



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAY 02 2008

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

L-8J

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Brian Biewer
John A. Biewer Company
300 Oak Street
St. Clair, Michigan 48079

Re: Administrative Complaint and Compliance Order
John A. Biewer Company of Ohio, Incorporated
EPA ID No.: OHD 081 281 412

RCRA-05-2008-0007 [Signature]

Dear Mr. Biewer:

Enclosed please find an Administrative Complaint and Compliance Order (Complaint), which specifies the United States Environmental Protection Agency's determination of violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 6901 *et seq.*, by John A. Biewer Company of Ohio, Incorporated. EPA based its determination on the November 2, 2004, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency inspection of the facility located at 649 Landmark Boulevard, Washington Courthouse, Ohio, and information in EPA files. The general allegations in the Complaint state the reasons for EPA's determination.

Accompanying this Complaint is a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. Should you desire to contest the Complaint, you must file a written request for a hearing with the Regional Hearing Clerk within thirty (30) days after service of this Complaint. You must file the request for hearing with the Regional Hearing Clerk (E-13J), United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604. You must also send a copy of your request to Richard R. Wagner, Office of Regional Counsel (C-14J), at the above address.

Regardless of whether you choose to request a hearing within the prescribed time limit following the filing of this Complaint, EPA extends to you the opportunity to request an informal settlement conference. The settlement conference discussions may include the mitigation of the proposed penalty in accordance with EPA guidance on pollution prevention and supplemental environmental projects. A request for an informal settlement conference with EPA will not affect or extend the thirty (30) day deadline to file an Answer in order to avoid a Finding of Default on the Complaint.

If you have any questions or want to request an informal settlement conference with Land and Chemicals Division staff, please contact Michael Cunningham, United States Environmental Protection Agency, RCRA Branch (LR-8J), 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604. He may also be reached at (312) 886-4464.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margaret M. Guerriero for".

Margaret M. Guerriero
Director
Land and Chemicals Division

Enclosure

cc: Harry Sarvis, OEPA, CO (w/enclosure)
Andy Kubalak, OEPA, CDO (w/enclosure)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

IN THE MATTER OF:)

John A Biewer Company of Ohio, Inc.)
300 Oak Street)
St. Clair, Michigan 48079-0497)
(Washington Courthouse Facility))

U.S. EPA ID #: OHD 081 281 412)

RESPONDENT)
_____)

DOCKET NO. RCRA-05-2008-0007

RECEIVED
REGIONAL HEARING CLERK
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
V

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(Handwritten signature)

COMPLAINT AND COMPLIANCE ORDER

COMPLAINT

Preliminary Statement

1. This is a civil administrative action brought by the United States Environmental Protection Agency Administrator under Section 3008(a) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended, also known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended (RCRA), 42 U.S.C. §6928(a), and pursuant to Sections 22.01(a)(4), 22.13 and 22.37 of the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance or Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits" (the Administrator's Rules"), 64 Fed. Reg. 40137 (July 23, 1999), codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22 (July 1, 2000).

2. By lawful delegation, Complainant, the Director, Land and Chemicals Division, Region 5, U.S. EPA, is authorized to issue this Complaint.

3. Pursuant to Sections 3001 - 3005 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §6921-6925, the Administrator has promulgated regulations governing generators and transporters of hazardous waste, and governing facilities that treat, store and dispose of hazardous waste. At all times relevant to this Complaint, those regulations were codified at 40 C.F.R. Parts 260 through 279.

4. Pursuant to Section 3006(b) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §6926(b), the Administrator granted the State of Ohio final authorization to administer a state hazardous waste program in lieu of the federal government's RCRA program effective, June 30, 1989. 54 Fed. Reg. 27170 (June 28, 1989). The U.S. EPA granted Ohio final authorization to administer certain Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, and additional RCRA requirements, effective June 7, 1991, 56 Fed. Reg. 14203 (April 8, 1991) (corrected effective August 19, 1991, 56 Fed. Reg. 28088 (June 19, 1991); September 25, 1995, 60 Fed. Reg. 38502 (July 27, 1995); and December 23, 1996, 61 Fed. Reg. 54950 (October 23, 1996). The U.S. EPA authorized Ohio regulations are codified at Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapters 3745-49 through 69. See also 40 C.F.R. §272.1800 *et seq.*

5. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Section 3006(d) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §6926(d), provided that any action taken by a State under a hazardous waste program authorized under this section shall have the same force and effect as action taken by the Administrator under Subchapter III of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§6921-6939(e).

