



REGION 9
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

FILED
Jan 14, 2026
1:04 pm
U.S. EPA REGION IX
HEARING CLERK

EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

DOCKET NO: CAA(112r)-09-2026-0029

This ESA is issued to: O'Neill Vintners and Distillers
8418 South Lac Jac Avenue, Parlier, California 93648

For: Violation of Section 112(r)(7) of the Clean Air Act.
At: O'Neill Vintners and Distillers, 8418 South Lac Jac Avenue, Parlier, California
93648

This Expedited Settlement Agreement ("ESA") is being entered into by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), Region IX, by its duly delegated official, Amy C. Miller-Bowen, Director, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, and O'Neill Vintners and Distillers ("Respondent") pursuant to Section 113(a)(3) and (d) of the Clean Air Act (the "Act"), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a)(3) and (d), and by 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b). EPA has obtained the concurrence of the U.S. Department of Justice, pursuant to Section 113(d)(1) of the Act, 2 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(1), to pursue this administrative enforcement action.

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

Following its inspection on February 12, 2025, EPA alleges Respondent's failure to:

1. Resolve all issues identified in a hazard review before startup of the changes process, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.50(d) (EPA Inspection Report Area of Concern (AOC) #5);
2. Ensure and document that the ammonia refrigeration process is designed and maintained in compliance with recognized and generally accepted good engineering practices, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.65(d)(2) or (d)(3) (AOCs #6, 7, 9, 11, 12/13, 15/16, 18);
3. Promptly address findings and recommendations identified in the Respondent's internal audits, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.67(e) (AOC #20, 26);
4. Include all necessary information in standard operating procedures, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.69(a) (AOCs # 21/22/23); and
5. Correct deficiencies in equipment that are outside acceptable limits, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.73(e) (AOC #24).

SETTLEMENT

The parties enter into this ESA in order to settle the violations described above for the total penalty amount of **\$15,000**.

This settlement is subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. In signing this Agreement, Respondent: (1) admits that Respondent is subject to CAA 112(r) and its implementing regulations; (2) admits that EPA has jurisdiction over Respondent and Respondent's conduct as alleged herein, (3) neither admits nor denies the factual allegations contained herein; (4) consents to the assessment of this penalty; (5) waives the opportunity for a hearing to contest any issues of fact or law set forth herein; (6) waives its right to appeal the Final Order accompanying this Agreement pursuant to Section 113(d)(2)(A) of the Act, 42 U.S.C § 7413(d)(2)(A); and (7) consents to electronic service of the filed ESA. By signing this consent agreement, Respondent waives any rights or defenses that Respondent has or may have for this matter to be resolved in federal court, including but not limited to any right to a jury trial, and waives any right to challenge the lawfulness of the final order accompanying the consent agreement.
2. Each party to this action shall bear its own attorney's fees and costs, if any.
3. Respondent must pay the civil penalty of \$15,000 using any method provided on the following website: <https://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>. Such payment shall identify Respondent by name and include the docket number assigned to this Agreement by the Regional Hearing Clerk.
4. Within 24 hours of payment, email proof of payment (e.g., a statement of affirmation regarding electronic funds transfer), including Respondent's name, complete address, and docket number to the following:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105
R9HearingClerk@epa.gov

Bridget Johnson
Environmental Scientist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105
Johnson.Bridget@epa.gov

5. The payment should reference Respondent's name and a copy of this ESA must be included

with the online payment.

6. Respondent also certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false submission to the United States Government, that the Respondent has corrected the violations listed above. Pursuant to CAA § 114(a)(1)(B) [42 U.S.C. § 7414(a)(1)(B)] please provide documentation to USEPA Region IX describing how each area of identified non-compliance has been addressed. Such documentation is due to EPA within 45 calendar days of your receipt of this letter.

Upon Respondent's submission of the signed original ESA, EPA will take no further civil penalty action against Respondent for the violations of the Act alleged above. This ESA shall not be construed as a covenant not to sue, a release, waiver, or limitation of any rights, remedies, powers, or authorities, civil or criminal that EPA has under the Act or any other statutory, regulatory, or common law enforcement authority of the United States, except as stated above.

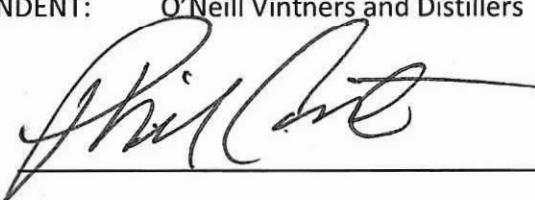
If the signed ESA with an attached copy of the payment is not returned to the EPA Region IX office at the above address in correct form by the Respondent within 45 days of the date of Respondent's receipt of the proposed ESA and EPA has not granted an extension of its offer to settle, the ESA is withdrawn, without prejudice to EPA's ability to file an enforcement action for the violations identified herein.

This ESA is binding on the parties signing below.

This ESA is effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

FOR RESPONDENT: O'Neill Vintners and Distillers

Signature:



Date: 1/12/26

Name (print):

Phil Castro

Title (print): VP of Winery operations

FOR COMPLAINANT: Environmental Protection Agency

AMY MILLER-
BOWEN

Digitally signed by AMY MILLER-
BOWEN

Date: 2026.01.13 09:38:30 -08'00'

Date: 1/13/2025

Amy C. Miller-Bowen, Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. EPA Region IX

FINAL ORDER

Respondent has paid the penalty and provided proof of payment as set forth in this Expedited Settlement Agreement (ESA). This ESA and Final Order shall be entered.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: _____

Beatrice Wong
Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. EPA Region IX

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order in the matter of O'Neill Vintners and Distillers (Docket No. CAA(112r)-09-2026-0029) was filed by the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105, and that a true and correct copy of the same was served on the parties, via electronic mail, as indicated below:

RESPONDENT(S): Phil Castro
Vice President of Operations
O'Neill Vintners & Distillers
8418 South Lac Jac Avenue
Parlier, CA 93648
Phil.Castro@oneillwine.com

COMPLAINANT: Andrew Helmlinger
Supervisory Attorney Adviser
U.S. EPA – Region IX
Hazardous Waste Section I (ORC-3-1)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Helmlinger.Andrew@epa.gov

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Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA – Region IX