

**U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 7  
11201 RENNER BOULEVARD  
LENEXA, KANSAS 66219**

**BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR**

<b>In the Matter of:</b>	)	
	)	
Hydrite Chemical Co.	)	<b>Docket No. CAA-07-2020-0105</b>
	)	
<b>Respondent</b>	)	
_____	)	

**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER**

**Preliminary Statement**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 (EPA or Complainant), and Hydrite Chemical Co. (Respondent) have agreed to a settlement of this action before the filing of a complaint, and thus this action is simultaneously commenced and concluded pursuant to Rules 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits, 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2).

**Jurisdiction**

1. This proceeding is an administrative action for the assessment of civil penalties instituted pursuant to Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d). Pursuant to Section 113(d) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), the Administrator and the Attorney General jointly determined that this matter, in which the first date of alleged violation occurred more than twelve months prior to the initiation of the administrative action, was appropriate for administrative penalty action.

2. This Consent Agreement and Final Order serves as notice that the EPA has reason to believe that Respondent has violated the Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions in 40 C.F.R. Part 68, promulgated pursuant to Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), and that Respondent is therefore in violation of Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r). Furthermore, this Consent Agreement and Final Order serves as notice pursuant to Section 113(d)(2)(A) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(2)(A), of the EPA's intent to issue an order assessing penalties for these violations.

### **Parties**

3. Complainant, by delegation from the Administrator of the EPA, the Regional Administrator, EPA, Region 7, and the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, EPA, Region 7, is the Chief of the Chemical Branch, Region 7.

4. Respondent is Hydrite Chemical Co., a private company doing business in the state of Iowa, which owns and operates the chemical manufacturing and distribution facility located at 2815 WCF&N Drive in Waterloo, Iowa (Respondent's Facility).

### **Statutory and Regulatory Background**

5. On November 15, 1990, the President signed into law the CAA Amendments of 1990. The Amendments added Section 112(r) to Title I of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), which requires the Administrator of the EPA to, among other things, promulgate regulations in order to prevent accidental releases of certain regulated substances. Section 112(r)(3), 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3), mandates that the Administrator promulgate a list of regulated substances, with threshold quantities, and defines the stationary sources that will be subject to the chemical accident prevention regulations mandated by Section 112(r)(7). Specifically, Section 112(r)(7), 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), requires the Administrator to promulgate regulations that address release prevention, detection, and correction requirements for these listed regulated substances.

6. On June 20, 1996, the EPA promulgated a final rule known as the Risk Management Program, 40 C.F.R. Part 68, which implements Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7). This rule requires owners and operators of stationary sources to develop and implement a risk management program that includes a hazard assessment, a prevention program and an emergency response program.

7. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 68 set forth the requirements of a risk management program that must be established at each stationary source. The risk management program is described in a Risk Management Plan ("RMP") that must be submitted to the EPA.

8. Pursuant to Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), and 40 C.F.R. § 68.150, an RMP must be submitted for all covered processes by the owner or operator of a stationary source that has more than a threshold quantity of a regulated substance in a process no later than the latter of June 21, 1999, or the date on which a regulated substance is first present above the threshold quantity in a process.

9. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 68.10 set forth how the Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions apply to covered processes. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.10(h), a covered process is subject to Program 3 requirements if the process does not meet the eligibility requirements of Program 1, as described in 40 C.F.R. § 68.10(f), and it either falls under a specified North American Industry Classification System code or is subject to the OSHA process safety management standard, 29 C.F.R. § 1910.119.

10. Section 113(d) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), states that the Administrator may issue an administrative order against any person assessing a civil administrative penalty of

up to \$25,000 per day of violation whenever, on the basis of any available information, the Administrator finds that such person has violated or is violating any requirement or prohibition of Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), and its implementing regulations. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701, as amended, and the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, 28 U.S.C. § 2461, and implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 19, increased these statutory maximum penalties to \$37,500 for violations that occurred before November 2, 2015, and to \$48,192 for violations that occur after November 2, 2015, and for which penalties are assessed on or after January 13, 2020.

### **Definitions**

11. Section 302(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e), defines “person” to include any individual, corporation, partnership, association, State, municipality, political subdivision of a State, and any agency department, or instrumentality of the United States and any officer, agent, or employee thereof.

12. Section 112(r)(2)(A) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(A), defines “accidental release” as an unanticipated emission of a regulated substance or other extremely hazardous substance into the ambient air from a stationary source.

13. Section 112(r)(2)(C) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(C), and the regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 define “stationary source,” in part, as any buildings, structures, equipment, installations or substance-emitting stationary activities which belong to the same industrial group, which are located on one or more contiguous properties, which are under the control of the same person (or persons under common control), and from which an accidental release may occur.

14. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 define “regulated substance” as any substance listed pursuant to Section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, as amended, in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130.

15. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 define “threshold quantity” as the quantity specified for regulated substances pursuant to Section 112(r)(5) of the CAA, as amended, listed in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130 and determined to be present at a stationary source as specified in 40 C.F.R. § 68.115.

16. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 define “process” as any activity involving a regulated substance including any use, storage, manufacturing, handling or on-site movement of such substances, or combination of these activities. For the purposes of this definition, any group of vessels that are interconnected, or separate vessels that are located such that a regulated substance could be involved in a potential release, shall be considered a single process.

### **General Factual Allegations**

17. Respondent is, and at all times referred to herein was, a “person” as defined by Section 302(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e).

18. Respondent is the owner and operator of a facility that is a “stationary source” pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.3.

19. Anhydrous ammonia is a “regulated substance” pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.3. The threshold quantity for anhydrous ammonia, as listed in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130, is 10,000 pounds.

20. Ammonia in concentration of greater than 20% is a “regulated substance” pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.3. The threshold quantity for ammonia in concentration greater than 20%, as listed in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130, is 20,000 pounds.

21. On or about April 16 and 17, 2019, representatives of the EPA conducted an inspection of Respondent’s Facility to determine compliance with Section 112(r) of the CAA and 40 C.F.R. Part 68.

22. Information gathered during the EPA inspection revealed that Respondent had greater than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia and greater than 20,000 pounds of ammonia in concentration of greater than 20% in a process at its facility.

23. From the time Respondent first had onsite greater than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia and/or 20,000 pounds of ammonia in concentration greater than 20% in a process in a process, Respondent was subject to the requirements of Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), and 40 C.F.R. Part 68 because it was an owner and operator of a stationary source that had more than a threshold quantity of a regulated substance in a process.

24. From the time Respondent first had onsite greater than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia and/or 20,000 pounds of ammonia in concentration greater than 20% in a process in a process, Respondent was subject to Program 3 prevention program requirements because pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.10(h), the covered process at its facility did not meet the eligibility requirements of Program 1 and is in North American Industry Classification System code 325188 and is subject to the OSHA process safety management standard, 29 C.F.R. § 1910.119.

25. From the time Respondent first had onsite greater than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia and/or 20,000 pounds of ammonia in concentration greater than 20% in a process, Respondent was required under Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), to submit an RMP pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(a) and comply with the Program 3 requirements provided at 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d) and detailed in Subpart D.

### **Allegations of Violation**

26. Complainant hereby states and alleges that Respondent has violated the CAA and federal regulations promulgated thereunder as follows:

#### Count 1

27. The facts stated in Paragraphs 17 through 255 above are herein incorporated.

28. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(a) requires the owner or operator of a stationary source subject to the Risk Management Program, 40 C.F.R. Part 68, to submit a single RMP as provided in 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.150 to 68.185. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.160, the owner or operator shall complete a single registration form that provides, *inter alia*, the maximum quantity of each regulated substance. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.155(b), Respondent must include in the RMP an executive summary that provides, *inter alia*, a brief description of the regulated substances handled.

29. The EPA inspection revealed that Respondent failed to submit an RMP pursuant to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.150 to 68.185, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(a). Specifically:

- (a) Respondent failed to include on the registration form the correct maximum quantity (in pounds) of each regulated substance in the railcar storage process as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.160(b)(7); and
- (b) Respondent failed to list regulated substances in the RMP executive summary as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.155(b).

30. Respondent's failure to comply with the above-listed requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.150 to 68.185, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(a), violates Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7).

#### Count 2

31. The facts stated in Paragraphs 17 through 25 above are herein incorporated.

32. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d)(3) requires the owner or operator of a stationary source with a process subject to Program 3 to implement the Program 3 prevention requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.65 through 68.87.

33. The EPA inspection revealed that Respondent failed to implement the Program 3 prevention requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.65 through 68.87, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d)(3). Specifically:

- (a) Respondent failed to accurately calculate and report the maximum intended inventory for regulated substances in its process safety information, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.65(c)(1)(iii);
- (b) Respondent failed to establish a system to address process hazard analysis findings to document resolutions and actions to be taken, and to have a written schedule for completing actions, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.67(e);
- (c) Respondent failed to develop and implement written procedures that provide clear instructions for safely conducting activities involved in each covered process, including an adequate time bleed-off pressure and liquid

anhydrous ammonia in procedure P7006WL, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.69(a)(3)(iii);

- (d) Respondent failed to annually certify operating procedures as current and accurate, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.69(c);
- (e) Respondent failed to certify compliance audits and to perform the compliance audit at least every three years, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.79(a); and
- (f) Respondent failed to promptly determine and document the appropriate response to each of the findings of the compliance audit and document that deficiencies have been corrected in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 68.79(d).

34. Respondent's failures to comply with Program 3 prevention requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.65 through 68.87, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d)(3), violate Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7).