6. Pursuant to Section 3008(a)(3) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §6928(a)(3), the Administrator may assess a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day of noncompliance for each violation of a requirement of Subchapter III of RCRA (Sections 3001-3023, 42 U.S.C. §§6921-6939(e)).

7. U.S. EPA has provided notice of commencement of this action to the State of Ohio, as required by Section 3008(a)(2) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §6928(a)(2).

General Allegations

8. The Respondent, John A. Biewer Company of Ohio, Inc., was at all times relevant to this Complaint a corporation incorporated under the laws of Michigan.

9. That Respondent is a "person" as defined by Section 1004(15) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §6903(15), and OAC 3745-50-10.

10. That from approximately 1976 to June 2001, the Respondent conducted its business in, and around, buildings located at 649 Landmark Boulevard, Washington Courthouse, Ohio.

11. That the place where the Respondent conducted its business was, and is, a "facility" as defined by OAC 3745-50-10.

12. That the Respondent was the "owner" or "operator" of that facility, as defined by OAC 3745-50-10.

13. That in conducting its business, Respondent pressure-treated wood with a chemical solution, that being chromated copper arsenate.

14. That in its production process, after Respondent pressure-treated wood with a chromated copper arsenate, it transported the treated wood by rail to a drip pad in a building on its facility grounds, where the wood underwent a preservative reaction.

15. That, as the wood underwent a preservative reaction on the drip pad, excess chemical solution on the wood either evaporated or fell off of the wood onto the drip pad as waste.

16. That in June 2001 Respondent ceased its operation as described in Paragraphs 13 through 15.

17. That constituents of chromated copper arsenate include greater than 5% chromic acid (CAS #7738-94-5); arsenic acid (CAS #7778-39-4); and copper oxide (CAS #1317-38-0).

18. That waste material generated by the Company, identified in Paragraph 15, was a "solid waste," as defined by Section 1004(27) of RCRA, and by OAC 3745-51-02.

19. That waste material generated by the Company, identified in Paragraph 15, was waste listed as "hazardous," OAC 3745-51-31, and identified by U.S. EPA hazardous waste No. F035. See 46 Fed. Reg. 4617 (January 16, 1981).

20. That waste material generated by the Company, identified in Paragraph 15, was a "hazardous waste," as defined by Section 1004(5) of RCRA, and by OAC 3745-51-03.

Alleged Violation: Failure to Meet Closure Requirements

21. Complainant incorporates Paragraphs 1 through 20 of this Complaint as though set forth in this paragraph.

22. That Ohio Rules 3745-69-40 through 3745-69-45 constitute the effective RCRA requirements governing drip pads in Ohio, in lieu of 40 C.F.R. Part 265, Subpart W. See Paragraph 4.

23. That OAC 3745-69-45 provides that: "At closure, the owner or operator must remove or decontaminate all waste residues, contaminated containment system components (pad, liners, etc.), contaminated subsoils, and structures and equipment contaminated with waste and leakage, and manage them as hazardous waste."

24. That Respondent's drip pad, identified in Paragraphs 14 and 15, was unlined,

without a berm on its entire perimeter, and contained cracks in its surface.

25. That Respondent recited its past actions in closing its drip pad, and set forth its continuing closure action plan regarding the drip pad, in a Closure Activity Report, dated May 3, 2005.

26. That at no time since closing its drip pad did Respondent take any action to meet its obligations to remove or decontaminate any waste residues, containment system components, contaminated subsoils, and structure and equipment contaminated with waste and leakage, that may be present under and in the vicinity of the drip pad.

27. That Respondent fails to identify in its Closure Activity Report any actions which it proposes to take to meet its obligations to remove any contaminated subsoils that may be present under and in the vicinity of the drip pad.

