

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGION 7
 901 NORTH 5th STREET
 KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

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 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
 AGENCY-REGION VII
 REGIONAL HEARING CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
)	Docket No. CWA-07-2010-0015
)	
JOEL SCHUITEMAN)	
D/B/A SCHUITEMAN FEEDLOTS)	
SIOUX COUNTY, IOWA)	CONSENT AGREEMENT AND
)	FINAL ORDER
Respondent,)	
)	
Proceedings under Section 309(g) of the)	
Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g))	
)	

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 (EPA) and Joel Schuiteman (Respondent), doing business as Schuiteman Feedlots, have agreed to a settlement of the alleged violations set forth in this Consent Agreement and Final Order. Thus this action is simultaneously commenced and concluded pursuant to Rules 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits, 40 C.F.R. Part 22 (Consolidated Rules).

This Consent Agreement and Final Order completely and finally settles all civil and administrative penalty claims and causes of action set forth below for Respondent's alleged discharges of pollutants into the West Branch of the Floyd River and its tributaries, waters of the United States in Sioux County, Iowa.

ALLEGATIONS

Jurisdictional Allegations

1. This is an administrative action for the assessment of civil penalties instituted pursuant to Section 309(g)(2)(B) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(B), and in accordance with the Consolidated Rules.

2. This Consent Agreement and Final Order serves as notice that EPA has reason to believe that Respondent has violated Section 301 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311, by discharging pollutants from a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) into the navigable waters of the United States without obtaining the necessary permit(s) required by Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

Statutory and Regulatory Framework

3. Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), prohibits the discharge of pollutants, except in compliance with, *inter alia*, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued pursuant to Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

4. The CWA prohibits the unpermitted discharge of “pollutants” by any “person” from a “point source” into a “navigable water” of the United States, as these terms are defined by Section 502 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362.

5. “Pollutant” is defined by Section 502(6) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362 to include, *inter alia*, biological materials and agricultural waste discharged to water.

6. “Point source” is defined by Section 502(14) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362 to include “any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation . . . from which pollutants are or may be discharged.”

7. “Animal feeding operation” or “AFO” is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(1) as a lot or facility where animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any twelve month period, and where crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility.

8. According to 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(2) a “concentrated animal feeding operation” is an animal feeding operation that meets the definition of either a Large CAFO or Medium CAFO under 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(4) or 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(6).

9. "Large CAFO" is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(4)(iii) as an animal feeding operation where at least "1,000 cattle other than mature dairy cows or veal calves" are stabled or confined.

10. "Waters of the United States" are defined in 40 C.F.R. § 122.2 to include interstate rivers and streams, and tributaries thereto.

11. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources ("IDNR") is the agency within the State of Iowa with the authority to administer the federal NPDES Program. EPA maintains concurrent enforcement authority with state NPDES programs for violations of the CWA.

12. Section 309(g) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g), authorizes EPA to commence an action for administrative penalties against any person who violates Section 301, 33 U.S.C. § 1311.

Factual Allegations

13. Respondent owns and operates an animal feeding operation (Facility) that is located in Section 3 of Township 95 North, Range 45 West, in Sioux County, Iowa.

14. On May 28, 2008, EPA personnel conducted a compliance evaluation inspection of the Facility.

15. At the time of the inspection the Facility was a dual confinement operation. A dual confinement operation is one that uses enclosed structures known as total confinement buildings and open/outdoor pens that are exposed to precipitation to confine cattle.

16. EPA issued an Administrative Compliance Order (ACO) on September 9, 2008, requiring the Respondent to, among other things; cease the outdoor confinement of cattle unless he is able to prevent all discharges to waters of the United States. Based on information provided by the Respondent, he no longer confines cattle in open pens and all cattle at the Facility are confined within total confinement buildings.

17. Respondent is a person as defined by Section 502(5) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362.

18. The Facility has confined and fed or maintained cattle for a total of 45 days or more in any twelve-month period at all times pertinent to this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

19. Neither crops, vegetation, forage growth, nor post harvest residues were sustained over any portion of the Facility's feeding areas at all times pertinent to this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

20. The Facility was an AFO as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(1) at all times pertinent to this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

21. At all times pertinent to this Consent Agreement and Final Order, the number of cattle confined and fed at the Facility was greater than 1,000, therefore the Facility is a large CAFO as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(4) and as that phrase is used in Section 502(14) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(14).

22. At times pertinent to the Consent Agreement and Final Order, Respondent did not have an NPDES permit and the Facility did not have adequate runoff controls to prevent the discharge of animal waste to the West Branch of the Floyd River and its tributaries.

23. At times pertinent to the Consent Agreement and Final Order, runoff from the Facility entered the West Branch of the Floyd River and its tributaries. This runoff contained feedlot-related pollutants.

