

EPA ENFORCEMENT ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CONTROL NUMBER FORM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

This form was originated by Wanda I. Santiago for Hugh W. Martinez 4/26/11
Name of Case Attorney Date

in the ORC (RAA) at 918-1113
Office & Mail Code Phone number

Case Docket Number FIFRA-01-2011-0002

Site-specific Superfund (SF) Acct. Number _____

This is an original debt This is a modification

Name and address of Person and/or Company/Municipality making the payment:

Creative Chemicals, Inc.
88 Winter Street
P.O. Box 2404
Holyoke, MA 01041-2404

Total Dollar Amount of Receivable \$ 9,720 Due Date: 6/18/11

SEP due? Yes No Date Due _____

Installment Method (if applicable)

INSTALLMENTS OF:

1ST \$ _____ on _____

2nd \$ _____ on _____

3rd \$ _____ on _____

4th \$ _____ on _____

5th \$ _____ on _____

For RHC Tracking Purposes:

Copy of Check Received by RHC _____ Notice Sent to Finance _____

TO BE FILLED OUT BY LOCAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE:

IFMS Accounts Receivable Control Number _____

If you have any questions call: _____
in the Financial Management Office

Phone Number



U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1 - NEW ENGLAND

5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (OES 04-3)
Boston, MA 02109-3912

HUGH W. MARTINEZ
direct: (617) 918-1867

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

BY HAND

April 26, 2011

Wanda I. Santiago, Regional Hearing Clerk
EPA Region 1 - New England
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (ORA 18-1)
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Re: *In the Matter of: Creative Chemicals, Inc., Docket No. FIFRA-01-2011-0002; Approved Consent Agreement and Final Order*

Dear Ms. Santiago:

Please find enclosed for filing the original and one copy of a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) resolving the above-entitled enforcement case. Also enclosed is the original and one copy of a certificate of service documenting that, on this date, a copy of the CAFO was mailed to Respondent's representative, in the manner indicated.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hugh W. Martinez".

Hugh W. Martinez, Senior Enforcement Counsel
Regulatory Legal Office
EPA Region 1

Enclosures

cc: David L. Peskin, President
Judd L. Peskin, Esquire
Kan S. Tham, EPA Region 1 (electronically)

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1 (NEW ENGLAND)

RECEIVED

APR 21 2011

EPA ORC
Office of Regional Hearing Clerk

In The Matter Of:)
)
Creative Chemicals, Inc.)
88 Winter Street)
P. O. Box 2404)
Holyoke, MA 01041-2404)
)
Respondent.)
)

Docket No. FIFRA-01-2011-0002

CONSENT AGREEMENT and
FINAL ORDER

INTRODUCTION

1. The United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region 1 ("EPA"), as Complainant, and Creative Chemicals, Inc. ("Creative" or "Respondent"), as Respondent, enter into this Consent Agreement and Final Order ("CAFO") by mutual consent. The CAFO informs Respondent of EPA's intention to assess a penalty against Creative for alleged violations of Section 12 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, as amended ("FIFRA"), 7 U.S.C. § 136j, and implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 167, Subpart E. The CAFO also informs Respondent of its right to request a hearing.

2. This CAFO simultaneously commences and concludes the cause of action described herein, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b), and Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a). Complainant and Respondent (collectively, the "Parties") agree that settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that entry of this CAFO without litigation is the most appropriate means of resolving this matter.

3. Therefore, before any hearing or the taking of any testimony, without adjudication of any issue of fact or law herein, the Parties agree to comply with the terms of this CAFO.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

4. Respondent is a corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Respondent's principal place of business is located at 88 Winter Street, Holyoke, MA 01041 (the "Facility"). Respondent is a "person" as defined in Section 2(s) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(s).

5. Pursuant to Sections 7(a) and (b) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. §§ 136e(a) and (b), and 40 C.F.R. § 167.20, on or about August 22, 1973, Respondent registered the Facility as a pesticide-producing establishment. EPA's national office in Washington, DC ("EPA Headquarters") assigned the Office of Pesticide Program Company number 15567. Subsequently, EPA Region 1 assigned the EPA Establishment Number 15567-MA-001 to the Facility.

6. Section 7(c)(1) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136e(c)(1), and the implementing regulations codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 167, Subpart E, require any producer operating a registered establishment to report to EPA the types and amounts of each pesticide product that it is currently producing, that it produced during the past year, and that it sold or distributed during the past year.