28. That in failing to have taken any steps to meet its obligations to remove any contaminated subsoils that may be present under and in the vicinity of its drip pad, as alleged in Paragraphs 26 and 27, Respondent has failed to comply with OAC 3745-69-45, thereby violating Subchapter III of RCRA, subjecting the Company to the assessment of civil penalties, as provided for in Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §6928(a).

PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY

By Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §6928(a), Congress has authorized the Administrator to assess a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day for each violation of Subtitle C of RCRA, 42 U.S.C., Subchapter III. Pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. §2461, as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701, and regulations promulgated thereunder, the Administrator may assess a civil

penalty of up to \$27,500 per day for each such violation of RCRA occurring from January 31, 1997, to March 15, 2004, and a civil penalty of up to \$32,000 per day for each such violation of RCRA occurring after March 15, 2004. See 40 C.F.R. Part 19 (July 1, 2005).

Complainant has determined the amount of proposed civil penalty for violations alleged in this Complaint based upon an analysis of relevant evidence known to the Complainant, in consideration of Section 3008(a)(3) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §6928(a)(3), by which Congress requires that the Administrator, in assessing a civil penalty, take into account "the seriousness of the violation and any good faith efforts to comply with applicable requirements." The analysis incorporated the Administrator's adopted policy, "RCRA Civil Penalty Policy" (June 23, 2003) ("the Policy"), interpreting the RCRA penalty criteria. A copy of the Policy is available upon request. The Policy of the Administrator provides a consistent method of applying the statutory penalty factors for violations of Subtitle C of RCRA, 42 U.S.C., Subchapter III.

The penalty amount determined appropriate for the violations alleged in this Complaint is \$282,649. See attached Penalty Summary Sheet.

PAYMENT OF PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY

Respondent may pay the civil penalty amount proposed by certified or cashier's check, payable to "Treasurer, the United States of America," and remit to:

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

A copy of the check shall be sent to:

Richard R. Wagner
Office of Regional Counsel (C-14J)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

and

Michael Cunningham
Land and Chemicals Division (LR-8J)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Respondent must include a transmittal letter with its payment, identifying in the letter, and on the check, the case name and docket number.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A HEARING

Congress has provided in Section 3008(b) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §6928(b), that, upon the request of the person or persons named in the proposed order, made within 30 days of being served with the proposed order, the Administrator shall promptly conduct a public hearing. Consequently, all respondents have the right to request a hearing to challenge the facts alleged in the Complaint and the amount of civil penalty to be assessed, as proposed in the Complaint.

Any pre-hearing matter and hearing that may occur will be governed in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 551 et seq., and the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation or Suspension of Permits," 40 C.F.R. Part 22 (July 1, 2000) ("the Administrator's Rules"). A copy of the Administrator's Rules accompanies this Complaint.

If a respondent wishes to avoid being found in default, respondent must file a written answer to the Complaint with the Regional Hearing Clerk (E-13J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590, within thirty (30) days of your receipt service of this Complaint. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(a). In counting the 30-day time period, the actual date of receipt is not included. Saturdays, Sundays, and federal legal holidays are included in the computation. If the 30-day period expires on a Saturday, Sunday or federal legal holiday, the time period is extended to include the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or federal legal holiday. 40 C.F.R. § 22.7(a).

A respondent's Answer must clearly and directly admit, deny or explain each of the factual allegations contained in the Complaint with respect to which respondent has any knowledge, or, where respondent has no knowledge of a particular factual allegation, so state. 40 C.F.R. §22.15(b). A respondent's Answer must also state:

- 1. The circumstances or arguments that respondent alleges constitute the grounds of defense;**
- 2. The facts that respondent disputes;**
- 3. The basis on which respondent disputes the proposed relief, that being the amount of penalty, proposed; and**
- 4. Whether respondent requests a hearing.**

40 C.F.R. § 22.15(b).

A respondent's failure to admit, deny or explain any material factual allegations in the Complaint will constitute an admission of the allegation. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(d).

Respondent should further note that the Administrator's Rules provide that any hearing that shall be held will be a "hearing upon the issues raised by the complaint and answer."

40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c).

