



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590
August 22, 2013

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

LC- 8J

CERTIFIED MAIL No.7009 1680 0000 7668 1537
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. David Knighton
Creative Water Solutions, LLC
1864 Berkshire Lane North
Plymouth, Minnesota 55441

Consent Agreement and Final Order In the Matter of
Creative Water Solutions, LLC. Docket # FIFRA-05-2013-0018

Dear Mr. Knighton:

Enclosed, please find a copy of a fully executed Consent Agreement and Final Order, in resolution of the above case. This document was filed on August 22, 2013 with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

The civil penalty in the amount of \$500 is to be paid in the manner described in paragraphs 28 and 29. Please be certain that the docket number is written on both the transmittal letter and on the check. Payment is due by September 23, 2013, (within 30 calendar days of the filing date).

Thank you for your cooperation in resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terence Bonace".

for Terence Bonace
Pesticides and Toxics Compliance Section

Enclosures

RECEIVED

AUG 22 2013

REGIONAL HEARING CLERK
USEPA
REGION 5

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

In the Matter of:)	Docket No. FIFRA-05-2013-0018
)	
CREATIVE WATER SOLUTIONS, LLC)	Proceeding to Assess a Civil Penalty
Minneapolis, Minnesota,)	Under Section 14(a) of the Federal
)	Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide
Respondent.)	Act, 7 U.S.C. § 136f(a)
_____)	

Consent Agreement and Final Order Commencing and Concluding the Proceeding

Preliminary Statement

1. This is an administrative action commenced and concluded under Section 14(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. § 136f (a), and Sections 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the 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. The Complainant is the Director of the Land and Chemicals Division, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 5.

3. Respondent is Creative Water Solutions, LLC, a limited liability corporation, doing business in the State of Minnesota.

4. Where the parties agree to settle one or more causes of action before the filing of a complaint, the administrative action may be commenced and concluded simultaneously by the issuance of a consent agreement and final order (CAFO). 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b).

5. The parties agree that settling this action without the filing of a complaint or the adjudication of any issue of fact or law is in their interest and in the public interest.

6. Respondent consents to the assessment of the civil penalty specified in this CAFO, and to the terms of this CAFO.

Jurisdiction and Waiver of Right to Hearing

7. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in this CAFO and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations in this CAFO.

8. Respondent waives its right to request a hearing as provided at 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c), any right to contest the allegations in this CAFO, and its right to appeal this CAFO.

9. Respondent certifies that it is complying with FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. §§ 136 to 136y to the best of its knowledge.

Statutory and Regulatory Background

10. Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A), states that it is unlawful for any person in any state to distribute or sell to any person any pesticide that is not registered under Section 3 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136a.

11. A “pesticide” is, among other things, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. 7 U.S.C. § 136(u).

12. A “pest” is 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 which the Administrator of EPA declares to be a pest under Section 25(c)(1) of FIFRA. 7 U.S.C. § 136(t).

13. A substance is considered to be intended for a pesticidal purpose, and thus to be a pesticide requiring registration, if the person who distributes or sells the substance claims, states, or implies (by labeling or otherwise) that the substance can or should be used as a pesticide. 40 C.F.R. § 152.15(a)(1).

14. The Administrator of EPA may assess a civil penalty against any registrant,

wholesaler, dealer, retailer, or other distributor who violates any provision of FIFRA of up to \$7,500 for each offense that occurred after January 12, 2009, pursuant to Section 14(a)(1) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a)(1), and 40 C.F.R. Part 19.

Factual Allegations and Alleged Violations

15. Respondent is a “person” as defined at Section 2(s) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(s).

16. Respondent owned or operated a place of business located at 1864 Berkshire Lane North, Plymouth, Minnesota during calendar years 2010 to 2012.

17. On January 7, 2010, an inspector employed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and authorized to conduct inspections under FIFRA conducted an inspection at Respondent’s place of business in Plymouth, Minnesota.

18. During the January 7, 2010 inspection, the inspector collected physical samples, advertising literature, shipping records, and photographs of the products Pool Naturally® and Spa Naturally® which Respondent was selling and distributing.

19. SpaNaturally® was a “pesticide” as defined at Section 2(u) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(u).

20. SpaNaturally® was not registered as a pesticide with EPA under Section 3 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136a, on January 7, 2010 or thereafter.

21. PoolNaturally® was a “pesticide” as defined at Section 2(u) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(u).

22. PoolNaturally® was not registered as a pesticide with EPA under Section 3 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136a, on January 7, 2010 or thereafter.

23. Respondent distributed or sold SpaNaturally™ on at least 6 occasions between May 14, 2009 and October 19, 2009.

24. Respondent's distribution or sale of the unregistered pesticide SpaNaturally™ constitutes unlawful acts pursuant to Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A).

