



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

NOV 20 2007

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. Gregory W. Blount  
Troutman Sanders LLP  
600 Peachtree Street, N.E.  
Suite 5200  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

RE: Equity Group – Georgia Division LLC  
Consent Agreement and Final Order

Dear Mr. Blount:

Enclosed please find an executed copy of the Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) that resolves the EPCRA matter (Docket No. EPCRA-04-2008-2008(b)) involving Equity Group-Georgia Division LLC. The CAFO was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, as required by 40 CFR Part 22 and became effective on date of filing.

Penalty payments of \$15,716.00 (Superfund) and \$5,239.00, respectively, have been received and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Enforcement Section considers this matter closed.

Also enclosed, please find a copy of the "Notice of Securities and Exchange Commission Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings." This document puts you on notice of your potential duty to disclose to the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) any environmental enforcement actions taken by the EPA. If you have any questions with regards to the SEC's environmental disclosure requirements, you may refer to the contact phone number at the bottom of the SEC Notice.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Lawrence Fincher at (404) 562-9190.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caron B. Falconer".

Caron B. Falconer  
Chief, EPCRA Enforcement Section

Enclosures

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4

2007 NOV 20 AM 10:04

HEARING CLERK

RECEIVED  
EPA REGION 4

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
)  
Equity Group-Georgia Division LLC )  
)  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Docket Number: EPCRA-04-2008-2008(b)

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

I. Nature of the Action

1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9609 and by Section 325 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 11045 and pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), codified at 40 CFR Part 22. Complainant is the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Region 4, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Respondent is Equity Group-Georgia Division LLC.

2. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 CFR § 22.18 and desire to resolve this matter and settle the allegations described herein without a formal hearing. Therefore, without the taking of any evidence or testimony, the making of any argument, or the adjudication of any issue in this matter, and in accordance with 40 CFR § 22.13(b), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

II. Preliminary Statements

3. The authority to take action under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609 and Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045, is vested in the Administrator of EPA. The Administrator of EPA has delegated this authority under CERCLA and under EPCRA to the Regional Administrators by EPA Delegations 14-31 and 22-3-A, both dated May 11, 1994. The Regional Administrator, Region 4, has redelegate to the Director, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, the authority under CERCLA by EPA Region 4 Delegation 14-31 dated March 8, 1999, and updated August 6, 2004, and the authority under EPCRA by EPA Region 4 Delegation 22-3-A, dated November 8, 1994. Pursuant to these delegations, the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division has the authority to commence an enforcement action as the Complainant in this matter.

4. Respondent is incorporated in the State of Delaware and is doing business in the State of Georgia.

5. Respondent is a "person" as defined in Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7) and Section 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(21).

6. Respondent has a "facility" as that term is defined by Section 101(9) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9) and by Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4).

7. Respondent's facility is located at 7220 Highway 19, Camilla, Georgia.

8. Respondent is an "owner or operator" of the facility as that term is defined by Section 101 (20)(A) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(20)(A).

9. Section 102(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9602(a), required the Administrator of EPA to publish a list of substances designated as hazardous substances which, when released into the environment, may present substantial danger to public health or welfare or the environment and to promulgate regulations establishing the quantity of any hazardous substance the release of which was required to be reported under Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a). EPA has published and amended such a list, including the corresponding reportable quantities (RQ) for those substances. This list was initially published on April 4, 1985 (50 Fed. Reg. 13474) and is periodically amended. The list is codified at 40 CFR Part 302.

10. Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), and the regulations found at 40 CFR Part 302.6, require a person in charge of a facility or vessel to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC), as soon as he or she has knowledge of a release of a hazardous substance from such facility or vessel in an amount equal to, or greater than the reportable quantity (RQ).

11. Respondent was in charge of the facility during the relevant period described below.

12. Anhydrous ammonia is a "hazardous substance" as that term is defined by Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), with an RQ of 100 pounds, as specified in 40 CFR § 302.4.