24. The West Branch of the Floyd River and its tributaries are waters of the United States, as defined by 40 C.F.R. Part 122.2.

25. Respondent had a duty to obtain an NPDES permit for the Facility at times pertinent to this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

26. At times pertinent to this Consent Agreement and Final Order, the flow of wastewater from Respondent's Facility to the West Branch of the Floyd River and its tributaries constituted unauthorized discharges of pollutants from a point source to waters of the United States. This was a violation of Sections 301 and 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311 and 1342, and implementing regulations. Furthermore, Respondent's failure to obtain an NPDES permit for the Facility was also a violation of Sections 308 and 402 of the CWA 33 U.S.C. §§ 1318 and 1342.

CONSENT AGREEMENT

27. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in this Consent Agreement and Final Order and agrees not to contest EPA's jurisdiction in this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding to enforce the terms of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

28. Respondent neither admits nor denies the factual allegations contained in this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

29. Respondent waives any right to contest the allegations as well as its right to appeal the proposed Final Order accompanying this Consent Agreement.

30. Respondent and Complainant each agree to bear their own costs and attorney's fees.

31. Nothing contained in this Consent Agreement and Final Order shall alter or otherwise affect Respondent's obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local environmental statutes and regulations and applicable permits.

Penalty

32. Respondent consents to the issuance of the Final Order and consents to the payment of a mitigated civil penalty of \$25,000.

33. Respondent shall submit payment of the penalty within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement and Final Order. Payment of the penalty shall be by cashier or certified check made payable to "United States Treasury." The check must include the docket number and the name of the case. The check must be remitted to:

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

Copies of the transmittal letter and the check shall simultaneously be sent to:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 7
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101;

and

J. Daniel Breedlove
Assistant Regional Counsel
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 7
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101.

34. Respondent's failure to pay any portion of the civil penalty in accordance with the provisions of this Consent Agreement and Final Order may result in commencement of a civil action in Federal District Court to recover the total penalty, together with interest thereon at the applicable statutory rate.

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35. The penalty payment made by Respondent pursuant to this Consent Agreement and Final Order is payment of a civil penalty and shall not be deductible for purposes of federal, state, or local income taxes.

36. Payment of the entire civil penalty and the completion of the SEPs shall resolve all civil and administrative claims of the United States alleged in the Factual Allegations.

37. Respondent certifies by the signing of this Consent Agreement and Final Order that the Facility is operating in compliance with the requirements of Sections 301, 308, and 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311, 1318, and 1342. The effect of the settlement described in paragraph 36 above is conditioned upon the accuracy of this certification.

38. This Consent Agreement and Final Order shall not relieve Respondent of its obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, nor shall it be construed to be a ruling on, or determination of, any issue related to any federal, state, or local permit.

39. EPA reserves the right to take any enforcement action with respect to any other violations of the CWA or any other applicable law and to enforce the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and Final Order. Respondent reserves the right to defend against such actions on any basis in law or fact.

40. The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he/she is fully authorized to enter the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and Final Order and to execute and legally bind Respondent to it.

41. This Final Order shall be entered and become effective only after the conclusion of the period of public notice and comment required pursuant to Section 309(g)(4), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(4), and 40 C.F.R. § 22.45. The effective date shall be the date it is signed by the Regional Judicial Officer.

In the Matter of Schuiteman Feedlot
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For the Respondent:

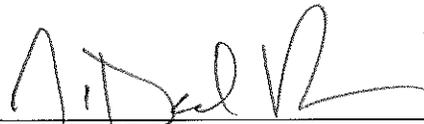
10/23/09
Date

Joel Schuiteman
Joel Schuiteman

For the United States Environmental Protection Agency - Region 7

1-28-2010

Date



J. Daniel Breedlove
Assistant Regional Counsel

1/29/2010

Date

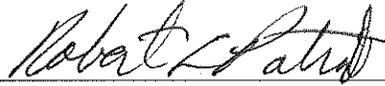


William A. Spratlin
Director
Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division

FINAL ORDER

The foregoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order. The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of the above Consent Agreement, effective immediately.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



ROBERT L. PATRICK
Regional Judicial Officer

Date: February 9, 2010

IN THE MATTER OF Joel Schuiteman d/b/a Schuiteman Feedlots, Respondent
Docket No. CWA-07-2010-0015

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy hand delivered to
Attorney for Complainant:

J. Daniel Breedlove
Assistant Regional Counsel
Region VII
United States Environmental Protection Agency
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Copy by Certified Mail Return Receipt to:

Eldon McAfee
Beving, Swanson & Forrest, P.C.
321 E. Walnut St., Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dated: 2/9/10



Kathy Robinson
Kathy Robinson
Hearing Clerk, Region 7