



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION 5**

**77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD**

**CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590**

**February 1, 2021**

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**  
**DELIVERY RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. Gerald L. Pouncey, Jr.  
Legal Representative of Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.  
Morris, Manning & Martin, LLC  
3343 Peachtree Road, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30326  
[glp@mmlaw.com](mailto:glp@mmlaw.com)

Re: Consent Agreement and Final Order  
Company Name: Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.  
EPA Identification No.: OHR000153288 and OHR000159830  
Docket No: **RCRA-05-2021-0007**

Dear Mr. Pouncey:

Attached, please find a signed, fully executed Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) in resolution of the above case. The CAFO was filed on February 1, 2021, with the Regional Hearing Clerk (RHC).

Please pay the civil penalty in the amount of \$22,944 in the manner prescribed in paragraphs 41-43 of the CAFO, and reference all checks with the docket number RCRA-05-2021-0007. Your payment is due within 30 calendar days of the effective date of the CAFO. Thank you for your cooperation in resolving this matter.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Leah Werner, of my staff, at [werner.leah@epa.gov](mailto:werner.leah@epa.gov) or 312-886-0552.

Sincerely,

**Morris, Julie**  
Digitally signed by Morris,  
Julie  
Date: 2021.01.27  
07:00:13 -06'00'

Julie Morris, Chief  
RCRA Compliance Section 2

Attachments

cc: Mitch Mathews, Ohio EPA ([Mitchell.Mathews@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Mitchell.Mathews@epa.ohio.gov))  
Robert Hampton, Home Depot ([Robert\\_Hampton1@HomeDepot.com](mailto:Robert_Hampton1@HomeDepot.com))

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5

<b>In the Matter of:</b>	)	<b>Docket No. RCRA-05-2021-0007</b>
	)	
Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.	)	<b>Consent Agreement and Final Order</b>
Monroe, Ohio & Van Buren, Ohio	)	<b>Under Section 3008(a) of the Resource</b>
	)	<b>Conservation and Recovery Act,</b>
U.S. EPA ID Nos.: OHR000153288	)	<b>42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)</b>
OHR000159830	)	
	)	
<b>Respondent.</b>	)	
<hr/>	)	

**Consent Agreement and Final Order**

**Preliminary Statement**

1. This is an administrative action commenced and concluded under Section 3008(a) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended, also known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), and Sections 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules) as codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

2. The Complainant is the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Region 5.

3. Respondent is Home Depot U.S.A., Inc., a corporation doing business in the State of Ohio.

4. U.S. EPA provided notice of this action to the State of Ohio pursuant to Section 3008(a)(2) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(2).

5. Where the parties agree to settle one or more causes of action before the filing of a

complaint, the administrative action may be commenced and concluded simultaneously by the issuance of a consent agreement and final order (CAFO). 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b).

6. The parties agree that settling this action without the filing of a complaint or the adjudication of any issue of fact or law is in their interest and in the public interest.

### **Jurisdiction and Waiver of Right to Hearing**

7. Jurisdiction for this action is conferred upon U.S. EPA by Sections 3006 and 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6926 and 6928.

8. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in this CAFO and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations in this CAFO.

9. Respondent waives its right to request a hearing as provided at 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c), any right to contest the allegations in this CAFO, and its right to appeal this CAFO.

### **Statutory and Regulatory Background**

10. Pursuant to Sections 3002-3005 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6922-6925, U.S. EPA promulgated regulations codified at 40 C.F.R. Parts 260 through 279, governing generators and transporters of hazardous waste and facilities that treat, store, and dispose of hazardous waste.

11. Pursuant to Section 3006 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6926, U.S. EPA may authorize a state to administer the RCRA hazardous waste program in lieu of the federal program when the Administrator finds that the state program meets certain conditions.

12. Any violation of regulations promulgated pursuant to Subtitle C or any state provision authorized pursuant to Section 3006 of RCRA constitutes a violation of RCRA, subject to the assessment of civil penalties and issuance of compliance orders as provided in Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928.

13. Pursuant to Section 3006(b) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6926(b), the Administrator of

U.S. EPA granted the State of Ohio final authorization to administer a state hazardous waste program in lieu of the federal government's base RCRA program effective June 28, 1989 (54 Fed. Reg. 27179, June 28, 1989).

14. Under Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), U.S. EPA may issue an order assessing a civil penalty for any past or current violation, requiring compliance immediately or within a specified period, or both.

### **Factual Allegations**

15. Respondent was and is a "person" as defined by Ohio Admin. Code § 3745-50-(A)(102), 40 C.F.R. § 260.10, and Section 1004(15) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(15).

16. Respondent is an "owner" or "operator," as those terms are defined under Ohio Admin. Code § 3745-50-10(A)(96) and (95) and 40 C.F.R. § 260.10 of a facility located at 500 Gateway Boulevard, Monroe, Ohio (Monroe Facility).

