

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1**

In the matter of)	Docket No. CWA-01-2021-0034
)	
EMHART TEKNOLOGIES LLC)	
)	
4 Shelter Rock Lane)	CONSENT AGREEMENT AND
Danbury, CT 06810)	FINAL ORDER FOR CLASS II
)	CIVIL PENALTY UNDER THE
Respondent.)	CLEAN WATER ACT
)	

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1 (“EPA”) issues, and Emhart Teknologies LLC (Respondent) consents to, this Consent Agreement and Final Order (“CAFO”). EPA alleges that Respondent violated Section 311(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act (“CWA”), 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(3). Specifically, EPA alleges that Respondent discharged oil into waters of the United States in violation of the CWA. The parties agree to resolve this action by the issuance of this CAFO pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) of EPA’s *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits*, at 40 C.F.R. part 22 (“*Consolidated Rules*”).

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

1. EPA takes this action under the authority of Sections 311(b)(6) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6).
2. Pursuant to Section 311(b)(6)(C)(i), 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(C)(i), EPA provided public notice of, and reasonable opportunity to comment on, this action.
3. Section 311(b)(3) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(3), prohibits the discharge of oil, as defined in Section 311(a)(1) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(1), into or upon the navigable waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines in such quantities as may be harmful, as

determined under Section 311(b)(4) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(4).

4. In promulgating 40 C.F.R. § 110.3, which implements Section 311(b)(4) of the Act, EPA has determined that an oil discharge “may be harmful” to the public health or welfare or the environment of the United States if it causes either: (1) a violation of applicable water quality standards; (2) a film or sheen upon, or discoloration of the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines; or (3) a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines (“harmful quantity”).

5. “Navigable waters” of the United States are defined in Section 502(7) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7), as “waters of the United States.”

6. Section 311(b)(6)(A)(i) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(A)(i), provides for the assessment of penalties for owners, operators or persons in charge of onshore facilities from which oil or a hazardous substance is discharged in violation of Section 311(b)(3) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(3).

7. Under Section 311(b)(6)(B)(ii) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(B)(ii), EPA may seek Class II administrative civil penalties for violations of Section 311(b)(6)(A)(ii) of the CWA, in an amount that may not exceed \$10,000 per day for each day during which the violation continues, up to a maximum amount not exceeding \$125,000. Pursuant to the *Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule*, 85 Fed. Reg. 1751 (January 13, 2020), those amounts have risen to \$19,505 per day for each violation, up to a maximum of \$243,808, for violations that occurred after November 2, 2015 and are assessed after January 23, 2020.

Findings of Fact

8. Respondent is a corporation organized under the laws of Connecticut with its facility located at 4 Shelter Rock Lane, Danbury, Connecticut and, therefore, is a “person” within

the meaning of Section 311(a)(7) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(7).

9. Respondent is the “owner or operator,” within the meaning of Section 311(a)(6) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(6), of a precision screw-thread wire and screw-lock insert manufacturing facility which is an “onshore facility” within the meaning of Section 311(a)(10) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(10) and 40 C.F.R. § 112.2.

10. Some time between the afternoon of September 26, 2020 and the early morning of September 28, 2020, a hose at the facility ruptured resulting in the overflow of an above-ground storage tank (“AST”) used to contain used coolant and other wastewaters.

11. According to facility records, the AST contained approximately 1,800 gallons of dilute coolant (90% water, 10% coolant) as of September 25, 2020.

12. The used coolant contained petroleum hydrocarbons and heavy metals, primarily lead and copper.

13. Respondent estimates that approximately 63 gallons of concentrated coolant or 630 gallons of dilute used coolant was released into a catchbasin and flowed through a stormwater collection system into the Sympaug Brook and the connecting Still River.

14. The release of dilute coolant from the AST constitutes a “discharge” as defined by Section 311(a)(2) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(2) of “oil,” as defined in Section 311(a)(1) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)(1).

15. The dilute coolant created a discoloration of the surface of Sympaug Brook, and thus was a discharge of oil as “may be harmful” pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 110.3.

16. Sympaug Brook and the Still River are “navigable waters” of the United States and are subject to the jurisdiction of Section 311 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321, as defined in Section 502(7) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7) and 40 C.F.R. § 110.1.

Conclusion of Law

17. Respondent's discharge of oil into navigable water of the U.S. in a quantity that has been determined may be harmful under 40 C.F.R § 110.3 is a violation of Section 311(b)(3) of the CWA.

Consent Agreement

18. EPA and Respondent agree that settlement of this cause of action is in the public interest and that entry of this CAFO without further litigation is the most appropriate means of resolving this matter. Therefore, before taking any testimony, upon the pleadings, without adjudication of any issue of fact or law, and upon consent and agreement of the parties, it is hereby ordered and adjudged as follows:

19. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth in this CAFO and waives any defenses it might have as to jurisdiction and venue.

20. Respondent neither admits nor denies the factual or non-jurisdictional allegations contained herein.

Waiver of Rights

21. Respondent waives the right to a hearing under Section 311(b)(6)(B)(ii) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(B)(ii), and to any appeal of the Final Order in this matter under Sections 311(b)(6)(G)(ii) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(G)(ii). Respondent consents to the issuance of a Final Order without further adjudication.

Penalty

22. EPA proposes, and Respondent consents to, the assessment of a civil penalty of \$29,658 for the violations alleged in this CAFO.

