



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

JAN 30 2007

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Henry W. Jones, Jr., Esq.
Jordan Price Wall Gray Jones & Carlton, LLC
P.O. Box 10669
Raleigh, NC 27605-0669

SUBJ: Consent Agreement and Final Order; Docket No. EPCRA-04-2007-2009(b)

Dear Mr. Jones:

Enclosed please find a copy of the executed Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) that resolves the above-referenced matter. The CAFO was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, as required by 40 C.F.R. Part 22, and became effective on the date of filing.

Please note in particular that two penalty payments are required, as set forth in Paragraphs 29 – 32.

One penalty is for \$12,089, as set forth in Paragraph 29. The check should reference the matter name (House of Raeford Farms, Inc.) and the docket number of the CAFO. The check should be made payable to "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund," and should be mailed to the address provided in Paragraph 30:

Mellon Client Service Center
ATTN: Shift Supervisor, Room 0690
Superfund Account
Lockbox 371099M
500 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15262-0001

The second penalty is for \$7,684, as set forth in Paragraph 31. This check should also reference the matter name and docket number of the CAFO. This check should be made payable to "Treasurer, United States of America," and mailed to the address given in Paragraph 32:

Mellon Client Service Center
ATTN: Shift Supervisor, Room 0690
Lockbox 371099M

Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov>

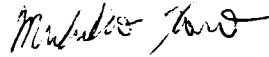
Recycled/Recyclable • Printed with Vegetable Oil Based Inks on Recycled Paper (Minimum 30% Postconsumer)

500 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15262-0001

At the time of payment, a copy of each check should be mailed to the addressees listed in Paragraph 33.

If you have any questions, please call me at (404) 562-9558.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michiko Kono".

Michiko Kono
Associate Regional Counsel

Enclosures

NOTICE OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REGISTRANTS' DUTY TO DISCLOSE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Securities and Exchange Commission regulations require companies registered with the SEC (e.g., publicly traded companies) to disclose, on at least a quarterly basis, the existence of certain administrative or judicial proceedings taken against them arising under Federal, State or local provisions that have the primary purpose of protecting the environment. Instruction 5 to Item 103 of the SEC's Regulation S-K (17 CFR 229.103) requires disclosure of these environmental legal proceedings. For those SEC registrants that use the SEC's "small business issuer" reporting system, Instructions 1-4 to Item 103 of the SEC's Regulation S-B (17 CFR 228.103) requires disclosure of these environmental legal proceedings.

If you are an SEC registrant, you have a duty to disclose the existence of pending or known to be contemplated environmental legal proceedings that meet any of the following criteria (17 CFR 229.103(5)(A)-(C)):

- A. Such proceeding is material to the business or financial condition of the registrant;
- B. Such proceeding involves primarily a claim for damages, or involves potential monetary sanctions, capital expenditures, deferred charges or charges to income and the amount involved, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds 10 percent of the current assets of the registrant and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis; or
- C. A governmental authority is a party to such proceeding and such proceeding involves potential monetary sanctions, unless the registrant reasonably believes that such proceeding will result in no monetary sanctions, or in monetary sanctions, exclusive of interest and costs, of less than \$100,000; provided, however, that such proceedings which are similar in nature may be grouped and described generically.

Specific information regarding the environmental legal proceedings that must be disclosed is set forth in Item 103 of Regulation S-K or, for registrants using the "small business issuer" reporting system, Item 103(a)-(b) of Regulation S-B. If disclosure is required, it must briefly describe the proceeding, "including the name of the court or agency in which the proceedings are pending, the date instituted, the principal parties thereto, a description of the factual basis alleged to underlie the proceedings and the relief sought."

You have been identified as a party to an environmental legal proceeding to which the United States government is, or was, a party. If you are an SEC registrant, this environmental legal proceeding may trigger, or may already have triggered, the disclosure obligation under the SEC regulations described above.

This notice is being provided to inform you of SEC registrants' duty to disclose any relevant environmental legal proceedings to the SEC. This notice does not create, modify or interpret any existing legal obligations, it is not intended to be an exhaustive description of the legally applicable requirements and it is not a substitute for regulations published in the Code of Federal Regulations. This notice has been issued to you for information purposes only. No determination of the applicability of this reporting requirement to your company has been made by any governmental entity. You should seek competent counsel in determining the applicability of these and other SEC requirements to the environmental legal proceeding at issue, as well as any other proceedings known to be contemplated by governmental authorities.

If you have any questions about the SEC's environmental disclosure requirements, please contact the Office of Chief Counsel in the SEC's Division of Corporation Finance. The phone number is (202) 942-2900.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4

RECEIVED
EPA REGION IV
2007 JAN 30 AM 7:02
HEARINGS CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
House of Raeford Farms, Inc.) Docket Number: EPCRA-04-2007-2009(b)
)
Respondent.)
_____)

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

I. Nature of the Action

1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9609 and by Section 325 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 11045 and pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), codified at 40 CFR Part 22. Complainant is the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Region 4, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Respondent is House of Raeford Farms, Inc.

2. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 CFR § 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 CFR § 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 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609 and Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045, is vested in the Administrator of EPA. The Administrator of EPA has delegated this authority under CERCLA and under EPCRA to the Regional Administrators by EPA Delegation 14-31 and 22-3-A, dated May 11, 1994. The Regional Administrator, Region 4, has redelegated to the Director, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, the authority under CERCLA by EPA Region 4 Delegation 14-31 dated March 8, 1999, and updated August 6, 2004, and the authority under EPCRA by EPA Region 4 Delegation 22-3-A, dated November 8, 1994. Pursuant to these delegations, the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division has the authority to commence an enforcement action as the Complainant in this matter.

4. Respondent is a corporation doing business in the State of North Carolina.

5. Respondent is a "person" as defined in Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7) and Section 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(21).
6. Respondent has a "facility" as that term is defined by Section 101(9) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9) and by Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4).
7. Respondent's facility is located at 3333 Highway 117, Rose Hill, North Carolina.
8. Respondent is an "owner or operator" of the facility as that term is defined by Section 101 (20)(A) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(20)(A).
9. Section 102(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9602(a), required the Administrator of EPA to publish a list of substances designated as hazardous substances which, when released into the environment, may present substantial danger to public health or welfare or the environment and to promulgate regulations establishing the quantity of any hazardous substance the release of which was required to be reported under Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a). EPA has published and amended such a list, including the corresponding reportable quantities (RQ) for those substances. This list was initially published on April 4, 1985 (50 Fed. Reg. 13474) and is periodically amended. The list is codified at 40 CFR Part 302.
10. Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), and the regulations found at 40 CFR Part 302.6, require a person in charge of a facility or vessel to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC), as soon as he or she has knowledge of a release of a hazardous substance from such facility or vessel in an amount equal to, or greater than the reportable quantity (RQ).
11. Respondent was in charge of the facility during the relevant period described below.
12. Anhydrous ammonia is a "hazardous substance" as that term is defined by Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), with an RQ of 100 pounds, as specified in 40 CFR § 302.4.
13. On October 12, 2004, a release of anhydrous ammonia above the RQ occurred at the facility.
14. EPA alleges that Respondent violated the notification requirements of Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), by failing to immediately notify the NRC as soon as Respondent had knowledge of the release of anhydrous ammonia in an amount equal to or greater than its RQ at Respondent's facility and is therefore subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609.

15. Pursuant to Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, and 40 CFR Part 19, EPA may assess a penalty of not more than \$27,500 for each violation of Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a) that occurred on or after January 30, 1997 and \$32,500 after March 15, 2004. Each day a violation of Section 103 continues constitutes a separate violation. Civil penalties under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, may be assessed by Administrative Order.

16. Section 304(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a) and the regulations found at 40 CFR Part 355.40, require the owner or operator of a facility at which hazardous chemicals are produced, used or stored, to immediately notify the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) when there has been a release of a CERCLA hazardous substance or extremely hazardous substance in an amount equal to or greater than the reportable quantity.

17. Respondent was the owner or operator of the facility during the relevant period, described below.

18. At all times relevant to this matter, the facility produced, used, or stored "hazardous chemicals" as defined under Section 311(e) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11021(e) and under 29 CFR § 1910.1200(c).

19. Anhydrous ammonia is an "extremely hazardous substance" as that term is defined by EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(3), with an RQ of 100 pounds, as specified in 40 CFR Part 355, Apps. A & B.

20. On October 12, 2004, a release of anhydrous ammonia above the RQ occurred at the facility.

21. EPA alleges that Respondent violated the notification requirements of Section 304(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a) by failing to immediately notify the SERC as soon as Respondent had knowledge of the release of anhydrous ammonia in an amount equal to or greater than the RQ at Respondent's facility, and is therefore subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045.

22. Pursuant to Section 325(b) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(b), and 40 CFR Part 19, EPA may assess a penalty of not more than \$27,500 for each violation of Section 304(a) that occurred on or after January 30, 1997 and \$32,500 after March 15, 2004. Civil penalties under Section 325(b) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(b), may be assessed by Administrative Order.

III. Consent Agreement

23. For the purposes of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set out above but neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set out above.

24. Respondent waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed final order accompanying the Consent Agreement.

25. Respondent consents to the assessment of and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.

26. Respondent certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of EPCRA and CERCLA.

27. Compliance with the CAFO shall resolve the allegations of 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.

28. 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 CERCLA and EPCRA.

IV. Final Order

29. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of TWELVE THOUSAND EIGHTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$12,089) for the CERCLA violation. Payment shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CAFO.

