

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

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IN RE:

Holton-Arms School
7303 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20817

Docket No: TSCA-03-2009- 0153

Consent Agreement

Respondent

CONSENT AGREEMENT

I. Preliminary Statement

This Consent Agreement (“CA”), issued under the authority set forth in sections 16 and 207 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2615 and 2647, is entered into, through delegation, by the Director, Land and Chemicals Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region III (“EPA” or “Complainant”) and Holton-Arms School. This CA includes the assessment of a civil penalty against Holton-Arms School (“Respondent”), because it is a local education agency liable for violations which occurred at Holton-Arms School (the “Facility”), pursuant to the Toxic Substances Control Act (“TSCA”), Subchapter II (the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act or “AHERA”) 15 U.S.C. §§ 2641 to 2656; and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (“Consolidated Rules of Practice”), 40 C.F.R Part 22, with specific reference to the provisions set forth at 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3).

This Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order (collectively referred to

herein as the "CAFO") address violations by Respondent of AHERA and the federal regulations implementing AHERA as set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 763 Subpart E, and resolve Complainant's civil claims against Respondent arising from the violations of TSCA alleged herein.

II. General Provisions

1. For purpose of this proceeding only, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth in this CAFO.
2. Except as provided in paragraph 1, above, Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations and conclusions of law set forth in this CAFO.
3. Respondent agrees not to contest EPA's jurisdiction with respect to the execution of this CA, the issuance of the accompanying Final Order, or the enforcement of the CAFO.
4. For the purposes of this proceeding only, Respondent hereby expressly waives its right to a hearing on any issue of law or fact set forth in this CA and any right to appeal the accompanying Final Order.
5. Respondent shall not deduct for civil taxation purposes the civil penalty specified in this CAFO.
6. Section 22.13(b) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice provides that where the parties agree to settlement of one or more causes of action before the filing of a complaint, a proceeding may be simultaneously commenced and concluded by the issuance of a consent agreement and final order.
7. By signing this CA, Respondent certifies to EPA that, upon investigation and to the best of its knowledge, the Facility is in compliance with the provisions of the Asbestos

Hazard Emergency Response Act (“AHERA”), Subchapter II of TSCA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2641-2656, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

8. Respondent consents to the issuance of this CAFO and agrees to comply with its terms.
9. Respondent shall bear its own costs and attorney’s fees.
10. Nothing in this CAFO shall relieve Respondent of its obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
11. By signing and executing this CA, Respondent certifies that it has already spent at least six thousand and fifty dollars (\$ 6,050) since Maryland Department of the Environment’s May 3, 2007 inspection for purposes of complying with Subchapter II of TSCA and the regulations promulgated thereunder, in accordance with § 207(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(a), and that Respondent has provided Complainant with all supporting cost documentation and information.
12. This CAFO shall apply to and be binding upon the EPA, Respondent, and the officers, directors, successors, and assigns of Respondent.

III. EPA’s Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

13. Complainant has determined that Respondent has violated requirements of TSCA and the federal regulations implementing AHERA set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 763, Subpart E. In accordance with the Consolidated Rules of Practice as set forth at 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3), Complainant alleges the following findings of fact and conclusions of law.
14. Respondent, Holton-Arms School, is the “Local Education Agency” (“LEA”) as that term is defined under Section 202(7) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2642(7) and 40 C.F.R. §

763.83, because it is the owner of a nonpublic, non-profit elementary, or secondary school building, including the Facility, and as such, is responsible for ensuring that the Facility is in compliance with the requirements of AHERA.

15. The Facility, Holton-Arms School, located at 7303 River Road in Bethesda, Maryland is a "school" as that term is defined at Section 202(12) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2642(12) and 40 C.F.R. § 763.83.
16. The Facility is a "school building" as that term is defined at Section 202(13) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2642(13) and 40 C.F.R. § 763.83.

