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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION IX US EPA - REGION IX HEARING CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:

Docket No. TSCA-09-2014- 0013

Cogent Construction & Consulting, Inc. 1504 Bryant Street, Suite 123 San Francisco, CA 94103 Respondent

EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

- 1. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), Region IX, through the duly delegated Chief of the Waste and Chemical Section of the Enforcement Division, ("Complainant") alleges that Cogent Construction & Consulting, Inc. ("Respondent") failed to comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA"), 42 U.S.C. § 2601 et seq., and its implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E.
2. Under 40 C.F.R. §745.81(a)(2)(ii), Respondent was required to obtain a firm certification from EPA under 40 C.F.R. §745.89 before offering to perform a renovation for compensation in a child-occupied facility (Dr. Charles Drew Elementary School in San Francisco) in 2011 and failed to do so.
3. Complainant and Respondent agree that settlement of this matter for a civil penalty of \$1,000 (ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS) is in the public interest.
4. Complainant is authorized to enter into this Expedited Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") pursuant to Section 16 of TSCA and 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b).
5. In signing this Agreement, Respondent: (1) admits that Respondent is subject to TSCA; (2) admits that EPA has jurisdiction over Respondent and Respondent's conduct as alleged herein; (3) neither admits nor denies the factual allegations contained herein; (4) consents to any conditions specified in the Agreement and to the assessment of the civil penalty; and (5) waives any right to contest the allegations contained herein or appeal the attached final order.
6. By its signature below, Respondent certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false submission to the United States Government, that: (1) the alleged violation has been corrected; and (2) Respondent has submitted proof of payment of the civil penalty with this Agreement.

7. Upon the effective date of this Agreement, payment of the civil penalty shall constitute full settlement of the civil claim alleged herein.
8. No portion of the civil penalty paid by Respondent pursuant to this Agreement shall be claimed by Respondent or any other person as a deduction from federal, state, or local income taxes.
9. EPA reserves all of its rights to take enforcement action against Respondent for any other past, present, or future violations of TSCA, any other federal statute or regulation, or this Agreement.
10. Each party shall bear its own costs and fees, if any.
11. The undersigned representative of Respondent and the undersigned representative of Complainant each certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into this Agreement and to bind the party that he or she represents.
12. This Agreement is binding upon Respondent and its successors and assigns, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. 22.31(b), is effective upon the filing of the Final Order attached to the Agreement.

IT IS SO AGREED.

FOR RESPONDENT, COGENT CONSTRUCTION & CONSULTING, INC.

Name (print): Chity Chen

Title (print): President

Signature: 

Date 8/4/14

FOR COMPLAINANT, EPA REGION IX



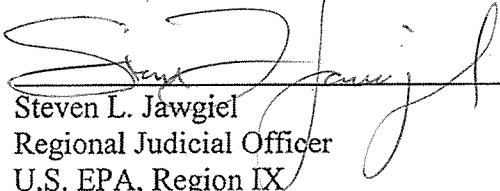
Date 9/18/14

Douglas K. McDaniel  
Chief, Waste and Chemical Section  
Enforcement Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

**FINAL ORDER**

EPA Region IX and Respondent, having entered into the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement,

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

  
Steven L. Jawgiel  
Regional Judicial Officer  
U.S. EPA, Region IX

Date 09/22/14

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the original of the fully executed Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order, TSCA-09  
in the matter of Cogent Construction & Consulting, Inc. was filed with the Regional Hearing 2014-001  
Clerk, U.S. EPA, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105, and that a true and  
correct copy of the same was sent to the following parties:


A copy was mailed via CERTIFIED MAIL to:

Chity Chu  
President  
Cogent Construction & Consulting, Inc.  
1504 Bryant Street, Suite 123  
San Francisco, CA 94103

**CERTIFIED MAIL NUMBER:** 70090820000136466080

And an additional copy was hand-delivered to the following U.S. EPA case attorney:

Carol Bussey  
Office of Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA, Region IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

*For:*   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA, Region IX

9/24/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date