7. Under 40 C.F.R. § 167.85(d), a producer is responsible for obtaining, completing and reporting this information each year, even if it has not produced any pesticidal product for the reporting year. The information must be submitted to EPA, on

a form available from EPA Headquarters, on or before March 1 of the year subsequent to the calendar year which is the subject of the report.

8. Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a), authorizes a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 against any registrant, commercial applicator, wholesaler, dealer, retailer or other distributor for each violation of FIFRA. Pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. § 2461, as amended by EPA's 2008 Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule, 40 C.F.R. Part 19, promulgated in accordance with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 ("DCIA"), 31 U.S.C. § 3701, this amount was increased to \$6,500 for violations occurring after March 15, 2004, and to \$7,500 for violations occurring after January 12, 2009.

9. On or about December 8, 2008, EPA issued a Notice of Warning ("NOW") [No. FIFRA-NOW-2008-017] to Respondent, pursuant to Section 12(a)(2)(L) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(2)(L), for the failure to file its annual pesticide production report for calendar year 2007, as required by Section 7 of FIFRA, on or before the March 1, 2008 due date. Creative received the NOW on or about December 10, 2008 for non-reporting.

10. Respondent stipulates that EPA has jurisdiction over the subject matter alleged in this CAFO. For the purposes of this proceeding, Respondent waives any defenses it might have as to jurisdiction and venue and, without admitting or denying EPA's factual findings or allegations of violation herein, Respondent consents to the terms of this CAFO.

11. Respondent acknowledges that it has been informed of the right to request a hearing and hereby waives its right to request a judicial or administrative hearing on

any issue of law or fact set forth in this CAFO. Respondent also waives its right to appeal the Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement.

12. By signing this CAFO, Respondent certifies that it is presently operating in compliance with Section 7(c) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136e(c), and has fully addressed the violations alleged by EPA herein.

EPA FINDINGS

13. EPA finds, based on its investigation of facts and circumstances underlying Creative's participation as an owner or operator of a pesticide-producing establishment, that Respondent violated Section 7(c) of FIFRA, as further described.

14. During calendar years 2007, 2008 and 2009, the Facility was registered with EPA as a pesticide-producing establishment under Section 7(b) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136e(b), and 40 C.F.R. Part 167.

15. EPA Headquarters mails annual reminder notices to registered pesticide-producing establishments of the FIFRA requirement to submit a production report. These reminders are mailed at least two months in advance of the March 1 reporting deadline. The reminder notices are sent as a courtesy to registered establishments, as there is no statutory or regulatory requirement for EPA to do so. On or about December 14, 2007, EPA Headquarters mailed a notice to Respondent at the Facility reminding Respondent of the requirement to submit an annual pesticide production report to EPA by March 1, 2008, for the 2007 calendar year. Likewise, on or about December 15, 2008, and November 23, 2009, EPA Headquarters mailed notices to Respondent at the Facility reminding Respondent of the requirement to submit an annual pesticide production report

to EPA by March 1, 2009, for the 2008 calendar year and by March 1, 2010, for the 2009 calendar year, respectively.

16. Notwithstanding the March 1, 2008, March 1, 2009, and March 1, 2010 due dates; the reminder notices from EPA Headquarters; and issuance of the NOW, as described in Paragraphs 9 and 15, Respondent did not submit its pesticide production reports for calendar years 2007, 2008 and 2009.

17. Respondent's failure to submit the required information to EPA for calendar year 2007 on or before March 1, 2008, for calendar year 2008 on or before March 1, 2009, and for calendar year 2009 on or before March 1, 2010, each constitutes a separate violation of Section 7(c)(1) of FIFRA and 40 C.F.R. Part 167, Subpart E. Such failures are unlawful pursuant to Section 12(a)(2)(L) of FIFRA and are violations for which penalties may be assessed pursuant to Section 14(a) of FIFRA.

TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

18. In light of the above, and taking into account the factors enumerated in Section 14(a) of FIFRA, EPA's May 2010 "Enforcement Response Policy for FIFRA Section 7(c) Establishment Reporting Requirements" (the "Penalty Policy"), the Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule promulgated in accordance with the DCIA and other factors as justice may require, EPA has determined that it is fair and appropriate that Respondent pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$9,720 in settlement of the violations alleged herein.

19. Respondent shall pay the penalty of \$9,720 within sixty (60) days of receipt of this CAFO signed by the Regional Judicial Officer.

20. Respondent shall make payment by submitting a bank or certified check, to the order of the "Treasurer, United States of America" in the amount of \$9,720 to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979077
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

and shall provide copies of the check to:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 1 (Mail Code ORA 18-1)
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

and:

Kan Tham, FIFRA Enforcement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 1 (Mail Code OES 05-4)
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Respondent shall include the case name and docket number (*In re: Creative Chemicals, FIFRA-01-2011-0002*) on the face of the check.