COUNT I

17. The allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 16 are incorporated herein by reference.
18. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 763.85(b)(1) at least once every three years after a management plan is in effect, the local education agency shall conduct a reinspection of all friable and nonfriable known or assumed asbestos-containing building material in each school building that they lease, own, or otherwise use as a school building.
19. On May 3, 2007, a duly authorized inspector of the Maryland Department of the Environment ("MDE") conducted an inspection at the Facility.
20. During the May 3, 2007 inspection, the MDE inspector discovered that no three year reinspections had been conducted at the Facility which would determine whether there were any changes in the condition of the asbestos-containing building materials identified in Respondent's original management plan.
21. Respondent's failure to conduct three year reinspections violated 40 C.F.R. § 763.85(b)(1), also constituting a violation of Section 207(a)(1) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §

five hundred and twenty five dollars (\$ 5,525) is appropriate.

27. The aforesaid assessed penalty is based upon EPA's consideration of a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the statutory factors set forth in Section 207(c) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(c), *i.e.*, the significance of the violation, the culpability of the violator, and the ability of the violator to continue to provide educational services to the community. These factors were applied to the particular facts and circumstances of this case with specific reference to EPA's *Interim Final Enforcement Response Policy for the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act* ("*ERP*"), dated January 31, 1989, adjusted for inflation pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 19.
28. Respondent certifies that it has spent six thousand and fifty dollars (\$ 6,050) since MDE's May 3, 2007 inspection to comply with Subchapter II of TSCA. Therefore, pursuant to sections 16(a)(2)(C) and 207(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2615(a)(2)(C) and 2647(a), EPA agrees to the remittance of the five thousand five hundred and twenty five dollar (\$ 5,525) civil penalty assessed against the Respondent.
29. Respondent consents to the assessment of a five thousand five hundred and twenty five dollars (\$ 5,525) civil penalty with a cash component of zero dollars (\$ 0).

V. Reservation of Rights

30. This CAFO resolves only the civil claims for the specific violations alleged in this CAFO. EPA reserves the right to commence action against any person, including Respondent, in response to any condition which EPA determines may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, public welfare, or the environment. In addition, this settlement is subject to all limitations on the scope of

resolution and to the reservation of rights set forth in Section 22.18(c) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice. Further, EPA reserves any rights and remedies available to it under Subchapter II of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2641 to 2656, the regulations promulgated thereunder, and any other federal laws or regulations for which EPA has jurisdiction, to enforce the provisions of this CAFO, following its filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

VI. Effective Date

31. The effective date of this CAFO is the date on which the Final Order is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice.

The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she is fully authorized by Respondent to execute this Consent Agreement and to legally bind Respondent to this Consent Agreement.

For Respondent:

6/22/09
Date

Susanna C. Jones
Susanna Jones
Head of School
Holton-Arms School

For Complainant:

6-25-09
Date

Stephen Forostiak
Stephen Forostiak
Compliance Officer

Accordingly I hereby recommend that the Regional Administrator or his designee issue the Final Order attached hereto.

7/13/09
Date

Abraham Ferdas
Abraham Ferdas, Director
Land and Chemicals Division

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REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

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Bethesda, MD 20817

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Docket No: TSCA-03-2009-0153
Final Order

Respondent

FINAL ORDER

The undersigned accepts and incorporates into this Final Order by reference all provisions set forth in the foregoing Consent Agreement.

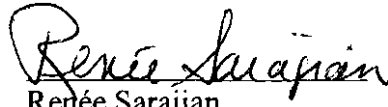
NOW, **THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT**, pursuant to Sections 16 and 207 of the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 2615 and 2647, and 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, and having determined, based on the representations of the parties in the attached Consent Agreement, that the civil penalty agreed to therein was based upon a consideration of the factors set forth in Section 207(c) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(c), Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of five thousand five hundred and twenty five dollars (\$ 5,525), but that the cash component of that civil penalty will be zero dollars (\$0).

In accordance with Section 207(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2647(a), the five thousand five hundred and twenty five dollar (\$ 5,525) civil penalty assessed against the Respondent is hereby remitted.

The effective date of this Final Order is the date that it is filed with the Regional Hearing

Clerk.

7/15/09
Date


Renée Sarajian

Regional Judicial Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III

