



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

MAR 09 2017

Mr. Mike Lankford
Superintendent of Environmental Services
The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Gadsden
515 Albert Rains Boulevard
Gadsden, Alabama 35901

Re: The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Gadsden
Consent Agreement and Final Order
CAA-04-2017-8005(b)

Dear Mr. Lankford:

Enclosed please find an executed copy of the Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) that resolves the Clean Air Act (CAA) matter (Docket No. CAA-04-2017-8005(b)) involving The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Gadsden. The CAFO was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, as required by 40 CFR Part 22 and became effective on the date of the filing.

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Deanne Grant at (404) 562-9291.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony G. Toney".

Anthony G. Toney
Chief

Chemical Safety and Enforcement Branch

Enclosures

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR**

2017 MAR -9 AM 9:07
HEARINGS CLERK
OFFICE OF REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
The Water Works and Sewer Board)
of the City of Gadsden)
)
Respondent.)
_____)

Docket No.
CAA-04-2017-8005(b)

CONSENT AGREEMENT

A. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is an administrative penalty assessment proceeding brought under Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act (the "Act"), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), and Sections 22.13 and 22.18 of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits ("Consolidated Rules"), as codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22.
2. Complainant is the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 (the "EPA"). The Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, EPA Region 4, is delegated the authority to settle civil administrative penalty proceedings under Section 113(d) of the Act.
3. Respondent is The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Gadsden, a municipality doing business in the State of Alabama. Respondent is a "person" as defined in Section 302(e) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e).
4. Complainant and Respondent, having agreed that settlement of this action is in the public interest, consent to the entry of this consent agreement ("Consent Agreement" or "Agreement") and the attached final order ("Final Order" or "Order") without adjudication of any issue of law or fact herein, and Respondent agrees to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

B. JURISDICTION

5. This Consent Agreement is entered into under Section 113(d) of the Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), and the Consolidated Rules, 40 C.F.R. Part 22. The alleged violations in this Consent Agreement are pursuant to Section 113(a)(3)(A).
6. The EPA and the United States Department of Justice jointly determined that this matter, although it involves alleged violations that occurred more than one year before initiation of this proceeding, is appropriate for an administrative penalty assessment. 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d); 40 C.F.R. § 19.4.

7. On June 9, 2016, the EPA issued to Respondent a Notice of Potential Violation (“NOPV”), providing notice that the EPA found that Respondent potentially committed the alleged violations described in Section E of this Agreement and providing Respondent an opportunity to confer with the EPA. On July 12, 2016, and July 20, 2016, representatives of Respondent and the EPA discussed the June 9, 2016, NOPV.

8. The Regional Judicial Officer is authorized to ratify this Consent Agreement which memorializes settlement between Complainant and Respondent. 40 C.F.R. § 22.4(b) and 22.18(b).

9. The issuance of this Consent Agreement and attached Final Order simultaneously commences and concludes this proceeding. 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b).

C. GOVERNING LAW

10. Section 112(r) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), addresses the prevention of releases of substances listed pursuant to Section 112(r)(3) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3). The purpose of this section is to prevent the accidental release of extremely hazardous substances and to minimize the consequences of such releases. Pursuant to Section 112(r)(7) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), the EPA is authorized to promulgate regulations for accidental release prevention.

11. Pursuant to Sections 112(r)(3) and 112(r)(7) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7412(r)(3) and 7412(r)(7), the EPA promulgated rules codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 68, Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions. These regulations are collectively referred to as the “Risk Management Program” (RMProgram) and apply to an owner or operator of a stationary source that has a threshold quantity of a regulated substance in a process. Pursuant to Sections 112(r)(3) and 112(r)(5) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7412(r)(3) and 7412(r)(5), the list of regulated substances and threshold levels are codified at 40 C.F.R. § 68.130.

12. Pursuant to Section 112(r)(7)(B)(iii) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7)(B)(iii), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.10 and 68.150, the owner or operator of a stationary source that has a regulated substance in an amount equal to or in excess of the applicable RMProgram threshold in a “process” as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 68.3, must develop an RMProgram accidental release prevention program, and register and submit a single Risk Management Plan (RMPlan) to the EPA.

D. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

13. Respondent operates a “stationary source” as that term is defined by Section 302(z) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(z). The Respondent’s stationary source is located at 625 Albert Rains Boulevard, Gadsden, Alabama 35902 (stationary source).

14. Respondent has submitted and registered an RMPlan to the EPA for its stationary source and has developed an RMProgram accidental release prevention program for the stationary source.

15. For the purpose of this Agreement:

- (a) At its stationary source, the Respondent operates a water treatment plant.
- (b) At its stationary source, the Respondent has on-site for use, 38,250 pounds of chlorine for water disinfectant purposes.
- (c) At its stationary source, the Respondent has one RMProgram level 2 covered process, which stores or otherwise uses chlorine in an amount exceeding its applicable threshold of 2,500 pounds.
- (d) On June 7, 2014, the EPA conducted an on-site inspection of the RMProgram related records and equipment for the purpose of assessing the Respondent's compliance with the RMProgram requirements and the implemented recognized and generally accepted good engineering practices (RAGAGEP) for its covered processes at its stationary source.
- (e) At the time of the inspection, the Respondent was asked to provide equipment specifications on the piping and flexible hoses used in the process. The Respondent could not provide the requested records.
- (f) At the time of the inspection, some of the facility's chlorine piping did not have labels indicating pipe contents and directional flow. The American National Standards Institute's, American Society Mechanical Engineer code A13.1 requires identification and direction of flow for pipes containing hazardous substances. The Respondent could not provide documentation that piping complies with recognized and generally accepted good engineering practices.
- (g) At the time of inspection, the Respondent was asked to provide prompt determination and documentation of the facility's September 2012 compliance audit recommendations. The Respondent could not provide the requested information.
- (h) At the time of the inspection, the Respondent was asked to provide resolutions and corrective actions for the September 2013 incident investigation recommendation. The Respondent could not provide the requested information.
- (i) At the time of the inspection, the Respondent's documentation indicated that the RMP was not updated with information regarding the September 2013 accident until May 17, 2014, more than six months after the date of the accident.

E. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF LAW

16. Based on the EPA's compliance monitoring investigation, the EPA alleges that the Respondent violated the codified rules governing the Act's Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions, because Respondent did not adequately implement provisions of 40 C.F.R. Part 68 when it:

Failed to compile and maintain up-to-date safety information related to the equipment specifications for the chlorine process, as required by 40 CFR § 68.48(a)(4);

Failed to ensure that the process is designed in compliance with recognized and generally accepted good engineering practices, as required by 40 CFR § 68.48(b);

Failed to promptly determine and document an appropriate response to each of the findings of the compliance audit and document that deficiencies have been corrected, as required by 40 CFR § 68.58(d);

Failed to promptly address and resolve the investigation findings and recommendations, and document resolutions and corrective actions taken, as required by 40 CFR § 68.60(d); and;

Failed to correct and up-date the risk management plan (RMP) within six months to include new accident history information for any accidental release meeting the five-year accident history, as required by 40 CFR § 68.195(a).

F. TERMS OF CONSENT AGREEMENT

17. For the purpose of this proceeding, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2), Respondent:

- (a) admits that the EPA has jurisdiction over the subject matter alleged in this Agreement;
- (b) neither admits nor denies the factual allegations stated above;
- (c) consents to the assessment of a civil penalty as stated below;
- (d) consents to the issuance of any specified compliance or corrective action order;
- (e) consents to the conditions specified in this Agreement;
- (f) waives any rights to contest the alleged violations of law set forth in Section E of this Consent Agreement; and
- (g) waives its rights to appeal the Order accompanying this Agreement.