17. Respondent is an "owner" or "operator," as those terms are defined under Ohio Admin. Code § 3745-50-10(A)(96) and (95) and 40 C.F.R. § 260.10 of a facility located at 1989 Township Road 142, Van Buren, Ohio (Van Buren Facility).

18. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Respondent's Monroe Facility consisted of land and structures, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land, used for treating, storing, or disposing of hazardous waste.

19. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Respondent's Van Buren Facility consisted of land and structures, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land, used for treating, storing, or disposing of hazardous waste.

20. Respondent's Monroe Facility is a "facility," as that term is defined under Ohio Admin. Code § 3745-50-10(A)(48) and 40 C.F.R. § 260.10.

21. Respondent's Van Buren Facility is a "facility," as that term is defined under Ohio Admin. Code § 3745-50-10(A)(48) and 40 C.F.R. § 260.10.

22. Respondent's actions and processes at the Monroe facility cause the production of "hazardous waste," as that term is defined under Ohio Admin. Code § 3745-50-10(A)(57) and Ohio Admin. Code § 3745-51-03 and 40 C.F.R. § 260.10.

23. Respondent's actions and processes at the Van Buren facility cause the production of "hazardous waste," as that term is defined under Ohio Admin. Code § 3745-50-10(A)(57) and Ohio Admin. Code § 3745-51-03 and 40 C.F.R. § 260.10.

24. Respondent is a "generator" of hazardous waste, as that term is defined under Ohio Admin. Code § 3745-50-10(A)(54) and 40 C.F.R. § 260.10.

25. Since at least 2017, Respondent generated 1000 kilograms or greater of hazardous waste in some calendar months (qualifying it as a "Large Quantity Generator"), at its Monroe Facility which it shipped off-site to a treatment, storage or disposal facility within the United States.

26. Since at least 2017, Respondent generated 1000 kilograms or greater of hazardous waste in some calendar months (qualifying it as a "Large Quantity Generator"), at its Van Buren Facility which it shipped off-site to a treatment, storage or disposal facility within the United States.

27. On December 16, 2020, U.S. EPA sent to Respondent a Notice of Potential RCRA Violations and Opportunity for Settlement.

28. The Notice letter identified potential RCRA violations, and an option and timeline for resolution of the matter through a streamlined settlement process.

29. The goal of the streamlined settlement process is to quickly and efficiently assess

and resolve the matter, bring the facility into compliance, and enter into an agreed upon CAFO.

30. Thereafter, Respondent engaged with U.S. EPA to expeditiously assess the matter agree to the entry of this CAFO.

### **Alleged Violations**

#### **Count I: Biennial Reporting**

31. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 1 through 30 of this CAFO as though set forth in this paragraph.

32. Pursuant to Ohio Admin. Code § 3745-52-41(A), a generator of more than 1,000 kilograms of hazardous waste must provide to the director or the director's designee the data necessary for the department to prepare and submit Ohio's hazardous waste report as required. A Biennial Report is due by March 1 of each even numbered year.

33. For 2017, Respondent did not prepare and submit a biennial report for the Monroe Facility to the State of Ohio by March 1, 2018 for the preceding calendar year, in violation of Ohio Admin. Code § 3745-52-41(A).

34. For 2017, Respondent did not prepare and submit a biennial report for the Van Buren Facility to the State of Ohio by March 1, 2018 for the preceding calendar year, in violation of Ohio Admin. Code § 3745-52-41(A).

### **Compliance Order**

35. Pursuant to Section 3008(a)(3) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(3), Respondent is hereby ordered to comply with the following requirements as expeditiously as possible and no later than 60 days from the effective date of this CAFO.

36. Respondent shall file with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) a Biennial Hazardous Waste Report for the Monroe Facility covering the year 2017.

37. Respondent shall file with the Ohio EPA a Biennial Hazardous Waste Report for the Van Buren Facility covering the year 2017.

38. Respondent shall submit the following certification to U.S. EPA that is has complied with the requirements in paragraphs 35 – 37, above:

I certify under the penalty of law that based on my review of all relevant information and documents, and inquiring of those individuals immediately responsible for providing all relevant information and documents, [Respondent Name] is in compliance with the requirements of this Compliance Order. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature and Title \_\_\_\_\_

39. If unable to certify compliance in paragraph 38, Respondent shall submit notification explaining why it is unable to comply, the actions it is taking to comply, and a proposed date that it will comply.

40. Respondent shall submit all certifications and notifications required under the Compliance Order to:

Land Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
[R5lecab@epa.gov](mailto:R5lecab@epa.gov)

And  
Leah Werner  
Land Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
[werner.leah@epa.gov](mailto:werner.leah@epa.gov)

**Civil Penalty Order**

41. Pursuant to Section 3008(a)(3) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(3), Complainant determined that an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action is \$22,944. In determining the

penalty amount, Complainant took into account the above Factual Allegations, the seriousness of the violations, any good faith efforts to comply with the applicable requirements, and other factors as justice may require. Complainant also considered U.S. EPA's RCRA Civil Penalty Policy, dated June 23, 2003.