13. On May 17, 2007, Respondent had a release of anhydrous ammonia equal to or greater than the RQ at the facility.

14. EPA alleges that Respondent violated the notification requirements of Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), by failing to immediately notify the NRC as soon as Respondent had knowledge of the release of anhydrous ammonia in an amount equal to or greater than its RQ at Respondent's facility and is therefore subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609.

15. Pursuant to Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, and 40 CFR Part 19, EPA may assess a penalty not to exceed \$32,500 for each violation of Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), that occurred on or after March 15, 2004. Each day a violation of Section 103 continues constitutes a separate violation. Civil penalties under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, may be assessed by Administrative Order.

16. Section 304(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. §11004(a) and the regulations found at 40 CFR § 355.40, require the owner or operator of a facility at which hazardous chemicals are produced, used or stored, to immediately notify the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) when there has been a release of a CERCLA hazardous substance or extremely hazardous substance in an amount equal to or greater than the reportable quantity.

17. Respondent was the owner or operator of the facility during the relevant period, described below.

18. At all times relevant to this matter, the facility produced, used, or stored a "hazardous chemical" as defined under Section 311(e) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11021(e) and under 29 CFR § 1910.1200(c).

19. Anhydrous ammonia is an "extremely hazardous substance" as that term is defined by Section 329(3) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(3), with an RQ of 100 pounds, as specified in 40 CFR Part 355, Apps. A & B.

20. On May 17, 2007, Respondent had a release of anhydrous ammonia equal to or greater than the RQ at the facility.

21. Respondent violated the notification requirements of Section 304(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. §11004(a), by failing to immediately notify the SERC as soon as Respondent had knowledge of the release of anhydrous ammonia in an amount equal to or greater than the RQ at Respondent's facility, and is therefore subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. §11045.

22. Pursuant to Section 325(b) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(b), and 40 CFR Part 19, EPA may assess a penalty of not more than \$32,500 for each violation of Section 304(a) that occurred on or March 15, 2004. Civil penalties under Section 325(b) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(b), may be assessed by Administrative Order.

### III. Consent Agreement

23. For the purposes of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set out above but neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set out above.

24. Respondent waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement.

25. Respondent consents to the assessment of and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.

26. Respondent certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of EPCRA and CERCLA.

27. Compliance with the CAFO shall resolve the allegations of violations contained herein. This CAFO shall not otherwise affect any liability of Respondent to the United States other than as expressed herein. Neither EPA nor Complainant waives any right to bring an enforcement action against Respondent for violation of any federal or state statute, regulation or permit, to initiate an action for imminent and substantial endangerment, or to pursue criminal enforcement.

28. Complainant and Respondent agree to settle this matter by their execution of this CAFO. The parties agree that the settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that this CAFO is consistent with the applicable requirements of CERCLA and EPCRA.

#### IV. Final Order

29. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of FIFTEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTEEN DOLLARS (\$15,716) for the CERCLA violation which shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CAFO.

30. Respondent shall pay the CERCLA civil penalty by forwarding a cashier's or certified check, payable to "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund" to the following address:

By Mail:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Superfund Payments  
Cincinnati Finance Center  
P.O. Box 979076  
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

Overnight:

U.S. Bank  
Natalie Pearson (314) 418-4087  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

The check shall reference on its face the name and the Docket Number of the CAFO.

31. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY NINE DOLLARS (\$5,239) for the EPCRA violation which shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CAFO.

32. Respondent shall pay the penalty by forwarding a cashier's or certified check payable to "Treasurer, United States of America," to the following address:

By Mail:

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

Overnight:

U.S. Bank  
Natalie Pearson (314) 418-4087  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

The check shall reference on its face the name and the Docket Number of the CAFO.

33. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of each check, and a written statement that payment has been made in accordance with this CAFO, to the following persons at the following addresses:

Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Lawrence Fincher  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
Air, Pesticides & Toxics Management Division  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Saundi Wilson  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
Office of Environmental Accountability  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

34. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, EPA is entitled to assess interest and penalties on debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the cost of processing and handling a delinquent claim. Interest will therefore begin to accrue on the civil penalty from the date of entry of the CAFO if the penalty is not paid by the date required. Interest will be assessed at the rate established by the Secretary of Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717. A charge will be assessed to cover the costs of debt collection, including processing and handling costs and attorney fees. In addition, a penalty charge will be assessed on any portion of the debt that remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days after payment is due.

35. Complainant and Respondent shall bear their own costs and attorney fees in this matter.

36. This CAFO shall be binding upon the Respondent, its successors, and assigns.

37. The following individual represents EPA in this matter and is authorized to receive service for EPA in this proceeding:

Caron B. Falconer  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
Air, Pesticides & Toxics Management Division  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(404) 562-8451

38. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this CAFO certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into this CAFO and legally bind that party to it.

V. Effective Date

39. The effective date of this CAFO shall be the date on which the CAFO is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

Equity Group-Georgia Division LLC

By: Clay Banks (Signature) Date: 11/05/07  
Name: Clay Banks (Typed or Printed)  
Title: GENERAL MANAGER (Typed or Printed)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By: Carol H. Kamber for Date: 10/25/07  
Beverly H. Banister  
Director  
Air, Pesticides & Toxics  
Management Division  
Region 4

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2007.

Susan B. Schub  
Susan B. Schub  
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true and correct copy of the foregoing  
Consent Agreement and Final Order, In the Matter of : Equity Group-Georgia Division LLC,  
Docket No. EPCRA 04-2008-2008(b), on the parties listed below in the manner indicated:

Caron B. Falconer  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
Air, Pesticides & Toxics Management Division  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(Via EPA's internal mail)

Nancy Tommelleo  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
Office of Environmental Accountability  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(Via EPA's internal mail)

Mr. Gregory W. Blount  
Troutman Sanders LLP  
Bank of America Plaza  
600 Peachtree Street, N.E.  
Suite 5200  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216

(Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested)

Date: 11-20-07



Patricia A. Bullock, Regional Hearing Clerk  
United States Environmental  
Protection Agency, Region 4  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
(404) 562-9511

**EPA ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CONTROL NUMBER FORM**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ORIGINATING OFFICE:**

(Attach a copy of the final order and transmittal letter to Defendant/Respondent)

This form was originated by: Saundi J Wilson on 11/16/09  
(Name) (Date)

in the OEH at (404) 562-9503  
(Office) (Telephone Number)

Non-SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree  
USAO COLLECTS

Administrative Order/Consent Agreement  
FMO COLLECTS PAYMENT

SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree  
DOJ COLLECTS

Oversight Billing - Cost Package required:  
Sent with bill

Not sent with bill

Other Receivable

Oversight Billing - Cost Package not required

This is an original debt

This is a modification

PAYEE: Equity Group - Georgia Div. LLC  
(Name of person and/or Company/Municipality making the payment)

The Total Dollar Amount of the Receivable: \$ CERCLA - \$15,716 - EPCRA - \$ 5239 -  
(If installments, attach schedule of amounts and respective due dates. See Other side of this form.)

The Case Docket Number: EPCRA 04-2008-2008(6)

The Site Specific Superfund Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

The Designated Regional/Headquarters Program Office: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE:**

The IFMS Accounts Receivable Control Number is: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please call: \_\_\_\_\_ of the Financial Management Section at: \_\_\_\_\_

**DISTRIBUTION:**

A. **JUDICIAL ORDERS:** Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the **FINAL JUDICIAL ORDER** should be mailed to:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Debt Tracking Officer<br>Environmental Enforcement Section<br>Department of Justice RM 1647<br>P.O. Box 7611, Benjamin Franklin Station<br>Washington, D.C. 20044 | 2. Originating Office (EAD)<br>3. Designated Program Office |
|--|---|

B. **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS:** Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the Administrative Order should be to:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Originating Office<br>2. Regional Hearing Clerk | 3. Designated Program Office<br>4. Regional Counsel (EAD) |
|--|---|