

U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 7

901 N. 5th STREET

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY-REGION VII
REGIONAL HEARING CLERK

BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

In the Matter of)

DONALD SNEEGAS)

BETTY WRIGHT)

CAROL W. SNEEGAS TRUST)

Lawrence, Kansas)

Respondents)

Docket No. TSCA-07-2010-0006

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 7, and Donald Sneegas, Betty Wright, and the Carol W. Sneegas Revocable Trust (Respondents) have agreed to a settlement of this action before filing of a complaint, and thus this action is simultaneously commenced and concluded pursuant to Rules 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) 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 (Consolidated Rules), 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

Jurisdiction

1. This proceeding is an administrative action for the assessment of civil penalties instituted pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a).

2. This Consent Agreement and Final Order serves as notice that EPA has reason to believe that Respondents have violated Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, by failing to comply with the regulatory requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F, *Disclosure of Known Lead-Based Paint and/or Lead-Based Paint Hazards Upon Sale or Lease of Residential Property*, promulgated pursuant to Section 1018 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4852d.

Parties

3. The Complainant, by delegation from the Administrator of the EPA, is the Chief, Toxics and Pesticides Branch, EPA, Region 7.

4. The Respondents are Donald Sneegas, Betty Wright, and the Carol W. Sneegas Trust, 1615 E. 686 Road, Lawrence, Kansas 66049.

Statutory and Regulatory Background

5. Congress passed the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (the Act), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4851 to 4856, to address the need to control exposure to lead-based paint hazards. The Act amended TSCA by adding Sections 401 to 412, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2681 to 2692. Section 1018 of the Act required EPA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to jointly issue regulations requiring the disclosure of known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards by persons selling or leasing housing constructed before the phaseout of residential lead-based paint use in 1978. The regulations, issued March 6, 1996, and codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F, require that sellers and lessors of most residential housing built before 1978: a) disclose the presence of known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the target housing; b) provide purchasers and lessees with any available records or reports pertaining to the presence of lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards; c) provide purchasers and lessees with a federally approved lead hazard information pamphlet; d) provide purchasers with a 10-day opportunity to conduct a risk assessment or inspection for the presence of lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards before the purchaser is obligated under any purchase contract; and e) include certain disclosure and acknowledgment language in the sales or leasing contract. The failure or refusal to comply with the regulations is a violation of Section 1018 of the Act and Section 409 of TSCA.

Alleged Violations

6. The Complainant hereby states and alleges that Respondents have violated TSCA and federal regulations promulgated thereunder, as follows:

7. Respondents are, and were at all times referred to herein, a "person" within the meaning of TSCA.

8. Respondents are the lessors, as that term is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 745.103, of property located at 1606 W. 2nd, 3417 W. 25th Terrace, 938 Rockledge, 2434 Arkansas, 1418 W. 22nd Terrace, 2624 Moundview, 2617 Moundview, 2516 Century Drive, 738 Arkansas, and 2121 Mitchell, all in Lawrence, Kansas.

9. The properties referenced above were constructed before 1978; therefore, they are "target housing" as that term is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.

10. Information collected shows that Respondents entered into contracts to lease the above properties.

11. Information collected shows that Respondents failed to provide the lessees with an EPA-approved lead hazard information pamphlet before lessees were obligated under contract to lease target housing.

12. Respondents' failure to provide an EPA-approved lead hazard information pamphlet is a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.107(a)(1), and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 745.118(e), a violation of Section 1018 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 4852d, and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, and thus Respondents are subject to civil penalties under Section 16 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615.

CONSENT AGREEMENT

13. For purposes of this proceeding, Respondents admit the jurisdictional allegations set forth above.

14. Respondents admit the factual allegations set forth above.

15. Respondents waive their right to a judicial or administrative hearing on any issue of fact or law set forth above and its right to appeal the Final Order accompanying this Consent Agreement.

16. Respondents and EPA agree to conciliate this matter without the necessity of a formal hearing and to bear their respective costs and attorneys' fees.

17. Respondents certify by the signing of this Consent Agreement and Final Order that to the best of Respondents' knowledge they are presently in compliance with all requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F, and that there are no outstanding abatement orders pending on any other target housing owned by the Respondents.

18. Respondents consent to the issuance of the Final Order hereinafter recited and consents to the payment of a mitigated civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00 to be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Final Order.

19. Respondents understand that their failure to timely pay any portion of the mitigated civil penalty stated in Paragraph 18, above, may result in the commencement of a civil action in Federal District Court to recover the full remaining balance, along with penalties, late payment handling charges, and accumulated interest. In such case, interest shall accrue thereon at the applicable statutory rate on the unpaid balance until such civil penalty and any accrued interest are paid in full. A late payment handling charge of \$15 will be imposed after thirty (30) days and an additional \$15 will be charged for each subsequent thirty (30) day period. Additionally,

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as provided by 31 U.S.C. § 3717(e)(2), a six percent (6%) per annum penalty (late charge) may be assessed on any amount not paid within ninety (90) days of the due date.

FINAL ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), 15 U.S.C. §§ 2601-2692, and based upon the information set forth in the Consent Agreement accompanying this Final Order, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. Respondents shall pay a mitigated civil penalty of \$1,000.00 within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Final Order. Such payment shall identify the Respondents by name and docket number and shall be by certified or cashier's check made payable to the "United States Treasury" and sent to:

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

2. A copy of the check shall simultaneously be sent to the following:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101; and

Kent Johnson
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101.

3. Respondents and Complainant shall each bear their own costs and attorneys' fees incurred as a result of this matter.

RESPONDENTS
DONALD SNEEGAS, BETTY WRIGHT, AND
TRUSTEE FOR CAROL W. SNEEGAS TRUST

Date: 3/9/10

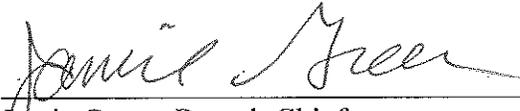
By: Donald R. Sneegas
DONALD SNEEGAS

Betty Wright
BETTY WRIGHT

Donald R. Sneegas
TRUSTEE FOR CAROL W. SNEEGAS TRUST

COMPLAINANT
U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Date: 3/22/10

By: 
Jamie Green, Branch Chief
Toxics and Pesticides Branch
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division

Date: 3/19/10

By: 
Kent Johnson, Senior Assistant Regional Counsel
Office of Regional Counsel

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IT IS SO ORDERED. This Order shall become effective immediately.

Date: Mar. 31, 2010 
ROBERT L. PATRICK
Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy hand delivered to
Attorney for Complainant:

Kent Johnson
Assistant Regional Counsel
Region VII
United States Environmental Protection Agency
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Copy by Certified Mail Return Receipt to:

Brandy L. Sutton
Pendleton & Sutton
1031 Vermont Street, Suite B
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dated: 3/31/10



Kathy Robinson
Hearing Clerk, Region 7