30. Respondent shall pay the CERCLA civil penalty by forwarding a cashier's or certified check, payable to "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund" to the following address:

Mellon Client Service Center
ATTN: Shift Supervisor, Room 0690
Superfund Account
Lockbox 371099M
500 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15262-0001

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

31. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of SEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$7,684) for the EPCRA violation. Payment shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CAFO.

32. Respondent shall pay the penalty by forwarding a cashier's or certified check payable to "Treasurer, United States of America," to the following address:

Mellon Client Service Center
ATTN: Shift Supervisor, Room 0690
Lockbox 371099M
500 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15262-0001

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

33. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of each check, and a written statement that payment has been 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, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Elisa Roper
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Air, Pesticides & Toxics Management Division
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Saundi Wilson
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Office of Environmental Accountability
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

34. 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 and agrees not to claim any tax deduction for the cost of the SEP. Any attempt by Respondent to deduct any such payments shall constitute a violation of this CAFO.

35. 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 date of entry of the CAFO if the penalty is not paid by the date required. Interest will be assessed at the rate established by the Secretary of Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717. A charge will be assessed to cover the costs of debt collection, including processing and handling costs and attorney fees. In addition, a penalty charge will be assessed on any portion of the debt that remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days after payment is due.

36. Complainant and Respondent shall bear their own costs and attorney fees in this matter.

37. This CAFO shall be binding upon the Respondent, its successors, and assigns.

38. The following individual represents EPA in this matter and is authorized to receive service for EPA in this proceeding:

Caron B. Falconer
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Air, Pesticides & Toxics Management Division
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-8451

39. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this CAFO certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into this CAFO and legally bind that party to it.

V. Effective Date

41. The effective date of this CAFO shall be the date on which the CAFO is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

House of Raeford Farms, Inc.

By: [Signature] (Signature) Date: 01/16/07

Name: Robert Johnson (Typed or Printed)

Title: CEO (Typed or Printed)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By: [Signature] Date: 12/19/06

Beverly H. Banister, Director
Air, Pesticides & Toxics
Management Division
Region 4

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this 29th day of January, 2007.

[Signature]
Susan B. Schub
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

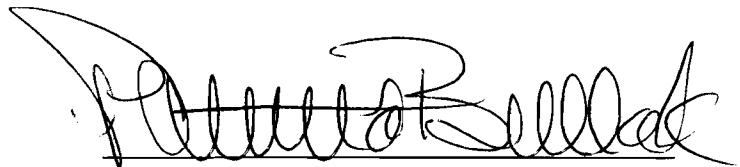
I hereby certify that I have this day served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order, In the Matter of House of Raeford Farms, Inc., Docket No. EPCRA-04-2007-2009(b), on the parties listed below in the manner indicated:

Caron B. Falconer (Via EPA's internal mail)
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Air, Pesticides & Toxic Management Division
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

Alan Dion (Via EPA's internal mail)
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Office of Environmental Accountability
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

Henry W. Jones, Jr., Esq. (Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested)
Jordan Price Wall Gray Jones & Carlton, LLC
P.O. Box 10669
Raleigh, NC 27605-0669

Date: 1-30-07



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

EPA ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CONTROL NUMBER FORM

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ORIGINATING OFFICE:

(Attach a copy of the final order and transmittal letter to Defendant/Respondent)

This form was originated by: Sandra Wilson on 1/26/07
(Name) (Date)

in the OEA at (404) 562-9504
(Office) (Telephone Number)

Non-SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree
USAO COLLECTS

Administrative Order/Consent Agreement
FMO COLLECTS PAYMENT

SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree
DOJ COLLECTS

Oversight Billing - Cost Package required:
Sent with bill

Other Receivable

Not sent with bill

This is an original debt

Oversight Billing - Cost Package not required

This is a modification

PAYEE: House of Raeford Farms Inc
(Name of person and/or Company/Municipality making the payment)

The Total Dollar Amount of the Receivable: \$ CERCLA - 12,089 / EPCRA - 7,684
(If installments, attach schedule of amounts and respective due dates. See Other side of this form.)

The Case Docket Number: EPCRA 84 2007 2009(b)

The Site Specific Superfund Account Number: _____

The Designated Regional/Headquarters Program Office: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE:

The IFMS Accounts Receivable Control Number is: _____ Date _____

If you have any questions, please call: _____ of the Financial Management Section at: _____

DISTRIBUTION:

A. **JUDICIAL ORDERS:** Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the **FINAL JUDICIAL ORDER** should be mailed to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Debt Tracking Officer
Environmental Enforcement Section
Department of Justice RM 1647
P.O. Box 7611, Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044 | 2. Originating Office (EAD)
3. Designated Program Office |
|--|---|

B. **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS:** Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the Administrative Order should be to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Originating Office
2. Regional Hearing Clerk | 3. Designated Program Office
4. Regional Counsel (EAD) |
|--|---|