42. Within 30 days after the effective date of this CAFO, Respondent must pay a \$22,944 civil penalty for the RCRA violations by:

***For checks sent by regular U.S. Postal Service mail***, sending a cashier's or certified check, payable to "Treasurer, United States of America," to:

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

The check must state Respondent's name and the docket number of this CAFO.

***For checks sent by express mail***, sending a cashier's or certified check, payable to "Treasurer, United States of America," to:

U.S. Bank  
Government Lockbox 979077  
U.S. EPA Fines and Penalties  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Mail Station SL-MO-C2-GL  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

The check must state Respondent's name and the docket number of this CAFO.

***For electronic funds transfer***, sending funds electronically, payable to "Treasurer, United States of America," and to:



Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
ABA No. 021030004  
Account No. 68010727  
33 Liberty Street  
New York, New York 10045  
Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read:  
“D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency”

In the comment or description field of the electronic funds transfer, state Respondent’s name and the docket number of this CAFO.

43. Respondent must send a notice of payment that states Respondent’s name and the case docket number to EPA at the following addresses when it pays the penalty:

U.S. EPA, Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
Or via email at [whitehead.ladawn@epa.gov](mailto:whitehead.ladawn@epa.gov)

Land Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
[R5lecab@epa.gov](mailto:R5lecab@epa.gov)

Leah Werner  
Land Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
[werner.leah@epa.gov](mailto:werner.leah@epa.gov)

Jeffrey Cahn  
Office of Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
[cahn.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:cahn.jeff@epa.gov)

44. This civil penalty is not deductible for federal tax purposes.

45. If Respondent does not timely pay the civil penalty, U.S. EPA may bring an action to collect any unpaid portion of the penalty with interest, handling charges, nonpayment penalties, and the United States enforcement expenses for the collection action. The validity, amount, and appropriateness of the civil penalty are not reviewable in a collection action.

46. Pursuant to 31 C.F.R. § 901.9, Respondent must pay the following on any amount overdue under this CAFO. Interest will accrue on any amount overdue from the date payment was due at a rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717(a)(1). Respondent must pay a \$15 handling charge each month that any portion of the penalty is more than 30 days past due. In addition, Respondent must pay a 6 percent per year penalty on any principal amount 90 days past due.

### **General Provisions**

47. Respondent certifies that it is complying fully with the statutory and regulatory provisions allegedly violated in this CAFO.

48. The parties consent to service of this CAFO by e-mail at the following valid e-mail addresses: [cahn.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:cahn.jeff@epa.gov) (for Complainant), and [robert\\_hampton@homedepot.com](mailto:robert_hampton@homedepot.com) (for Respondent).

49. This CAFO resolves only Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations alleged in the CAFO.

50. This CAFO does not affect the right of U.S. EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law.

51. Payment of the civil penalty does not affect Respondent's continuing obligation to comply with RCRA and other applicable federal, state, local laws or permits.

52. This CAFO is a "final order" for purposes of 40 C.F.R. § 22.31, U.S. EPA's RCRA Civil Penalty Policy, and U.S. EPA's Hazardous Waste Civil Enforcement Response Policy (December 2003).

53. The terms of this CAFO bind Respondent, its successors, and assigns.

54. Each person signing this agreement certifies that he or she has the authority to sign

for the party whom he or she represents and to bind that party to its terms.

55. Each party agrees to bear its own costs and attorney's fees in this action.

56. This CAFO constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.

**Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. Respondent**

1.21.21  
Date

  
Robert Hampton **DAVID K. BELL**  
Manager, Regulatory Compliance  
Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.

**United States Environmental Protection Agency, Complainant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**MICHAEL HARRIS** Digitally signed by  
MICHAEL HARRIS  
Date: 2021.01.27  
16:47:50 -06'00'

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael D. Harris  
Division Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Division

**In the Matter of:**  
**Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.**  
**Docket No. RCRA-05-2021-0007**

**Final Order**

This Consent Agreement and Final Order, as agreed to by the parties, shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk. This Final Order concludes this proceeding pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18 and 22.31. IT IS SO ORDERED.

**ANN COYLE** Digitally signed by ANN  
COYLE  
Date: 2021.01.29  
16:03:18 -06'00'

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann L. Coyle  
Regional Judicial Officer  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5

In the matter of: Home Depot, U.S.A., Inc.  
Docket Number: RCRA-05-2021-0007

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Consent Agreement and Final Order**, which was filed on February 1, 2021, this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy by email to Respondent's Representative: Gerald L. Pouncey, Jr.  
Legal Representative of Home Depot  
U.S.A., Inc.  
Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP  
[glp@mmmlaw.com](mailto:glp@mmmlaw.com)

Copy by email to Attorney for Complainant: Jeffrey Cahn  
[cahn.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:cahn.jeff@epa.gov)

Copy by email to Regional Judicial Officer: Ann Coyle  
[coyle.ann@epa.gov](mailto:coyle.ann@epa.gov)

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LaDawn Whitehead  
Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5