A copy of the Answer, and any subsequent documents filed by Respondent you in this enforcement action, should be sent to Richard R. Wagner, Senior Attorney, Office of Regional Counsel (C-14J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590. Mr. Wagner may be telephoned at (312) 886-7947.

Notwithstanding any request a respondent may make for a hearing, if a respondent fails to file an answer within thirty (30) days of the respondent's receipt of this Complaint, the Regional Administrator or Presiding Officer may issue a Default Order. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(a); 40 C.F.R. § 22.17. Issuance of a Default Order will constitute a binding admission by the respondent of all facts alleged in the Complaint and a waiver of the respondent's right to a hearing on those factual allegations. Any civil penalty determined appropriate in the Default Order shall then become due and payable, without further proceedings, on becoming a final order under 40 C.F.R. § 22.27(c). In addition, the default penalty is subject to the provisions relating to the imposition of interest, penalty and handling charges set forth in the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, 31 U.S.C. §3717. Interest will accrue on the default penalty at the rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717. U.S. EPA will impose a late payment handling charge of \$15.00 after thirty (30) days, with an additional charge of \$15.00 for each subsequent 30-day period over which an unpaid balance remains. In addition, U.S. EPA will apply a six (6) percent per annum penalty on any principal amount not paid within ninety (90) days of the date that the Default Order is signed by the Regional Administrator or Presiding Officer.

COMPLIANCE ORDER

Based on the foregoing, Respondent is hereby ordered -- pursuant to authority in 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), and § 22.37(b) of the Administrator's Rules-- to comply with all applicable requirements of the Ohio Rules.

Respondent shall notify U.S. EPA in writing upon achieving compliance with this Order within 15 calendar days after the date it achieves compliance. If Respondent has not taken or completed any requirement of this Order, Respondent shall notify U.S. EPA of the failure, its reasons for the failure, and the proposed date for compliance within 10 calendar days after the due date set forth in this Order.

Respondent shall submit all reports, submissions, and notifications required by this Order to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, RCRA Branch, Attention: Michael Cunningham (LR-8J), 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590.

Pursuant to Section 3008(b) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(b), and the Administrator's Rules, specifically 40 C.F.R. § 22.37, this order shall automatically become a final order unless, no later than thirty days after the order is served, the Respondent requests a hearing pursuant to § 22.15.

SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

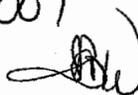
A respondent may request an informal conference to discuss the facts of this case and to arrive at a settlement. To request a settlement conference in this matter, the request should be submitted to Michael Cunningham, RCRA Branch, Mail Code LR-8J, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590, or telephone him at (312) 886-4464.

A request for an informal settlement conference does not extend the 30-day period allowed for filing a written Answer and Request for Hearing. A respondent may pursue an informal conference notwithstanding the filing of an Answer and Request for Hearing.

U.S. EPA encourages all parties for whom a civil penalty is proposed to pursue the possibilities of settlement through an informal conference. U.S. EPA, however, will not reduce the penalty simply because the parties hold a conference. The parties will embody any settlement that they may reach as a result of the conference in a written Consent Agreement and Final Order issued by the Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA, Region 5.

Dated this 2ND day of MAY, 2008.


Margaret M. Guerriero
Director
Land and Chemicals Division

Complaint Docket No. RCRA-05-2008-0007


CASE NAME: John A Biewer of Ohio

DOCKET NO: RCRA-05-2008-0007 *JBW*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that today I filed the original of this **Complaint** and this **Certificate of Service** in the office of the Regional Hearing Clerk (E-13J), United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3590.

I further certify that I then caused true and correct copies of the filed document to be mailed via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to the following:

Mr. Brian Biewer
John A. Biewer Company
300 Oak Street
St. Clair, Michigan 48079

Return Receipt #

And via First Class Mail to:

Ohio EPA
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049
Attn.: Harry Sarvis, Manager, DHWM

And via First Class Mail to:

Ohio EPA
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049
Attn.: Andy Kubalak

Dated: May 5th 2008

Katrina Jones

Katrina Jones
Administrative Program Assistant
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Land and Chemicals Division -RCRA Branch
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
(312) 353-5882

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