



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

MAR 16 2017

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Tammy Shields  
Property Manager  
Audubon Communities d/b/a Bella Apartments  
6525 The Corners Parkway, Suite 216  
Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30092

Re: Audubon Communities d/b/a Bella Apartments  
Ratified Consent Agreement and Final Order  
Docket No. TSCA-04-2016-2532(b)

Dear Ms. Shields:

Enclosed is a copy of the ratified Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) in the above-referenced matter. The original CAFO has been filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk and served on the parties as directed in Section 22.6 of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

Also, enclosed is a copy of a document entitled "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 Securities and Exchange Commission any environmental enforcement actions taken by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4. Where used in the document, "SEC" refers to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Audubon Communities has already submitted payment of the penalty to EPA Region 4 in the form of a check. The EPA received check No. 9382 in the amount of \$500 dated January 20, 2017. No further action is needed on the part of Audubon Communities to resolve this matter.

Should you have any questions about this matter or your compliance status in the future, please contact Ms. Shanika Pennamon of the EPA Region 4 staff at (404) 562-9213 or email [pennamon.shanika@epa.gov](mailto:pennamon.shanika@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony G. Toney".

Anthony G. Toney  
Chief

Chemical Safety and Enforcement Branch

Enclosures

UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

2/11/16 16 AM 11:15  
HEARINGS CLERK

**In the Matter of:** )  
 )  
Audubon Communities d/b/a )  
Bella Apartments )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**Docket No.:** TSCA-04-2016-2532(b)

**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER**

**I. Nature of the Action**

1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), and pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), 40 C.F.R. Part 22. The authority to take action under Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a) is vested in the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The Administrator of the EPA has delegated this authority under TSCA to the Regional Administrator of the EPA Region 4 by the EPA Delegation 12-2-A, dated May 11, 1994. The Regional Administrator of the EPA Region 4 has re-delegated this authority under TSCA to the Director of the Air, Pesticides, and Toxics Management Division, by the EPA Region 4 Delegation 12-2-A, dated January 14, 2009. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.3(a), the Complainant in this matter is the Director of the Air, Pesticides, and Toxics Management Division. Respondent is Audubon Communities d/b/a Bella Apartments in the State of Georgia.

2. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 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 C.F.R. § 22.13(b), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.t

## **II. Preliminary Statements**

3. The Administrator of the EPA promulgated regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F under the authority of Section 1018 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4852d, also known as Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992. Pursuant to Title X, it is a prohibited act under Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, for any person to fail or refuse to comply with a provision of Title X or any rule or order issued under Title X.
4. Pursuant to Section 16 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615, the penalty for each violation of Title X of TSCA shall not exceed \$10,000. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 requires the EPA to review and adjust penalties, as necessary, for inflation at least once every four years. As such, pursuant to the Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation Rule, 40 C.F.R. Part 19, the revised maximum penalty for each violation of Title X occurring after January 30, 1997, through January 12, 2009, is \$11,000 and for each violation occurring after January 12, 2009, the maximum penalty is \$16,773.
5. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.5(c)(4) the following individual is authorized to receive service for the EPA in this proceeding:

Ms. Phalia McCorkle-Kester  
Lead and Asbestos Section  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960  
(404) 562-8205

### **III. Specific Allegations**

6. Respondent is a Lessor, as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.103, of Bella Apartments, residential housing located at 2455 Beaver Ruin Road, Norcross, GA 30071, including 718 Wynhollow Trace, Apartment #6. These residential units are “target housing,” as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.
7. Based on information obtained by the EPA on or about May 6, 2016, including Respondent’s contract to lease the apartment at 718 Wynhollow Trace, #6 described above, the EPA alleges that Respondent violated Section 409 of TSCA and 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F as follows:
  - a. Respondent failed to include, as an attachment or within a contract to lease target housing, a statement by the lessor disclosing the presence of known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards or indicating no knowledge of the presence of lead-based paint and/or lead based paint hazards pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(2).