#### CONSENT AGREEMENT

35. For the purpose of this proceeding, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2), Respondent:

- (a) admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth herein;
- (b) neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations stated herein;
- (c) consents to the assessment of a civil penalty, as stated herein;
- (d) consents to the issuance of any specified compliance or corrective action order;
- (e) consents to any conditions specified herein;
- (f) consents to any stated Permit Action;
- (g) waives any right to contest the allegations set forth herein; and
- (h) waives its rights to appeal the Final Order accompanying this Consent Agreement.

36. Respondent consents to the issuance of this Consent Agreement and Final Order and consents for the purposes of settlement to the payment of the civil penalty specified herein.

37. Respondent and EPA agree to conciliate this matter without the necessity of a formal hearing and to bear their respective costs and attorneys' fees.

38. Respondent consents to receiving the filed Consent Agreement and Final Order electronically at the following e-mail address: *Thadd.Stankowski@Hydrite.com*.

### **Penalty Payment**

39. Respondent agrees that, in settlement of the claims alleged herein, Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of Seventy-Nine Thousand and Nine Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$79,900).

40. Respondent shall pay the penalty within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Final Order. Such payment shall identify Respondent by name and docket number and shall be by certified or cashier's check made payable to the "United States Treasury" and sent to:

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

or by alternate payment method described at <http://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>.

41. A copy of the check or other information confirming payment shall simultaneously be e-mailed to the following:

Lisa Haugen, Regional Hearing Clerk  
*haugen.lisa@epa.gov*; and

Sara Hertz Wu, Senior Counsel  
*hertzwu.sara@epa.gov*.

42. Respondent understands that its failure to timely pay any portion of the civil penalty may result in the commencement of a civil action in Federal District Court to recover the full remaining balance, along with penalties and accumulated interest. In such case, interest shall begin to accrue on a civil or stipulated penalty from the date of delinquency until such civil or stipulated penalty and any accrued interest are paid in full. 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(b)(1). Interest will be assessed at a rate of the United States Treasury Tax and loan rates in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 3717. Additionally, a charge will be assessed to cover the costs of debt collection including processing and handling costs, and a non-payment penalty charge of six (6) percent per year compounded annually will be assessed on any portion of the debt which remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days after payment is due. 31 U.S.C. § 3717(e)(2).

### **Effect of Settlement and Reservation of Rights**

43. Full payment of the penalty proposed in this Consent Agreement shall only resolve Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations alleged herein.

Complainant reserves the right to take any enforcement action with respect to any other violations of the CAA or any other applicable law.

44. The effect of settlement described in the immediately preceding paragraph is conditioned upon the accuracy of Respondent's representations to the EPA, as memorialized in paragraph directly below.

45. Respondent certifies by the signing of this Consent Agreement that it is presently in compliance with all requirements of the CAA and its implementing regulations.

46. Full payment of the penalty proposed in this Consent Agreement shall not in any case affect the right of the Agency or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. This Consent Agreement and Final Order does not waive, extinguish or otherwise affect Respondent's obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of the CAA and regulations promulgated thereunder.

47. This Consent Agreement and Final Order constitutes an "enforcement response" as that term is used in EPA's *Clean Air Act Combined Enforcement Response Policy for Clean Air Act Sections 112(r)(1), 112(r)(7) and 40 C.F.R. Part 68* to determine Respondent's "full compliance history" under Section 113(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(e).

48. Complainant reserves the right to enforce the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

### **General Provisions**

49. By signing this Consent Agreement, the undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she is fully authorized to execute and enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and has the legal capacity to bind the party he or she represents to this Consent Agreement.

50. This Consent Agreement shall not dispose of the proceeding without a final order from the Regional Judicial Officer or Regional Administrator ratifying the terms of this Consent Agreement. This Consent Agreement and Final Order shall be effective upon the filing of the Final Order by the Regional Hearing Clerk for EPA, Region 7. Unless otherwise stated, all time periods stated herein shall be calculated in calendar days from such date.

51. The penalty specified herein shall represent civil penalties assessed by EPA and shall not be deductible for purposes of Federal, State and local taxes.

52. This Consent Agreement and Final Order shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and Respondent's agents, successors and/or assigns and shall ensure that all contractors, employees, consultants, firms, or other persons or entities acting for Respondent with respect to matters included herein comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.



**RESPONDENT:**  
**HYDRITE CHEMICAL CO.**

Date: 5/12/2020

Brian Poehnelt  
Signature

Brian Poehnelt  
Name

Directions of Operations  
Title

**COMPLAINANT:  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candace Bednar  
Chemical Branch Chief  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sara Hertz Wu  
Senior Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7

**FINAL ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 113(d) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, the foregoing Consent Agreement resolving this matter is hereby ratified and incorporated by reference into this Final Order.

Respondent is ORDERED to comply with all of the terms of the Consent Agreement. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b), the effective date of the foregoing Consent Agreement and this Final Order is the date on which this Final Order is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karina Borromeo  
Regional Judicial Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy via E-mail to Complainant:

hertzwu.sara@epa.gov

Copy via E-mail to Respondent:

Thadd.Stankowski@Hydrite.com

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed