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# BEFORE THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

	Respondent.	)	
		)	κ.
Anchorage, Alaska		)	FILE A PROPOSED PENALTY
	•	)	MOTION FOR ADDITIONAL TIME TO
Anthony Lerma,		)	COMPLAINANT'S UNOPPOSED
		)	
In the Matter of:		)	DOCKET NO. CWA 10-2008-0009
		)	

### I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

Pursuant to Section 22.7(b) and 22.16 of the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits" ("Part 22 Rules"), the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 ("Complainant" or "EPA"), hereby moves for additional time (until August 1, 2008) to file a proposed penalty in the above-captioned matter.

### II. BACKGROUND

Under the Presiding Officer's March 14, 2008, Prehearing Order and Section 22.19(a)(4) of the Part 22 Rules, Complainant is required to file a document specifying a proposed penalty and explaining in detail how the proposed penalty was determined, including a description of how the specific provisions of any EPA penalty or enforcement policies and/or guidelines were

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applied in calculating the penalty. The Prehearing Order and Part 22 Rules require that Complainant file this proposed penalty and explanation within 15 days after Respondent files his prehearing information exchange. In addition, the Prehearing Order establishes that the prehearing exchange in this matter be filed *in seriatim* manner according to the following schedule:

- June 17, 2008, Complainant files its Initial Prehearing Exchange;
- July 17, 2008, Respondent files his Prehearing Exchange, including any direct and/or rebuttal evidence; and
- July 31, 2008, Complainant files its Rebuttal Prehearing Exchange (if necessary).

Respondent filed his Prehearing Exchange on June 16, 2008. Complainant filed its Initial Prehearing Exchange on June 17, 2008.

Section 22.19(f) of the Part 22 Rules permit Complainant and Respondent to supplement prior exchanges filed in accordance with Section 22.19(a).

Complainant's case development officer, Chae John Park, is out of the country and unavailable until July 11, 2008.

On June 18, 2008, the undersigned counsel for Complainant contacted counsel for Respondent and counsel for Respondent consented to the relief herein requested.

#### III. ARGUMENT

The standard under which this Court may consider a motion for an extension of time is set out under Section 22.7(b) of the Part 22 Rules. Section 22.7(b) states that a Presiding Officer may "grant an extension of time for filing any document: upon timely motion of a party to the proceeding, for good cause shown, and after consideration of prejudice to other parties[.]"

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The Court's Prehearing Order and the Part 22 Rules provide both parties in this matter the opportunity to appreciate fully the scope and nature of the evidence expected to be presented at trial, including a proposed penalty. In addition, the Court's requirement to file prehearing information in seriatim manner ensures an efficient and orderly opportunity for both parties to review each other's prehearing information and provide rebuttal information. Based on these considerations, Complainant chose not to propose a penalty in this matter until it had a full opportunity to consider all relevant information bearing on the question of what constitutes an appropriate and justifiable penalty.

On the afternoon before Complainant filed its Initial Prehearing Exchange, Respondent filed and delivered a copy of his Prehearing Exchange to Complainant. Respondent's pleading did not explicitly assert an "inability to pay"; however, several documents attached to the pleading suggest that Respondent expects to assert as much at hearing. In addition, Respondent's pleading and accompanying information exchange did not contain any rebuttal evidence since Respondent filed before Complainant. As a result, it is difficult for Complainant to propose a penalty at this time because it has not considered all the evidence that may be introduced at hearing in this case.

While Complainant does have Respondent's direct evidence to consider when proposing a penalty, it does not possess an understanding of what evidence, if any, Respondent expects to present in rebuttal to either liability or penalty. Since the Court's Prehearing Order sets July 17, 2008, as the last day for Respondent to submit "direct and/or rebuttal evidence," Respondent may submit rebuttal evidence after considering Complainant's Initial Prehearing Information Exchange and proposed penalty. Consequently, Complainant cannot make a fully informed and

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accurate proposal regarding penalties at this time. This situation is further compounded by the fact that Complainant's case development officer, Mr. Park, is unavailable to evaluate the information contained in Respondent's submission until July 11, 2008.

If required to submit a proposed penalty within 15 days of Respondent's initial information exchange filing, then Complainant may seek to supplement its proposed penalty in accordance with Section 22.19(f) of the Part 22 Rules, if Respondent does submit rebuttal or additional direct evidence relevant to the issue of penalties. However, that process may be inefficient and unnecessarily time consuming. Therefore, Complainant moves this Court to modify the filing date for a proposed penalty. Specifically, Complainant respectfully requests this Court to grant leave to Complainant to file its proposed penalty on August 1, 2008 (15 days after July 17, 2008).

The August 1, 2008, date would provide Respondent an opportunity to supplement his prehearing information exchange in light of Complainant's exchange materials. In addition, the August 1, 2008, date would provide Complainant the opportunity to consider fully all relevant information before proposing a penalty. There is no prejudice to Respondent in granting such an extension, nor would an extension result in undo delay in these proceedings because August 1, 2008, is the day a proposed penalty would be due if Respondent had filed his prehearing exchange information in accordance with the Court's Order.

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## IV. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, Complainant respectfully requests the Presiding Office grant the relief requested.

Submitted this 18th day of June, 2008.

Ankur K. Tohan

Assistant Regional Counsel

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# BEFORE THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

	Respondent.	)	
Anchorage, Alaska		)	«
Anthony Lerma,		)	[PROPOSED] ORDER
In the Matter of:		)	DOCKET NO. CWA 10-2008-000

Having considered the United States Environmental Protection Agency's "Motion For Additional Time To File A Proposed Penalty," and finding good cause and no prejudice to the non-moving party, therefore, and with the consent of Respondent to the motion, it is ORDERED that leave to file a proposed penalty on the First day of August, 2008, is GRANTED.

Hon. Barbara A. Gunning
Administrative Law Judge

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing "Complainant's Unopposed Motion for Additional Time to

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3 File a Proposed Penalty" was filed and sent to the following person, in the manner specified, on

the date below:

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A true and correct copy faxed and delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested: David Shoup

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

Carol Kennedy, Regional Hearing Clerk

1200 Sixth Avenue, Mail Stop ORC-158

Tindall Bennett & Shoup PC 508 W 2nd Ave, 3rd Floor Anchorage, AK 99501 (Fax) 907.278.8536

Original and one copy, hand-delivered:

Seattle, WA 98101

Judge Barbara A. Gunning Office of Administrative Law Judges U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Mail Code 1900L 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20460-2001 (Fax) 202.565.0044

Dated:

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