18. For the purpose of this Agreement:

- (a) agrees that this Agreement states a claim upon which relief may be granted against Respondent;
- (b) acknowledges that this Agreement constitutes an enforcement action for purposes of considering Respondent's compliance history in any subsequent enforcement actions;
- (c) waives any and all remedies, claims for relief and otherwise available rights to judicial or administrative review that Respondent may have with respect to any issue of fact or law set forth in this Order, including any right to judicial review under Section 307(b)(1) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7607(b)(1);
- (d) consents to personal jurisdiction in any action to enforce this Agreement or Order, or both, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama;
- (e) waives any rights it may possess at law or in equity to challenge the authority of the EPA to bring a civil action in a United States District Court to compel compliance with the Agreement or Order, or both, and to seek an additional penalty for such noncompliance, and agrees that federal law shall govern in any such civil action; and
- (f) certifies that as of its execution of this Agreement, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 68.

19. Penalty Payment. Respondent agrees to:

- (a) pay the civil penalty of **NINETEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$19,600)** ("EPA Penalty") within 30 calendar days of the Effective Date of this Agreement;

- (b) pay the EPA Penalty by forwarding a cashier's or certified check payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America," or by electronic transfer to one of the following addresses:

For payment sent via electronic transfer

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA = 021030004
Account = 68010727
SWIFT address = FRNYUS33
33 Liberty Street
New York, New York 10045
Beneficiary: "U.S. Environmental Protection Agency";

For payment sent via standard delivery

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati Finance Center Box 979077
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000; or

For payment sent for signed receipt confirmation (FedEx, DSL, UPS, USPS Certified)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati Finance Center Box 979077
1005 Convention Plaza
SL-MO-C2-GL
St. Louis, MO 63101
(Delivery Location Phone Number: 314-425-1819).

The check shall reference on its face the name and the Docket Number of the CAFO. Within 24 hours of payment of the EPA Penalty, send a separate copy of the check or confirmation of electronic transfer, and a written statement that payment has been made in accordance with this Agreement, to the following persons at the following addresses:

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

Deanne Grant
Chemical Management and Emergency
Planning Section
U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

20. If Respondent fails to timely pay any portion of the penalty assessed under this Agreement, the EPA may:

- (a) request the Attorney General to bring a civil action in an appropriate district court to recover: the amount assessed; interest at rates established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 6621(a)(2); the United States' enforcement expenses; and a 10 percent quarterly nonpayment penalty, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(5);
- (b) refer the debt to a credit reporting agency or a collection agency, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(5), 40 C.F.R. §§ 13.13, 13.14, and 13.33;
- (c) collect the debt by administrative offset (i.e., the withholding of money payable by the United States to, or held by the United States for, a person to satisfy the debt the person owes the Government), which includes, but is not limited to, referral to the Internal Revenue Service for offset against income tax refunds, 40 C.F.R. Part 13, Subparts C and H; and
- (d) suspend or revoke Respondent's licenses or other privileges, or suspend or disqualify Respondent from doing business with the EPA or engaging in programs the EPA sponsors or funds, 40 C.F.R. § 13.17.

21. By signing this Agreement, Respondent acknowledges that this Agreement and Order will be available to the public and agrees that this Agreement does not contain any confidential business information or personally identifiable information.

22. By signing this Agreement, the undersigned representative of Complainant and the undersigned representative of Respondent each certify that he or she is fully authorized to execute and enter into terms and conditions of this Agreement and has the legal capacity to bind the party he or she represents to this Agreement.

23. By signing this Agreement, both parties agree that each party's obligations under this Consent Agreement and attached Final Order constitute sufficient consideration for the other party's obligations.

24. By signing this Agreement, Respondent certifies that the information it has supplied concerning this matter was at the time of submission true, accurate, and complete for each such submission, response, and statement. Respondent acknowledges that there are significant penalties for submitting false or misleading information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing submission of such information, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

25. Except as qualified by Paragraph 20, each party shall bear its own attorney's fees, costs, and disbursements incurred in this proceeding.

G. EFFECT OF CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ATTACHED FINAL ORDER

26. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c), completion of the terms of this Consent Agreement and Final Order resolves only Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts specifically alleged above.

27. Penalties paid pursuant to this Agreement shall not be deductible for purposes of federal taxes.

28. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding of the parties and supersedes any prior agreements or understandings, whether written or oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof.