23. In agreeing to the penalty described in the previous paragraph, EPA has taken into

account the statutory penalty factors at Section 311(b)(8) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(8).

24. Respondent shall pay the penalty of \$29,658 for violations of Section 311 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321, within 10 days of the date this Consent Agreement becomes final.

25. Respondent shall make the payment by cashier's or certified check, or by wire transfer. Respondent shall include the case name and docket number (*In the Matter of Emhart Technologies LLC*; Docket No. CWA-01-2021-0034) on the face of the check or wire transfer confirmation. A check should be payable to "Treasurer, United States of America" and shall be remitted as follows:

If remitted by regular U.S. mail:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency / Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979077
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

If remitted by any overnight commercial carrier:
U.S. Bank
1005 Convention Plaza
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

If remitted by wire transfer: Any wire transfer must be sent directly to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City using the following information:
Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA = 021030004
Account = 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 addition, at the time of payment, Respondent should also forward notice of payment of the civil penalty as well as copies of the payment check or payment receipt either via email or in hard copy to:

Wanda Santiago, Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mail Code: 04-6
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3912
R1_Hearing_Clerk_Filings@epa.gov

and

Jeff Kopf, Senior Enforcement Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mail Code: 04-4
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3912
Kopf.jeff@epa.gov

26. Pursuant to Section 311(b)(6)(H) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(H), a failure by Respondent to pay the penalty assessed by this CAFO in full by its due date shall subject Respondent to a civil action to collect the assessed penalty, plus interest at the prevailing rates, from the date this Agreement becomes final. The rate of interest assessed shall be at the rate set forth in 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(b), promulgated under 31 U.S.C. § 3717. Any person who fails to pay on a timely basis the amount of an assessed penalty shall be required to pay, in addition to such amount and interest, attorney's fees, costs for collection proceedings, and a quarterly nonpenalty payment for each quarter during which such failure to pay persists. Such nonpayment penalty shall be in an amount equal to twenty percent of the aggregate amount of such person's penalties and nonpayment penalties that are unpaid as of the beginning of such quarter. In any such collection action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of the penalty shall not be subject to review.

General Provisions

27. The provisions of this CAFO shall apply to and be binding on Respondent, its officers, directors, successors, and assigns.

28. The civil penalty provided under this CAFO, and any interest, nonpayment penalties, and charges described in this CAFO, shall represent penalties assessed by EPA within the meaning of 26 U.S.C. § 162(f) and are not tax deductible for purposes of federal, state, or local law. Accordingly, Respondent agrees to treat all payments made pursuant to this CAFO as penalties within the meaning of 26 C.F.R. § 1.162-21, and further agree not to use those payments in any way as, or in furtherance of, a tax deduction under federal, state, or local law.

29. This CAFO does not constitute a waiver, suspension, or modification of the requirements of the CWA or any regulations or permits promulgated thereunder. Payment of the penalty pursuant to this CAFO resolves only Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts alleged in this CAFO.

30. This CAFO in no way relieves Respondent or its employees of any criminal liability, and EPA reserves all its other criminal and civil enforcement authorities, including the authority to seek injunctive relief and the authority to undertake any action against Respondent in response to conditions which may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, welfare, or the environment.

31. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as prohibiting, altering, or in any way limiting the ability of EPA to seek any other remedies or sanctions available by virtue of Respondent's violation of this CAFO or of the statutes and regulations upon which the Complaint and this CAFO is based, or for Respondent's violation of any applicable provision of law.

32. Except as described in paragraph 26 above, the parties shall bear their own costs and fees in this action, including attorney's fees, and specifically waive any right to recover such costs from the other party pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 5 U.S.C § 504, or other

applicable laws.

33. Respondent's obligations under the CAFO shall end when it has paid in full the scheduled civil penalty, and any interest and nonpayment penalties, required by this CAFO.

34. The terms, conditions, and requirements of this CAFO may not be modified or amended except upon the written agreement of all parties, and approval of a Regional Administrator or his or her properly authorized delegate.

35. Respondent agrees to acceptance of EPA's: i. digital or an original signature on this CAFO; ii. service of the fully executed CAFO on the Respondent by mail or electronically by e-mail. EPA agrees to acceptance of the Respondent's digital or an original signature on this CAFO.

36. Respondent understands that the mailing or e-mail address may be made public when the CAFO and Certificate of Service are filed and uploaded to a searchable database.

37. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this Consent Agreement certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and to execute and legally bind that party to it.

FOR RESPONDENT EMHART TEKNOLOGIES LLC

Jeff Brower
Jeff Brower / Director of Operations
Name, Title (printed)

Date: 4-15-2021

FOR U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:

James Chow, Deputy Director, for Karen McGuire, Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1

Date: _____

FINAL ORDER

1. EPA has provided public a thirty-day opportunity for public notice and comment on this proposed CAFO, pursuant to Section 311(b)(6)(C)(i) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(C)(i), and 40 C.F.R. § 22.45(b).
2. The foregoing Consent Agreement is hereby ratified and incorporated by reference into this Final Order.
3. Respondent is hereby ordered to comply with the terms of the above Consent Agreement, which will become final 30 days from the date it is signed by the Regional Judicial Officer unless a petition to set aside the Final Order is filed by a commenter pursuant to Section 311(b)(6)(C)(iii) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(C)(iii), and 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

Date: _____

LeAnn Jensen
Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1