

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 HAWTHORNE STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

FILED

2015 FEB 27 PM 2:45

US EPA - REGION IX
HEARING CLERK

In the matter of:) Docket No. TSCA-09-2015- 0003
) **CONSENT AGREEMENT**
Central California Conference) and
of Seventh-day Adventists) **FINAL ORDER PURSUANT TO**
(Valley View Junior Academy)) **SECTIONS 22.13 AND 22.18**
Respondent.)
_____)

I. CONSENT AGREEMENT

Complainant, the Manager of the Air & TRI Section, Enforcement Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, (“EPA”) and Respondent Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (hereafter “Respondent”) seek to settle this case and consent to the entry of this Consent Agreement and Final Order (“CAFO”).

A. APPLICABLE STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

1. This administrative proceeding is initiated pursuant to Section 207 of the Toxic Substances Control Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2601, et seq. (hereinafter referred to as “TSCA” or the “Act”), and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

2. This proceeding involves the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (“AHERA”), also known as Title II of TSCA, and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Section 203(b) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2643(b), required the Administrator of EPA (“Administrator”) to, among other things, promulgate regulations prescribing procedures for determining whether asbestos-containing material is present in a school building under the authority of a local educational agency (“LEA”). Section 203(g) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2643(g), required the Administrator to promulgate regulations to, among other things, require periodic re-inspection of friable and non-

friable asbestos. Section 203(i) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2643(i), required the Administrator to, among other things, promulgate regulations requiring each LEA to develop and implement an asbestos management plan (“AMP”) for school buildings under its authority. These regulations are codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 763, Subpart E (the “**Subpart E regulations**”).

3. Section 763.85(a)(1) of the Subpart E regulations requires school buildings to be inspected by October 12, 1988. Section 763.85(a)(2) of the Subpart E regulations states that any building leased or acquired on or after October 12, 1988, that is to be used as a school building shall be inspected as described under paragraphs (a)(3) and (4) of Section 763.85 prior to use as a school building and that, in the event that emergency use of an uninspected building as a school building is necessary, such buildings shall be inspected within 30 days after commencement of such use. Section 763.85(b) of the Subpart E regulations states that at least once every 3 years after an AMP is in effect, each LEA shall conduct a re-inspection of all friable and nonfriable known or assumed asbestos-containing building material (“**ACBM**”), in each school building that they lease, own, or otherwise use as a school building. Section 763.93(a)(2) of the Subpart E regulations provides that, if a building to be used as part of a school is leased or otherwise acquired after October 12, 1988, the LEA shall include the new building in the management plan for the school prior to its use as a school building.

4. Sections 207(a)(1) and (3) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2647(a) (1) and (3), provide that any LEA that fails to conduct an inspection or fails to develop an AMP pursuant to regulations under Section 203(i) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2643(i), is liable for a civil penalty. Section 207(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(a), the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996), and the subsequent Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule, 40 C.F.R. Part 19, authorize a civil penalty, for each day that a violation continues, of not more than \$7,500 for violations after January 12, 2009.

5. Section 207(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(a), further provides that any civil penalty shall be assessed and collected in the same manner, and subject to the same provisions, as in the case of civil penalties assessed and collected under Section 16 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615. Section 16(a)(2)(B) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a)(2)(B), requires EPA to take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation(s), and, with respect to the violator, ability to pay, effect on ability to continue to do business, any history of prior such violations, the degree of culpability, and such other matters as justice may require. Section 207(a) states that any civil penalty collected shall be used by the LEA to comply with TSCA Title II, with any portion remaining unspent to be deposited into the Asbestos Trust Fund established pursuant to Section 5 of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986, codified at 20 U.S.C. § 4022. In addition, Section 207(c) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(c), requires EPA to consider the significance of the violation, the culpability of the violator, including any history of previous TSCA violations, the ability of the violator to pay the penalty, and the ability of the violator to continue to provide educational services to the community.

B. AUTHORITY AND PARTIES

6. Respondent owns and operates Valley View Junior Academy, a nonpublic, nonprofit K-10 school located at 230 Vernon Road, Arroyo Grande, California.

7. The authority to take action under Section 207 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647, is vested in the Administrator of EPA. By EPA Delegation Order Number 12-2-A, dated May 11, 1994, the Administrator delegated to the Regional Administrator of EPA Region IX the authority to commence administrative proceedings under TSCA and to sign consent agreements memorializing settlements in such proceedings. By EPA Regional Order R9-12-2-A, dated February 11, 2013, the Regional Administrator of EPA Region IX redelegated this authority to the Manager of the Air & TRI Section of the Enforcement Division. The Manager of the Air &

TRI Section of the Enforcement Division has the authority to commence and settle an enforcement action in this matter.

