

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 4 ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER 61 FORSYTH STREET ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

APR 2 8 2009

4APT-PTSB

Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Michael R. Anderson, Sr. President Bulloch Fertilizer Company, Inc. 205 West Main Street Statesboro, Georgia 30458

SUBJ: Docket No. FIFRA-04-2009-3033(b) Bulloch Fertilizer Company, Inc.

Dear Mr. Anderson:

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 CFR Part 22.

As stated in Section IV of the CAFO, the initial payment of \$1,490.02 of the assessed penalty of \$5,850 is due within 30 days from the effective date. Section IV also provides information on when remaining payments are due. 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. Lori Weidner either by telephone at (513) 487-2125 or by written correspondence to her attention at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 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 Mr. Phillip Beard at (404) 562-9012.

Internet Address (URL) + http://www.epa.gov Recycled/Recyclable + Printed with Vegetable Oil Based Ints on Recycled Paper (Minimum 30% Postconsumer) 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, Jeaneanne M. Gettle

Chief Pesticides and Toxic Substances Branch

Enclosures

cc: Tommy Gray, Director, Georgia Department of Agriculture

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ATLANTA, GEORGIA

In the Matter of:)
Bulloch Fertilizer Company, Inc.)
)
Respondent.)

Docket No. FIFRA-04-2009-3033(b)

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HEARING OLERN

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. § 136l(a) (hereinafter "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 CFR Part 22. Complainant is the Director of the Air, Pesticides, and Toxics Management Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 (EPA). Respondent is Bulloch Fertilizer Company, 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 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 CFR § 22.5(c)(4) the following individual represents EPA in this matter and is authorized to receive service for EPA in this proceeding:

Phillip Beard Pesticides Section U.S. EPA – Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960 (404) 562-9012.

- The Respondent is Bulloch Fertilizer Company, Inc., a Georgia corporation located at 250 West Main Street, Statesboro, Georgia 30458.
- 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.
- Respondent is registered as an EPA Establishment and has been assigned EPA Establishment Number 83984-GA-001.
- On or about June 13, 2006, an authorized representative of the EPA conducted an inspection at Bulloch Fertilizer Company, Inc., 205 West Main Street, Statesboro, Georgia, 30458.
- During the aforementioned inspection, Respondent sold and distributed the "SUR-GRO 36-0-0" product as a custom blend fertilizer.
- 10. The "SUR-GRO 36-0-0" product is a pesticide as defined in Section 2(u) of FIFRA,
 7 U.S.C. § 136(u). The definition of pesticide includes any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
 Respondent, "distributes or sells" 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

- 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. At the time of the inspection, the "SUR-GRO 36-0-0" fertilizer failed to meet the scope of the custom blender policy and therefore the blend is required to be registered. The custom blender policy was not met in that the blend, as delivered to the end-user, failed to include: (1) a copy of the end-use labeling of the pesticide used in the blend, and; (2) a statement specifying the composition of the mixture.
- 13. Under Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A), it is unlawful for any person in any State to distribute or sell any pesticide that is not registered under Section 3 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136a.
- Respondent distributed and sold the pesticide on at least two occasions as described below:

Invoice #7390 dated April 5, 2006 to the Georgia Turf and Tractor, Inc. Invoice #7608 dated April 11, 2006 to the Willow Lake Golf Club

- 15. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A), and is therefore subject to the assessment of civil penalties under Section 14 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*.
- 16. Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a), in conjunction with the Debt CollectionImprovement Act of 1996, authorizes the assessment of a civil penalty.
- 17. Section 14(a)(4) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(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.
- 18. After consideration of the factors set forth in Section 14(a)(4) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a)(4), the EPA proposes to assess a total civil penalty of FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$5,850), plus interest at three percent per annum, against the Respondent for the above-described violations. Civil penalties under Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a), may be assessed by Administrative Order.

III. Consent Agreement

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

- 23. 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.
- 24. 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.

IV. Final Order

- 25. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$5,850), plus interest at three percent per annum, which shall be paid according to the schedule agreed upon, as shown in this section.
- 26. The first installment payment of \$1,490.02 shall be made on July 1, 2009, or within
 30 days from the date this CAFO is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, whichever is later.

The remaining three installment payments will be made as set forth below:

DATE	AMOUNT
October 1, 2009	\$1,490.02
January 1, 2010	\$1,490.02
April 1, 2010	\$1,490.02.

27. Respondent shall remit the penalty by either cashier's or certified checks on or before the due dates payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America," and shall mail the checks 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, MO 63197-9000.

Each check shall reference on its face the name of the

Respondent and the Docket Number assigned to this CAFO.

28. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of each 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;

Phillip Beard Pesticides 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 date

of entry 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 principle 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.

V. Effective Date

34. 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:

Bulloch Fertilizer Company, Inc. Docket No. FIFRA-04-2009-3033(b)

(Signature) By: Name: MICHAEL K. ANDEASON 54 (Typed or Printed)

Date: _ 3 - 76 - 09

Title: $\square AESIDENT$ (Typed or Printed)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

4/20/09 By: Date: Carol L. Kemker Acting Director

Carol L. Kemker Acting Director Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this <u>27</u> day of <u>Quil</u> 2009.

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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 Bulloch Fertilizer Company, Inc., Docket Number: FIFRA-04-2009-3033(b), to the addressees listed below.

Mr. Michael R. Anderson, Sr. President Bulloch Fertilizer Company, Inc. 205 West Main Street Statesboro, GA 30458

Phillip Beard Pesticides Section U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303 (via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested)

(via EPA's internal mail)

(via EPA's internal mail)

Robert Caplan Office of Environmental Accountability U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303

Date: <u>4-28-09</u>

Allelio Belle

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

EPA ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CONTROL NUMBER FORM

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TO BE	COMPLETED BY THE ORIGINATIN ach a copy of the final order and transmittal	G OFFIC	E: fendant/Respondent)	
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1.	Debt Tracking Officer Environmental Enforcement Section Department of Justice RM 1647 P.O. Box 7611, Benjamin Franklin Station Washington, D.C. 20044	2 3	Originating Office (EAD) Designated Program Office	
B. <u>ADN</u>	MINISTRATIVE ORDERS: Copies of this form w	rith an attacl	hed copy of the front page of the A	dministrative Order should be to

 Originating Office
 3.
 Designated Program Office

 2.
 Regional Hearing Clerk
 4.
 Regional Counsel (EAD)