25. Respondent distributed or sold PoolNaturally® on at least 6 occasions between March 26, 2009 and September 24, 2009.

26. Respondent's distribution or sale of the unregistered pesticide PoolNaturally® constitutes unlawful acts pursuant to Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A).

Civil Penalty

27. Pursuant to Section 14(a)(4) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a)(4), Complainant determined that an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action is \$500. In determining the penalty amount, Complainant considered the appropriateness of the penalty to the size of Respondent's business, the effect on Respondent's ability to continue in business, and the gravity of the violation. Complainant also considered EPA's FIFRA Enforcement Response Policy, dated December 2009.

28. Within 30 days after the effective date of this CAFO, Respondent must pay a \$500 civil penalty for the FIFRA violations. Respondent must pay the penalty by sending a cashier's or certified check, payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America," to:

For checks sent by regular U.S. Postal Service mail

U.S. EPA
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
Post Office Box 979077
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

and;

For checks sent by express mail

U.S. Bank
Government Lock Box 979077 U.S. EPA Fines and Penalties
Contact: Natalie Pearson
1005 Convention Plaza
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, Missouri 63101.

The check must note "In the Matter of Creative Water Solutions, LLC" and the docket number of this CAFO, and;

For electronic funds transfer: Respondent must pay the penalty by electronic funds transfer, payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America," and sent to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA No. 021030004
Account No. 68010727
SWIFT address FRNYUS33
33 Liberty Street
New York, New York 10045
Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read:
"D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency"

In the comment or description field of the electronic funds transfer, state Creative Water Solutions, LLC and the docket number of this CAFO.

29. A transmittal letter, stating, Respondent's name, the case title, Respondent's complete address, and the case docket number must accompany the payment. Respondent must send a copy of the check and transmittal letter to:

Regional Hearing Clerk (E-19J)
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Terence Bonace (LC-8J)
Pesticides and Toxics Compliance Section
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard.
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Richard Nagle (C-14J)
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

30. This civil penalty is not deductible for federal tax purposes.

31. If Respondent does not pay the civil penalty timely, EPA may refer the matter to the Attorney General who will recover such amount by action in the appropriate United States district court under Section 14(a)(5) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a)(5). The validity, amount and appropriateness of the civil penalty are not reviewable in a collection action.

32. Pursuant to 31 C.F.R. § 901.9, Respondent must pay the following on any amount overdue under this CAFO. Interest will accrue on any amount overdue from the date payment was due at a rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury. Respondent must pay a \$15 handling charge each month that any portion of the penalty is more than 30 days past due. In addition, Respondent must pay a 6 percent per year penalty on any principal amount 90 days past due.

General Provisions

33. This CAFO resolves only Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts alleged in this agreement.

34. This CAFO does not 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.

35. This CAFO does not affect Respondent's responsibility to comply with FIFRA and

other applicable federal, state, and local laws.

36. This CAFO is a “final order” for purposes of EPA’s Enforcement Response Policy for FIFRA.

37. The terms of this CAFO bind Respondent, its successors, and assigns.

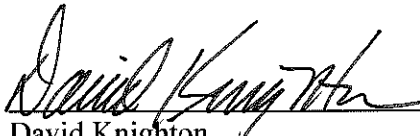
38. Each person signing this agreement certifies that he or she has the authority to sign for the party whom he or she represents and to bind that party to its terms.

39. Each party agrees to bear its own costs and attorney’s fees, in this action.

40. This CAFO constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.

Creative Water Solutions, Respondent


07/17/2013
Date



David Knighton
President

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Complainant

August 15, 2013
Date




Margaret M. Guerriero
Director
Land and Chemicals Division

In the Matter of:
Creative Water Solutions
Docket No. FIFRA-05-2013-0018

Final Order

This Consent Agreement and Final Order, as agreed to by the parties, shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk. This Final Order concludes this proceeding pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18 and 22.31. IT IS SO ORDERED.

8/20/13
Date



Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the original signed copy of the Consent Agreement and Final Order in resolution of the civil administrative action involving Creative Water Solutions, LLC., was filed on August 22, 2013 with the Regional Hearing Clerk (E-19J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, 60604, and that I mailed by Certified Mail, Receipt No. 7009 1680 0000 7668 1537, a copy of the original to the Respondents:

Mr. David Knighton
Creative Water Solutions, LLC
1864 Berkshire Lane North
Plymouth, Minnesota 55441

and forwarded copies (intra-Agency) to:

Ann Coyle, Regional Judicial Officer, ORC/C-14J
Richard Nagle, Regional Judicial Officer, ORC/C-14J
Eric Volck, Cincinnati Finance/MWD



Frederick Brown
Pesticides and Toxics Compliance Section
U.S. EPA - Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

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