

#### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

DEC - 9 2010

# CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Anna Maria Grosso President C & P Growers, Inc. 15742 North Lake Blvd West Palm Beach, Florida 33412

> Re: Docket No.: FIFRA-04-2011-3000(b) C & P Growers, Inc.

Dear Ms. Grosso:

Enclosed is a copy of the ratified Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) in the above-referenced matter. The original CAFO has been filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk and served on the parties as directed in Section 22.6 of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

As stated in Section V of the CAFO, the assessed penalty of \$2,300 is due within 30 days from the effective date. Please ensure that the face of your cashier's or certified check includes the name of the company and the docket number of this case.

Penalty payment questions should be directed to Ms. Jennifer Keene either by telephone at (513) 487-2103 or by written correspondence to her attention at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Cincinnati Accounting Operations address identified in the CAFO. Should you have any questions about this matter or your compliance status in the future, please call me at (404) 562-8979 or Ms. Cheryn Jones at (404) 562-9006. Also enclosed is a copy of a document entitled "Notice of Securities and Exchange Commission Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings." This document puts you on notice of your potential duty to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) any environmental enforcement actions taken by EPA.

Sincerely,

Kascan Mer

Usancanne M. Gettle Chief, Pesticides and Toxic Substances Branch

Enclosures

cc: Craig Bryant FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services State File No.: 108-436-4011

#### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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In the Matter of: C & P Growers, Inc. Respondent.

**Docket No.:** FIFRA-04-2011-3000(b)

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#### CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

#### I. <u>Nature of the Action</u>

- This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. § 136/(a) (FIFRA), 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 C & P Growers, Inc.
- 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 authority to take action under Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*(a), is vested in the Administrator of EPA. The Administrator of EPA has delegated this authority under FIFRA to EPA Region 4 by EPA Delegation 5-14, dated May 11, 1994.
- 4. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.5(c)(4) the following individual is authorized to receive service for EPA in this proceeding:

Cheryn L. Jones Pesticides Section U.S. EPA - Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960 (404) 562-9006.

- Respondent is C & P Growers, Inc., a Florida corporation, located at 15742 North Lake Boulevard, West Palm Beach, Florida 33412.
- 6. Respondent is a "person" as defined by Section 2(s) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(s), and as such is subject to FIFRA and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

#### III. Specific Allegations

- On or about October 22, 2008, an authorized representative of the EPA conducted an inspection at Respondent's facility located at 15742 North Lake Boulevard, West Palm Beach, Florida 33412.
- 8. During the aforementioned inspection, Aqua Guard Chlorinating Sanitizer, EPA Reg.
   No. 3458-23, was identified as being sold and/or distributed by the Respondent in containers bearing a label for American Blue Pool & Spa, Inc., Chlorinating Solution, EPA Reg. No. 51549-20002-84953.

- Aqua Guard Chlorinating Sanitizer is a pesticide as defined in Section 2(u) of FIFRA, 7
   U.S.C. § 136(u), which includes any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
- Aqua Guard Chlorinating Sanitizer is an antimicrobial pesticide as defined in Section 2(mm) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(mm), to include a pesticide that is intended to disinfect, sanitize, reduce, or mitigate growth or development of microbiological organisms.
- 11. A pest is defined in Section 2(t) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(t), as any insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, weed, or any other form of terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life or virus, bacteria, or other micro-organism (except viruses, bacteria, or other microorganisms on or in living man or other living animals) which the Administrator declares to be a pest under Section 25(c)(1) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136w(c)(1).
- 12. Respondent "distributes or sells" pesticides, including antimicrobial pesticides. The term
  "to distribute or sell" as defined by Section 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg), includes to distribute, sell, offer for sale, hold for distribution, hold for sale, hold for shipment, ship, deliver for shipment, or release for shipment.
- At the time of the inspection, Respondent sold and distributed Aqua Guard Chlorinating Sanitizer under the brand name of American Blue Pool and Spa, Inc., Chlorinating Solution.
- Pursuant to Section 2(q)(1)(C), a pesticide is misbranded if it is an imitation of, or is offered for sale under the name of another pesticide.
- Under Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), it is unlawful for any person to distribute or sell to any person any pesticide that is misbranded.

- Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(E) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E), on at least one occasion and is therefore subject to the assessment of a civil penalty under Section 14 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*.
- Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. §136/(a), in conjunction with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, authorizes the assessment of a civil penalty.
- 18. Section 14(a)(4) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*(a)(4), requires EPA to consider the appropriateness of the assessed penalty to the size of business of the Respondent, the effect on Respondent's ability to continue in business, and the gravity of the violation.
- 19. After consideration of the factors set forth in Section 14(a)(4) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C.
  § 136/(a)(4), the EPA proposes to assess a total civil penalty of TWO THOUSAND
  THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE DOLLARS (\$2,321) against the Respondent for the above-described violation. Civil penalties under Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C.
  § 136/(a), may be assessed by Administrative Order.

#### IV. Consent Agreement

- 20. For the purposes of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth above and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set forth above.
- 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.
- 22. Respondent consents to the assessment of the penalty proposed by EPA and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.
- Respondent certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of FIFRA.

- 24. Compliance with this CAFO shall resolve the allegations of the violations contained herein. This CAFO shall not otherwise affect any liability of Respondent to the United States. Other than as expressed herein, neither EPA nor Complainant waives any right to bring an enforcement action against Respondent for violation of any federal or state statute, regulation or permit, to initiate an action for imminent and substantial endangerment, or to pursue criminal enforcement.
- 25. 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 FIFRA.

#### V. Final Order

- 26. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE DOLLARS (\$2,321) which shall be paid within 30 days from the effective date of this CAFO.
- 27. Respondent shall remit the penalty by either a cashier's or certified check made payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America," and shall send the check via U.S. mail to the following address:

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

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

28. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of the check and a written statement that the payment is being made in accordance with this CAFO, to the following persons at the following addresses: Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. EPA - Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960;

Cheryn L. Jones Posticides 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.

- 29. 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.
- 30. 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 effective date 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.
- 31. Complainant and Respondent shall bear their own costs and attorney fees in this matter.
- 32. This CAFO shall be binding upon the Respondent, its successors and assigns.

33. 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.

The remainder of this page was intentionally left blank.

## **VI.** Effective Date

The effective date of this CAFO shall be the date on which the CAFO is filed with the 34.

Regional Hearing Clerk.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

Respondent: C & P Growers, Inc. Docket No.: FIFRA-04-2011-3000(b)

By: Juna Maria Huransignature) Date: 11/16/10

Name Anna Maria Grosso (Typed or Printed) Title: President (Typed or Printed)

**Complainant: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** 

Date: 12/1/10

BeverlyH. Banister, Director Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgía 30303-8960

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this State day of December 2010.

- S. Johns

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 C & P Growers, Inc., Company,

Docket Number: FIFRA-04-2011-3000(b), to the addressees listed below.

Ms. Anna Maria Grosso President C & P Grwers, Inc. 15742 North Lake Boulevard West Palm Beach, Florida 33412 (via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested)

Cheryn Jones Pesticides Section U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960 (via EPA's internal mail)

(via EPA's internal mail)

Robert Caplan Associate Regional Counsel Office of Environmental Accountability U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Date: 12-9-10

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

# EPA ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CONTROL NUMBER FORM

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