29. The terms, conditions, and compliance requirements of this Agreement may not be modified or amended except upon written agreement of both parties, and approval of the Regional Judicial Officer.

30. Any violation of this Order may result in a civil judicial action for an injunction or civil penalties as provided in Section 113(b)(2) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(b)(2), and pursuant to 40 CFR Part 19, as well as criminal sanctions as provided in Section 113(c) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(c). The EPA may use any information submitted under this Order in an administrative, civil judicial, or criminal action.

31. Nothing in this Agreement shall relieve Respondent of the duty to comply with all applicable provisions of the Act and other federal, state, or local laws or statutes, nor shall it restrict the EPA's authority to seek compliance with any applicable laws or regulations, nor shall it be construed to be a ruling on, or determination of, any issue related to any federal, state, or local permit.

32. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the power of the EPA to undertake any action against Respondent or any person in response to conditions that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, welfare, or the environment.

33. The EPA reserves the right to revoke this Agreement and settlement penalty if and to the extent that the EPA finds, after signing this Agreement, that any information provided by Respondent was materially false or inaccurate at the time such information was provided to the EPA, and the EPA reserves the right to assess and collect any and all civil penalties for any violation described herein. The EPA shall give Respondent notice of its intent to revoke, which shall not be effective until received by Respondent in writing.


The Remainder of this Page Intentionally Left Blank

H. EFFECTIVE DATE

34. Respondent and Complainant agree to issuance of the attached Final Order. Upon filing, the EPA will transmit a copy of the filed Consent Agreement to the Respondent. This Consent Agreement and attached Final Order shall become effective after execution of the Final Order by the Regional Judicial Officer, on the date of filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk. The foregoing Consent Agreement in the Matter of The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Gadsden, Docket No. CAA-04-2017-8005(b), is Hereby Stipulated, Agreed, and Approved for Entry.

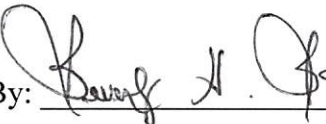
FOR RESPONDENT:

The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Gadsden

By:  Date: 12/20/16
Name: CHAD HARE (Typed or Printed)
Title: GENERAL MANAGER (Typed or Printed)

FOR COMPLAINANT:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By:  Date: 2/21/17

Beverly H. Banister
Director
Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR**

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
The Water Works and Sewer Board)
of the City of Gadsden)
)
Respondent.)
_____)

Docket No.
CAA-04-2017-8005(b)

FINAL ORDER Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b) of the EPA's Consolidated Rules of Practice and section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), the attached Consent Agreement resolving this matter is incorporated by reference into this Final Order and is hereby ratified.

The Respondent is ORDERED to comply with all terms of the Consent Agreement, effective on the date that the Consent Agreement and Final Order are filed by the Regional Hearing Clerk.

SO ORDERED this 7th day of March, 2017.



Tanya Floyd
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order, in the matter of The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Gadsden, CAA-04-2017-8005(b), on the parties listed below in the manner indicated:

Robert W. Bookman
U. S. EPA, Region 4
Air, Pesticides and Toxics
Management Division
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(Via EPA's internal mail)

Marlene Tucker
U. S. EPA, Region 4
Office of Regional Counsel
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

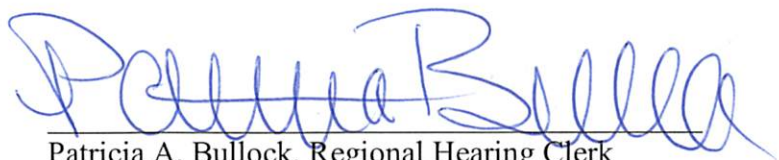
(Via EPA's internal mail)

Mike Lankford
The Water Works and Sewer board of the City of Gadsden
515 Albert Rains Boulevard
Gadsden, Alabama 35901

(Via Certified Mail -
Return Receipt Requested)

Date:

3/9/17



Patricia A. Bullock, Regional Hearing Clerk
United States Environmental
Protection Agency, Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 562-9511