3316 shall be clearly typed on the check to ensure proper credit. If payment is made by check, the check shall also be accompanied by a transmittal letter and shall reference the Respondent's name and address, the case name, and the

docket number of this CAFO. If payment is made by wire service, the wire transfer instructions shall reference the Respondent's name and address, the case name, and the docket number of this CAFO. The Respondent shall also send a simultaneous notice of such payment, including a copy of the check and transmittal letter or wire transfer instructions to the following:

Samuel Tates  
Chief, Chemical Accident Enforcement Section (6EN-AS)  
Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue - Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Lorena Vaughn  
Regional Hearing Clerk (6RC-D)  
U.S. EPA, Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue - Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Respondent's adherence to these instructions will ensure that proper credit is given when penalties are received in the Region.

29. Respondent agrees not to claim or attempt to claim a federal income tax deduction or credit covering all or any part of the civil penalty paid to the United States Treasurer.

30. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, unless otherwise prohibited by law, EPA will 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. Interest on the civil penalty assessed in this CAFO will begin to accrue thirty (30) days after the effective date of the CAFO and will be recovered by EPA on any amount of the civil penalty that is not paid by the due date. 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). Moreover, the costs of the Agency's administrative handling of overdue debts will be charged and assessed monthly throughout the period the debt is overdue. See 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b).

31. EPA will also assess a \$15.00 administrative handling charge for administrative costs on unpaid penalties for the first thirty (30) day period after the payment is due and an additional \$15.00 for each subsequent thirty (30) day period that the penalty remains unpaid. In addition, a penalty charge of up to six percent per year will be assessed monthly on any portion of the debt which remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(c). Should a penalty charge on the debt be required, it shall accrue from the first day payment is delinquent. *See* 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d). Other penalties for failure to make a payment may also apply.

#### **B. PARTIES BOUND**

32. The provisions of this CAFO shall apply to and be binding upon the parties to this action, their officers, directors, agents, employees, successors, and assigns. The undersigned representative of each party to this CAFO certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party whom he or she represents to enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and to execute and to legally bind that party to it.

#### **C. RETENTION OF ENFORCEMENT RIGHTS**

33. EPA does not waive any rights or remedies available to EPA for any other violations by the Respondent of Federal or State laws, regulations, or permitting conditions.

34. Nothing in this CAFO shall relieve the Respondent of the duty to comply with all applicable provisions of section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), and 40 C.F.R. Part 68.

35. Nothing in this CAFO shall limit the power and authority of EPA or the United States to take, direct, or order all actions to protect public health, welfare, or the environment, or prevent, abate, or minimize an actual or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants at or from the Facility. Furthermore, nothing in this CAFO shall be construed to prevent or limit EPA's civil and criminal authorities, or that of other federal, state, or local



agencies or departments to obtain penalties or injunctive relief under other federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

36. In any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding initiated by the Complainant or the United States for injunctive relief, civil penalties, or other appropriate relief relating to the Facility, Respondent shall not assert, and may not maintain, any defense or claim based upon the principles of waiver, res judicata, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, claim-splitting, or other defenses based upon any contention that the claims raised by the Complainant or the United States in the subsequent proceeding were or should have been brought in the instant case, except with respect to the claims that have been specifically resolved pursuant to this CAFO.

#### **D. COSTS**

37. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees. Furthermore, Respondent specifically waives its right to seek reimbursement of its costs and attorney's fees under 5 U.S.C. § 504 and 40 C.F.R. Part 17.

#### **E. EFFECTIVE DATE**

38. This CAFO becomes effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

In the Matter of:  
Yoakum Packing Company  
Yoakum, Texas  
Respondent

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER  
EPA Docket No. CAA 06-2016-3316

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES CONSENT TO THE ENTRY OF THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER:

FOR THE RESPONDENT:

7-14-16  
Date

Galen Kuhl - PRESIDENT  
Yoakum Packing Company

FOR THE COMPLAINANT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

[Signature]  
John Blevins  
Director  
Compliance Assurance and  
Enforcement Division

**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, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, the foregoing Consent Agreement is hereby ratified. This Final Order shall not in any case 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 Final Order shall resolve only those causes of action alleged in this CAFO. 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. The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of settlement as set forth in the Consent Agreement. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b), this Final Order shall become effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

8/8/16  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Rucki  
Regional Judicial Officer

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the original and a copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) were hand-delivered to the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA - Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733, and that a true and correct copy of the CAFO was placed in the United States mail to the following by the method indicated:

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED: # 7009 2820 000421091618

Mr. Glen Kusak, President  
Yoakum Packing Company  
PO Box 192  
Yoakum, Texas 77995

8-9-2016  
Date

Lori Jackson  
U.S. EPA, Region 6  
Dallas, Texas