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EPA--REGION 10

BEFORE THE  
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

In the Matter of: )  
)  
)  
North Star Casteel Products, Inc. )  
820 South Bradford Street )  
Seattle, Washington 98108 )  
)  
Respondent. )

DOCKET NO. EPCRA-10-2012-0144  
**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND  
FINAL ORDER**

**I. STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

1.1. This Consent Agreement and Final Order (“CAFO”) is issued under the authority vested in the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) by Section 325 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (“EPCRA”), 42 U.S.C. § 11045.

1.2. The Administrator has delegated the authority to issue the Final Order contained in Part V of this CAFO to the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 10, who has redelegated this authority to the Regional Judicial Officer in EPA Region 10.

1.3. Pursuant to EPCRA Section 325, 42 U.S.C. § 11045, and in accordance with the “Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties,”



40 C.F.R. Part 22, EPA issues, and North Star Casteel Products, Inc. (“Respondent”) agrees to issuance of, the Final Order contained in Part V of this CAFO.

## **II. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

2.1. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b), issuance of this CAFO commences this proceeding, which will conclude when the Final Order contained in Part V of this CAFO becomes effective.

2.2. The Director of the Office of Compliance and Enforcement, EPA Region 10 (“Complainant”) has been delegated the authority pursuant to EPCRA Section 325, 42 U.S.C. § 11045, to sign consent agreements between EPA and the party against whom an administrative penalty for violations of Section 313 of EPCRA is proposed to be assessed.

2.3. Part III of this CAFO contains a concise statement of the factual and legal basis for the alleged violations of EPCRA together with the specific provisions of EPCRA and the implementing regulations that Respondent is alleged to have violated.

## **III. ALLEGATIONS**

3.1 Under Section 313(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(a), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 372.22 and 372.30, the owner or operator of a facility covered by Section 313 must submit annually, no later than July 1 of each year, a Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Reporting Form, EPA Form 9350-1 (“Form R”) for each toxic chemical referenced in Section 313(c) of EPCRA and listed in 40 C.F.R. § 372.65 that was manufactured, imported, processed, or otherwise used during the preceding calendar year in quantities exceeding the established toxic chemical threshold specified in Section 313(f) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(f), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 372.25, 372.27, and 372.28.



3.2 Under 40 C.F.R. § 372.22, a facility that meets each of the following criteria in a calendar year is a covered facility for that calendar year and must report under 40 C.F.R.

§ 372.30:

- a. the facility has 10 or more full-time employees;
- b. the facility is in a Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) major group or industry code or North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) code listed in 40 C.F.R. § 372.23; and
- c. the facility manufactured (including imported), processed, or otherwise used a toxic chemical in excess of an applicable threshold quantity of that chemical set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 372.25, 372.27, or 372.28.

3.3 The toxic chemicals which are subject to the reporting requirement of 40 C.F.R. § 372.30 are listed at 40 C.F.R. § 372.65.

3.4 Respondent is the owner and operator of a facility located at 820 South Bradford Street, Seattle, Washington (the "Facility").

3.5 During calendar years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010, the Facility had 10 or more full-time employees.

3.6 The Facility is included in NAICS code 331513, which is included in the list of covered industry codes found at 40 C.F.R. § 372.23.

3.7 "Chromium compounds" is a chemical category listed in 40 C.F.R. § 372.65. The threshold quantity for chromium compounds reporting is 25,000 pounds manufactured or processed for each year, as set forth at 40 C.F.R. § 372.25.



3.8 "Manganese compounds" is a chemical category listed in 40 C.F.R. § 372.65.

The threshold quantity for manganese compounds reporting is 25,000 pounds manufactured or processed for each year, as set forth at 40 C.F.R. § 372.25.

3.9 Respondent failed to file a Form R with the EPA and the state of Washington for chromium compounds and manganese compounds by July 1, 2007 for calendar year 2006, by July 1, 2008 for calendar year 2007, by July 1, 2009 for calendar year 2008, and by July 1, 2010 for calendar year 2009. Respondent filed a Form R report for chromium compounds and manganese compounds covering calendar years 2006-2009 on September 9, 2011 (more than 365 days late).

3.10 Respondent failed to file a Form R with the EPA and the state of Washington for chromium compounds and manganese compounds for calendar year 2010 by July 1, 2011. Respondent filed a Form R report for chromium compounds and manganese compounds covering calendar year 2010 on September 9, 2011 (70 days late).

3.11 Respondent, owner and operator of a facility with more than 10 employees, operating under NAICS code 331513, which processed more than 25,000 pounds of chromium compounds and magnesium compounds during calendar years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, violated 40 C.F.R. § 372.30 by failing to file the required forms for the stated calendar years by July 1 of each following calendar year.

#### **IV. CONSENT AGREEMENT**

4.1. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations contained in Part I of this CAFO.

4.2. Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations contained in Part III of this CAFO.







4.3. In light of the nature of the violation, Respondent's actions to correct the violations after having been notified by Complainant, and Respondent's willingness to settle this matter without litigation, and in accordance with the *Enforcement Response Policy for Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and Section 6607 of the Pollution Prevention Act*, EPA has determined and Respondent agrees that an appropriate penalty to settle this action is eighty-seven thousand (\$87,000).