21. If Respondent fails to pay the civil penalty, it will be subject to an action to compel payment, plus interest, enforcement expenses and a nonpayment penalty. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, EPA is entitled to assess interest and penalties on debts owed to the United States, as well as a charge to cover the cost of processing and handling a delinquent claim. Interest will therefore begin to accrue on the civil penalty (or any portion thereof) on the date it is due under this CAFO if such penalty (or portion thereof) is not paid in full by such due date. Interest will be assessed at the rate of the United States Treasury tax and loan rate in accordance with 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(b)(2). In addition, a penalty charge of six percent (6%) per year and an amount to cover the costs

of collection will be assessed on any portion of the debt which remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days after payment is due. Should assessment of the penalty charge on the debt be required, it will be assessed as of the first day payment is due, under 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d).


22. The civil penalty due and any interest, non-payment penalties or charges that arise pursuant to this CAFO shall represent penalties assessed by EPA and shall not be deductible for the purposes of Federal taxes. Accordingly, Respondent agrees to treat all payments made pursuant to this CAFO as penalties within the meaning of Internal Revenue Service regulations, including 26 C.F.R. § 1.162-21, and further agrees not to use these payments in any way as, or in furtherance of, a tax deduction under Federal, State or local law.

23. This CAFO constitutes a settlement by EPA of all claims for civil penalties pursuant to Section 14(a) of FIFRA, for the specific violations alleged in this CAFO. Except as otherwise provided herein, EPA reserves all civil and criminal enforcement authorities, and specifically reserves its authority to address imminent hazards. Compliance with this CAFO shall not be a defense to any action subsequently commenced pursuant to Federal laws and regulations administered by EPA, and it is the responsibility of Respondent to comply with said laws and regulations.

24. Each Party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees in the action resolved by this CAFO, and Respondent specifically waives its right to seek attorneys' fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 5 U.S.C. § 504.

25. The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and to execute and legally bind Respondent to it.

For Respondent:


(Signature)

PRESIDENT
(Title)

FEBRUARY 22, 2011
(Date)

DAVID L. PECKIN
(Print Name)
Creative Chemicals, Inc.
88 Winter Street
P. O. Box 2404
Holyoke, MA 01041-2404

For U.S. EPA - Region 1:



(Signature)

Joanna B. Jerison, Legal Enforcement Manager
Office of Environmental Stewardship
U.S. EPA - Region 1

4/18/11

(Date)



(Signature)

Kan Tham, FIFRA Enforcement Coordinator
Toxics and Pesticides Unit
Office of Environmental Stewardship
U.S. EPA - Region 1

3/25/2011

(Date)

Of Counsel:

Hugh W. Martinez, Senior Enforcement Counsel
Regulatory Legal Office
Office of Environmental Stewardship
U.S. EPA - Region 1

FINAL ORDER

The foregoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order. Respondent, Creative Chemicals, Inc., is hereby ordered to comply with the terms of the above Consent Agreement, effective on the date it is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

April 19, 2011
(Date)

Jill T. Metcalf
Jill T. Metcalf, Acting Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. EPA - Region 1

In re: Creative Chemicals, Inc.
FIFRA-01-2011-0002

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing CAFO and Cover Letter to the Regional Hearing Clerk have been provided to the following persons on the date noted below:

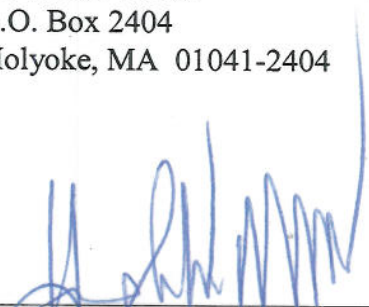
*Original and one copy,
hand-delivered:*

Wanda I. Santiago, Regional Hearing Clerk
EPA Region 1 - New England
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (ORA 18-1)
Boston, MA 02109-3912

*One copy by certified mail,
return receipt requested:*

David L. Peskin, President
Judd L. Peskin, Esquire
% Creative Chemicals, Inc.
88 Winter Street
P.O. Box 2404
Holyoke, MA 01041-2404

Dated: 4-26-11



Hugh W. Martinez, Senior Enforcement Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region 1 (New England)
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mail Code OES 04-3
Boston, MA 02109-3912
Phone (dir.): 617-918-1867
Fax: 617-918-0867
E-mail: martinez.hugh@epa.gov