

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

In the Matter of:)
)
Ridgeview Pointe Apartment Homes)
)
)
Respondent.)
_____)

Docket No. TSCA-04-2008-2531(b)

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HEARING CLERK

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

I. Nature of the Action

1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), and pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), 40 C.F.R. Part 22. Complainant is the Director of the Air, Pesticides, and Toxics Management Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 (EPA). Respondent is Ridgeview Pointe Apartment Homes.
2. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18 and desire to resolve this matter and settle the allegations described herein without a formal hearing. Therefore, without the taking of any evidence or testimony, the making of any argument, or the adjudication of any issue in this matter, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

II. Preliminary Statements

3. The Administrator of EPA promulgated regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F under the authority of Section 1018 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4852d. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 4852d(b)(5), a violation of any rule in 40 C.F.R. Part 745, is a prohibited act under Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689. Any person who violates Section 409 of TSCA may be assessed a penalty of up to \$10,000 for each such violation, in accordance with Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a) and Section 1018. For a violation occurring after January 31, 1997, a penalty of up to \$11,000 may be assessed pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 19, as amended, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 745.118(f).
4. The authority to take action under Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), is vested in the Administrator of EPA. The Administrator of EPA has delegated this authority under TSCA to EPA Region 4 by EPA Delegation 12-2-A, dated May 11, 1994.
5. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.5(c)(4), the following individual represents EPA in this matter and is authorized to receive service for EPA in this proceeding:

Kevin L. Woodruff
Children's Health, Lead and Asbestos
Management Section
U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960
(404) 562-8828.

III. Specific Allegations

6. Respondent is a Lessor, as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.103, of residential housing located at 3218 Gleason Drive #24, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412; and 3218 Gleason Drive #45, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412. These residential housings are

“target housing,” as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.

7. Based on information obtained by EPA on or about October 23, 2007, relating to Respondent’s contracts to lease its target housing described above, EPA alleges that Respondent violated Section 409 of TSCA and 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F as follows:
 - a. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.107(a)(1), a Lessor shall provide the Lessee an EPA-approved lead hazard information pamphlet before the Purchaser is obligated under any contract to Purchase target housing. Respondent failed to provide Lessee an EPA-approved pamphlet in at least two leases.
 - b. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(2), each contract to lease target housing shall include, as an attachment to or within the contract, a statement disclosing the presence of known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the target housing being purchased or a statement indicating no knowledge of the presence of lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards. Respondent failed to include an appropriate statement in at least two leases.
 - c. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(4), each contract to lease target housing shall include in the contract for lease a statement by the Lessee affirming receipt of the information. Respondent failed to include the appropriate information in at least two leases.
 - d. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(6), each contract to lease target housing shall include in the contract for lease signatures of the Lessor, Agent and Lessee certifying to the accuracy of their statements, as well as dates. Respondent failed to include the appropriate information in at least two leases.

IV. Consent Agreement

8. For the purposes of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth above and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations.
9. Respondent waives its right to a hearing on the allegations contained herein and its right to appeal the proposed final order accompanying the consent agreement.
10. Respondent consents to the assessment of the penalty proposed by EPA and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.
11. Respondent certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F.
12. This CAFO constitutes a settlement by EPA of all claims for civil penalties pursuant to Section 16(a) of TSCA, for the specific violations alleged herein. Except as specifically provided in this CAFO, EPA reserves all other civil and criminal enforcement authorities, including the authority to address imminent hazards. Compliance with this CAFO shall not be a defense to any other actions subsequently commenced pursuant to Federal laws and regulations administered by EPA, and it is Respondent's responsibility to comply with said laws and regulations.
13. Complainant and Respondent agree to settle this matter by their execution of this CAFO. The parties agree that the settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that this CAFO is consistent with the applicable requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F.

V. Terms of Settlement

14. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), TSCA Section 16(a), the nature of the alleged violation, Respondent's agreement to perform a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) and

other relevant factors, EPA has determined that an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action is in the amount of Seventy Dollars (\$70.00).

15. Respondent consents to the issuance of this CAFO and consents for purposes of settlement to the payment of the civil penalty as cited in the foregoing paragraph and to the performance of the SEP set forth herein.
16. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.107(a)(2), a lessor shall disclose to the lessee the presence of any known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the target housing leased. At the time the violations listed in paragraph 7 above were identified by EPA, Respondent had no knowledge of the presence of any lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in its target housing identified in paragraph 6.
17. Respondent, as of the date of this CAFO, has completed the following Environmental Quality Assessment SEP which the parties agree was intended to reduce risks to public health and the environment due to exposure to lead by identifying lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in its target housing.
 - a. Respondent conducted a lead-based paint inspection and a lead-based paint risk assessment of its target housing to identify lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards.
 - b. Respondent initiated the lead-based paint inspection and lead-based paint risk assessment of its target housing after the commencement of settlement meetings with EPA concerning alleged violations of the lead-based paint disclosure rule (40 C.F.R. Part 745 Subpart F) associated with its target housing as identified in paragraph 6.
 - c. Based on the information provided in Respondent's SEP Completion Report, as

identified in paragraph 17.d. below, the lead-based paint inspection and lead-based paint risk assessment of Respondent's target housing was conducted in compliance with the applicable requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 745.227.

- d. Respondent's certified lead-based paint inspector/lead-based paint risk assessor, conducting the lead-based paint inspection and lead-based paint risk assessment, determined Respondent's target housing to be lead-based paint free.
- e. Respondent expended \$5,960.00 in completing the SEP.
- f. Respondent submitted a SEP Completion Report within 10 days of the completion of the SEP to the following:

Kevin Woodruff
Children's Health, Lead &
Asbestos Management Section
U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303.

- g. Respondent's SEP Completion Report included an EPA certified lead-based paint inspection report.
 - h. Respondent has satisfactorily completed the agreed upon Assessment SEP.
26. Respondent certifies that, as of the date this CAFO is signed, Respondent is not required to perform any part of the SEP by any federal, state or local law, regulation, permit or order, or by any agreement or grant. Respondent further certifies that it has not received, and is not negotiating to receive, credit for any part of the SEP in any other enforcement action of any kind.
27. For Federal Income Tax purposes, Respondent agrees that it will neither capitalize into inventory or basis nor deduct any costs or expenditures incurred in performing the SEP.
28. Any public statement, oral or written, made by Respondent making reference to the SEP

shall include the following language, "This project was undertaken in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action taken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for violations of Section 409 of the Toxic Substance Control Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2689."

VI. Final Order

29. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of SEVENTY DOLLARS (\$70.00) which shall be paid within 30 days from the effective date of this CAFO.
30. Respondent shall remit the civil penalty by either a cashier's or certified check made payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America," and shall send the check to the following address by U.S. Postal Service:

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

The check shall reference on its face the name of the Respondent and Docket Number of this CAFO.

31. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of the check and a written statement that the payment has been made in accordance with this CAFO, to each of the following persons at the following addresses:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960;

Kevin L. Woodruff
Children's Health, Lead &
Asbestos Management Section
U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960;

and,

Saundi Wilson
Office of Environmental Accountability
U.S. EPA - Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960.

32. For the purposes of state and federal income taxation, Respondent shall not be entitled, and agrees not to attempt, to claim a deduction for any civil penalty payment made pursuant to this CAFO. Any attempt by Respondent to deduct any such payments shall constitute a violation of this CAFO.
33. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, EPA is entitled to assess interest and penalties on debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the cost of processing and handling a delinquent claim. Interest will therefore begin to accrue on the civil penalty from the date of entry of this CAFO, if the penalty is not paid by the date required. A charge will also be assessed to cover the administrative costs, both direct and indirect, of overdue debts. In addition, a late payment penalty charge shall be applied on any principal amount not paid within 90 days of the due date.
34. Complainant and Respondent shall bear their own costs and attorney fees in this matter.
35. This CAFO shall be binding upon the Respondent, its successors and assigns.
36. The undersigned representative of the party to this CAFO certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into this CAFO and legally binds that party to this CAFO.

VII. Effective Date

37. The effective date of this CAFO shall be the date on which the CAFO is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

Respondent: RIDGEVIEW POINTE APARTMENT HOMES

Docket No.: TSCA-04-2008-2531(b)

By: *Edward M. Harwood* (Signature) Date: 8-28-08

Name: Edward M. Harwood (Typed or Printed)

Title: President SDF Co (Typed or Printed)

Complainant: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By: *Beverly H. Banister* Date: 9/18/08

Beverly H. Banister
Director
Air, Pesticides and Toxics
Management Division
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this 10th day of Sept., 2008.

By: *Susan B. Schub*
Susan B. Schub
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the date set out below, I filed the original and one copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order and served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order, in the Matter of: Ridgeview Pointe Apartment Homes, Docket Number: TSCA-04-2008-2531(b), to the addressees listed below.

Kevin Woodruff
Children's Health, Lead &
Asbestos Management Section
U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

(via EPA's internal mail)

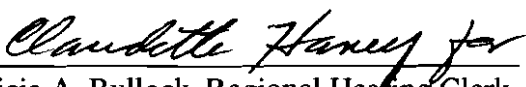
Robert Caplan
Office of Environmental Accountability
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

(via EPA's internal mail)

Ms. Kristen Diamond
Regional Vice President
Steven D. Bell & Company
103 Timber Walk
Peachtree City, GA 30269

(via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested)

Date: 9/11/08


Patricia A. Bullock, Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-9511

EPA ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CONTROL NUMBER FORM

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ORIGINATING OFFICE:

(Attach a copy of the final order and transmittal letter to Defendant/Respondent)

This form was originated by: Saundi Wilson on 9-9-08
(Name) (Date)

in the Region 4, ORC, OEA at (404) 562-9504
(Office) (Telephone Number)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree
USAO COLLECTS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative Order/Consent Agreement
FMO COLLECTS PAYMENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree
DOJ COLLECTS | <input type="checkbox"/> Oversight Billing - Cost Package required:
Sent with bill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Receivable | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sent with bill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> This is an original debt | <input type="checkbox"/> Oversight Billing - Cost Package not required |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> This is a modification |

PAYEE: Ridgeview Point Apartment Home / Steven D Bell & Company
(Name of person and/or Company/Municipality making the payment)

The Total Dollar Amount of the Receivable: \$ 70
(If installments, attach schedule of amounts and respective due dates. See Other side of this form.)

The Case Docket Number: TSCA 04 2008 - 2531 (6)

The Site Specific Superfund Account Number: _____

The Designated Regional/Headquarters Program Office: _____

The IFMS Accounts Receivable Control Number is: _____ Date _____

If you have any questions, please call: _____ of the Financial Management Section at: _____

DISTRIBUTION:

A. **JUDICIAL ORDERS:** Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the **FINAL JUDICIAL ORDER** should be mailed to:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Debt Tracking Officer
Environmental Enforcement Section
Department of Justice RM 1647
P.O. Box 7611, Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044 | 2. Originating Office (EAD) |
| | 3. Designated Program Office |

B. **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS:** Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the Administrative Order should be to:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Originating Office | 3. Designated Program Office |
| 2. Regional Hearing Clerk | 4. Regional Counsel (EAD) |