4.4. Respondent consents to the payment of the civil penalty set forth in Paragraph 4.3, with interest, according to the following schedule.

Payment Due Date (From Effective Date of CAFO)	Principal	Interest	Total
30 days	\$14,500	\$0	\$14,500
120 days	\$14,500	\$242	\$14,742
365 days	\$29,000	\$387	\$29,387
730 days	\$29,000	\$290	\$29,290

4.5. Payment under this CAFO must be made by a cashier's check or certified check payable to the order of "Treasurer, United States of America" and delivered to the following address:

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

Respondent must note on the check the title and docket number of this action.

4.6. Respondent must serve photocopies of the check described in Paragraph 4.5 on the Regional Hearing Clerk and EPA Region 10 at the following addresses:



Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10, Mail Stop ORC-158  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101

Graham Kim, EPCRA Compliance Officer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10, Mail Stop OCE-184  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101

4.7. If Respondent fails to pay the penalty assessed by this CAFO in full by the due date set forth in Paragraph 4.4, the entire unpaid balance of penalty and accrued interest shall become immediately due and owing. Such failure may also subject Respondent to a civil action to collect the assessed penalty under EPCRA Section 325(f), 42 U.S.C. § 11045(f), together with interest, handling charges, and additional non-payment penalties described below.

4.7.1. Interest. Any unpaid portion of the assessed penalty shall bear interest at a rate established by the Secretary of Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717(a)(1) from the effective date of the Final Order set forth in Part V, provided however, that no interest shall be payable on any portion of the assessed penalty that is paid in accordance with the payment schedule established in Paragraph 4.4.

4.7.2. Handling Charge. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717(e)(1), a monthly handling charge of \$15 shall be paid if any portion of the assessed penalty is more than 30 days past due.

4.7.3. Nonpayment Penalty. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717(e)(2), if Respondent fails to pay on a timely basis the penalty set forth in Paragraph 4.3, Respondent shall pay a nonpayment penalty in an amount equal to six percent (6%) per annum on any portion of the assessed penalty that is more than 90 days past due, which nonpayment penalty shall be calculated as of the date the underlying penalty first becomes past due.



4.8. The penalty described in Paragraph 4.3, including any additional costs incurred under Paragraph 4.7, above, represents an administrative civil penalty assessed by EPA and shall not be deductible for purposes of federal taxes.

4.9. The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she is authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and to bind Respondent to this document.

4.10. The undersigned representative of Respondent also certifies that, as of the date of Respondent's signature of this CAFO, Respondent has corrected the violation(s) alleged in Section III and is currently in compliance with all applicable EPCRA requirements at each of the facilities under its control.

4.11. Except as described in Subparagraph 4.7.2, above, each party shall bear its own fees and costs in bringing or defending this action.

4.12. Respondent expressly waives any right to contest the allegations and waives any right to appeal the Final Order set forth in Part V.

4.13. The provisions of this CAFO shall bind Respondent and its agents, servants, employees, successors, and assigns.

4.14. The above provisions are STIPULATED AND AGREED upon by Respondent and EPA Region 10.



DATED:

*July 6, 2012*

FOR RESPONDENT:



KURT GRAY, Chief Financial Officer  
Northstar Casteel Products, Inc.

DATED:

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FOR COMPLAINANT:

EDWARD J. KOWALSKI, Director  
Office of Compliance and Enforcement  
EPA Region 10





DATED:

June 12, 2012

FOR RESPONDENT:



KURT GRAY, Chief Financial Officer  
Northstar Casteel Products, Inc.

DATED:

7/12/2012

FOR COMPLAINANT:



EDWARD J. KOWALSKI, Director  
Office of Compliance and Enforcement  
EPA Region 10



**V. FINAL ORDER**

5.1. The terms of the foregoing Parts I-IV are ratified and incorporated by reference into this Final Order. Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of settlement.

5.2. This CAFO constitutes a settlement by EPA of all claims for civil penalties pursuant to EPCRA for the violations alleged in Part III. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(a), nothing in this CAFO shall affect the right of EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. This CAFO does not waive, extinguish, or otherwise affect Respondent's obligations to comply with all applicable provisions of EPCRA and regulations promulgated or permits issued thereunder.

5.3. This Final Order shall become effective upon filing.

SO ORDERED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2012.

  
THOMAS M. JAHNKE  
Regional Judicial Officer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10



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Certificate of Service

The undersigned certifies that the original of the attached **CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER, In the Matter of: North Star Casteel Products, Inc., Docket No.: EPCRA-10-2012-0144**, was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk and served on the addressees in the following manner on the date specified below:

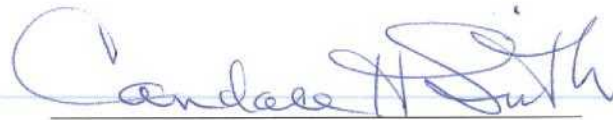
The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the document was delivered to:

Jillian Bunyan  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Avenue, ORC-158  
Suite 900  
Seattle, Washington 98101

Further, the undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the aforementioned document was placed in the United States mail certified/return receipt to:

Kurt Gray  
820 South Bradford Street  
Seattle, WA 91808

DATED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2012



Signature

Candace H. Smith  
Regional Hearing Clerk  
EPA Region 10