C. COMPLAINANT'S ALLEGATIONS

8. Respondent has owned and operated Valley View Junior Academy at 230-240 Vernon Road, Arroyo Grande, California since on or before February, 1989. At Valley View Junior Academy, Respondent owns, leases, or otherwise uses, at the minimum, one (1) "school building," as defined in Section 202(13) of TSCA Title II, 15 U.S.C. § 2642(13), and in 40 C.F.R. § 763.83. Respondent is a LEA, as defined in Section 202(7) of TSCA Title II, 15 U.S.C. § 2642(7), and in 40 C.F.R. § 763.83.

9. Investigation:

(A) EPA received a letter from the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District ("SLOCAPCD") dated July 19, 2013 and addressed to the Principle of Valley View Junior Academy stating that based upon SLOCAPCD contact with school staff and a contractor doing demolition work at the school, it appears that Valley View Junior Academy was not in compliance with AHERA and the Subpart E regulations.

(B) In a letter to Respondent dated August 1, 2013, the EPA Region IX Toxics Office requested a copy of the AMP for Valley View Junior Academy. On August 26, 2013, Respondent admitted that ACBM at Valley View Junior Academy had not been re-inspected. Respondent sent EPA an AMP dated February 10, 1989 documenting the following known or assumed ACBM: 1200 square feet of acoustical ceiling; 590 square feet of vinyl tile; 1700 square feet of floor tile; and 50 linear feet of ducting.

(C) Prior to August, 2014, Respondent had **not** conducted required re-inspections of identified known or assumed ACBM in school buildings at Valley View Junior Academy.

(D) After being contacted by EPA, Respondent hired a consultant to review the

AHERA compliance status at each of its schools, including conducting an inspection and preparing a new AMP for Valley View Junior Academy.

10. Respondent violated Section 207(a)(1) of TSCA Title II, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(a)(1), by failing to conduct required periodic re-inspection of friable and non-friable asbestos at the school buildings referenced in Paragraph 8.

D. RESPONDENT'S ADMISSIONS

11. To avoid the disruption of orderly educational activities and the expense of protracted and costly litigation, Respondent, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2), and for the purpose of this proceeding, (i) admits that EPA has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this CAFO and over Respondent; (ii) neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations contained in Section I.C. of this CAFO; (iii) consents to any and all conditions specified in this CAFO; (iv) agrees to pay, and consents to the assessment of, the civil administrative penalty under Section I.G of this CAFO; (v) waives any right to contest the allegations contained in Section I.C. of this CAFO, including but not limited to its right under Section 16(a)(2)(A) of TSCA to request a hearing; and (vi) waives the right to appeal the proposed final order contained in this CAFO.

E. COMPLIANCE WITH AHERA

12. AHERA and the AHERA Subpart E regulations specify the steps which must be taken to inspect each school building to determine whether that building contains ACBM or is assumed to contain asbestos-containing material ("ACM"), and what must be done to prepare and maintain an AMP. Compliance with AHERA and the AHERA subpart E regulations includes:

(A) Identification and training for Designated Persons identified by the Respondent, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 763.84(g)(1), and all maintenance and custodial staff

who may work in a building that contains ACBM or assumed to contain ACM.

(B) Maintenance of a complete copy of the AMP for each school in Respondent's administrative office and in each school administrative office, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 763.93(g)(2) and (3). The AMP shall be available to representatives of EPA and the State, the public, including teachers, other school personnel, and their representatives, and parents without cost or restriction.

(C) Notifications: (1) Written notification to parent, teacher and employee organizations of the availability of the AMP and a description of the steps used to make such notification, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 763.93(g)(4), and subsequent notification to these organizations at least once each school year. (2) Notification to workers and building occupants, or their legal guardians about inspections, re-inspections, response actions, and post-response activities, including periodic re-inspection and surveillance activities that are planned or in progress.

(D) Implementation of the management plan. Whenever any friable ACBM is present or assumed to be present in a building that Respondent leases, owns or otherwise uses as a school building, implementation includes: development and implementation of an operations and maintenance program; any required initial cleaning as specified by 40 C.F.R. § 763.91(c)(1); clean-up and repair of items identified as suspected ACBM conducted in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 763.90; and a commitment to perform a re-inspection of all friable and nonfriable known or assumed ACBM in each school building that Respondent leases, owns or otherwise uses as a school building, at least once every three years.

(E) Maintenance of the following records: (1) records of accreditation for the person(s) who inspect, assess, and develop AMP's; (2) record of each person required to be trained under 40 C.F.R. § 763.92(a)(1) and (2), with the person's name and job title, the date that

training was completed, the location of the training, and the number of hours completed in such training; (3) record of periodic surveillance performed, with the name of each person performing the surveillance, the date of the surveillance, and any changes in the conditions of the materials; (4) record of each person performing initial cleaning pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 763.91(c), the date of such cleaning, the locations cleaned, and the methods used to perform such cleaning; and (5) for each time that operations and maintenance activities are performed, a record of each person performing the activity, the start and completion dates of the activity, the location(s) where such activity occurs, a description of the activity, including preventative measures used, and if ACBM is removed, the name and location of storage or disposal site of the ACBM.

F. RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

13. In executing this CAFO, Respondent certifies the following:

(A) Respondent certifies that it has complied with AHERA and the AHERA Subpart E regulations at the school buildings at Valley View Junior Academy, and all other facilities under its control which are subject to AHERA requirements.

(B) Respondent also certifies that all accounting of the costs incurred by Respondent in complying with AHERA and the AHERA Subpart E regulations provided to EPA are true and accurate.

(C) Respondent's AMP for Valley View Junior Academy documents that the school buildings contain approximately 41,127 square feet and 1,434 linear feet of known or assumed ACBM.

(D) Respondent also certifies that to increase transparency regarding its AHERA compliance status, and to provide what Respondent deems the most relevant and understandable information to its school communities, Respondent has posted on its website: the original

management plan, most current 3 Year Re-inspection, and a place to post the most current 6 Month Surveillance for each of its schools, as well as instructions for how to access the full AMP documents at the school or Respondent's administrative office. Additionally, in its 2014 annual notifications to its school communities, Respondent provided instructions for finding this information on its website, and explained that, in addition to the full AMP's available to the public at each school and Respondent's administrative offices, Respondent had posted on its website the original management plan, most current 3 Year Re-inspection and most current 6 Month Surveillance for each of its schools.

G. CIVIL ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY

14. Respondent consents to the assessment of a penalty in the amount of **SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$7,500)**, as specified in this Paragraph as final settlement and complete satisfaction of the civil claims against Respondent arising from the facts alleged in Section I.C. of the CAFO and under the Act, as alleged in Section I.C. of the CAFO. **As the Respondent's EPA-approved costs of compliance with AHERA and the Subpart E regulations exceeds the civil penalty amount, the costs of compliance already expended by Respondent shall represent full payment of penalty.**

15. Issuance of this CAFO does not constitute a waiver by EPA of its right to enforce the terms of this CAFO or to seek other civil or criminal relief for violations, if any, of any provision of federal law not specifically settled by this Consent Agreement. Nothing in this CAFO shall relieve Respondent of its duty to comply with all applicable provisions of the Act, rules promulgated thereunder, and other Federal, state or local laws or statutes.

16. The provisions of this CAFO shall be binding on Respondent and on Respondent's officers, directors, employees, agents, servants, authorized representatives, successors, and assigns.

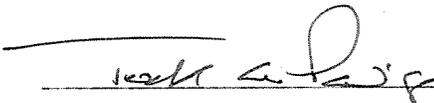
17. Each party shall bear its own costs, fees, and disbursements in this action.

18. This Consent Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Respondent and EPA. This Consent Agreement and Final Order is for the purpose of fully and finally settling the civil claims against Respondent arising from the facts alleged in section I.C. of this CAFO. Full payment of the civil penalty as set forth in this Consent Agreement and the Final Order shall constitute full settlement and satisfaction of civil penalty liability against Respondent for the violations alleged in Section I.C. of this CAFO.

19. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18(b)(3) and 22.31(b), the effective date of this CAFO shall be the date on which the accompanying Final Order, having been signed by the Regional Judicial Officer, is filed.

20. The undersigned representatives of each party to this Consent Agreement certify that each is duly authorized by the party whom he or she represents to enter into the terms and bind that party to it.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS:

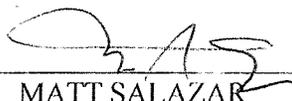
Date: 1-27-2015 By: 

Name: Todd A. Paige

Title: Asst. Exec. Secretary

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:

Date: 2.4.15 By:

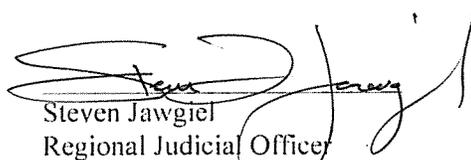


MATT SALAZAR
Manager, Air & TRI Section
Enforcement Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

II. FINAL ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Consent Agreement and Final Order be entered and that Respondent shall comply with the terms set forth in the Consent Agreement.

Date: 02/26/15


Steven Jawgiel
Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. EPA. Region IX

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the original of the fully executed Consent Agreement and Final Order, Docket No. TSCA-09-2015-00 03) was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S.EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 91405, and that a true and correct copy of the same was sent to the following parties:

A copy was mailed via CERTIFIED MAIL to:

Ramiro A. Cano, Sr.
President
Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
PO Box 770
Clovis CA 93613-0770

An additional copy was hand-delivered to the following U.S. EPA case attorney:

Margaret Alkon
Office of Regional Counsel
USEPA, Region IV
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Signature



Date:

Feb. 27, 2015

Regional Hearing Clerk

U.S. EPA, Region IX