### **IV. Consent Agreement**

8. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18 and desire to quickly 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 C.F.R. § 22.13(b), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

9. For the purposes of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth above and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set forth above.
10. Respondent waives its right to a hearing on the allegations contained herein and its right to appeal the proposed Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement.
11. Respondent consents to the assessment of the penalty proposed by the EPA and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.
12. Respondent certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F.
13. Compliance with this CAFO shall resolve the allegations of the violations contained herein. This CAFO shall not otherwise affect any liability of Respondent to the United States. Other than as expressed herein, neither the 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.
14. 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 TSCA.

#### **V. Final Order**

15. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500)** which shall be paid within thirty (30) days after the effective date of this CAFO.
16. Respondent shall remit the penalty payment by either a cashier's or certified check made payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America."

**The Respondent shall note on the face of the check the Respondent's Name and the Docket Number TSCA-04-2016-2532(b).**

**The Respondent shall note on the face of the check the Respondent's Name and the Docket Number TSCA-04-2016-2532(b).**

The penalty payment shall be sent by one of the methods below.

Address for payment submittal using the United States Postal Service (USPS) (excluding USPS overnight mail):

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

Address for payment submittal using USPS overnight mail or other delivery service (e.g., Federal Express, United Parcel Service, DHL, etc.):

U.S. Bank  
Government Lockbox 979077  
U.S. EPA Fines & Penalties  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Mail Station SL-MO-C2-GL  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
Contact Phone Number: (314) 425-1819

17. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of the check and a written statement that the payment is being 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, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Phalia McCorkle-Kester  
Lead and Asbestos Section  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

18. For the purposes of state and federal income taxation, Respondent shall not be entitled, and agrees not to attempt, to claim a deduction for any civil penalty payment pursuant to

this CAFO. Any attempt by Respondent to deduct any such payments shall constitute a violation of this CAFO.

19. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, the 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 this CAFO, if the penalty is not paid by the date required. A charge will also be assessed to cover the administrative costs, both direct and indirect, of overdue debts. In addition, under the Adequate Response Requirement of the CAFO Policy, a late payment may require Formal Enforcement Procedures be employed to collect any principal amount not paid within 30 days of the due date.
20. Complainant and Respondent shall bear their own costs and attorney fees in this matter.
21. This CAFO shall be binding upon the Respondent, its successors and assigns.
22. 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 binds that party to this CAFO.

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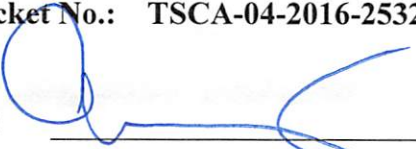
**VI. Effective Date**

23. 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:**

**Respondent: Audubon Communities d/b/a Bella Apartments**

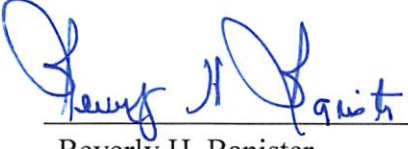
**Docket No.: TSCA-04-2016-2532(b)**

By:  (Signed) Date: 12-30-16

Name: Andrew Schwarz (Typed or Printed)

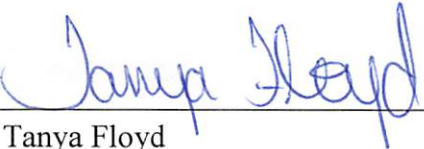
Title: Manager (Typed or Printed)

**Complainant: U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

By:  Date: 2/14/17

Beverly H. Banister  
Director  
Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division

**APPROVED AND SO ORDERED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017

By: 

Tanya Floyd  
Regional Judicial Officer



**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the date set out below, I filed the original and one copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order and served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order, In the Matter of Audubon Communities d/b/a Bella Apartments TSCA-04-2016-2532(b), to the addressees listed below:

Tammy Shields  
Audubon Communities d/b/a Bella Apartments  
6525 The Corners Parkway, Suite 216  
Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30092



(via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested)

Phalia McCorkle-Kester  
Shanieka Pennamon  
Lead and Asbestos Section  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

(via EPA's internal mail)

Robert Caplan, Senior Attorney  
Office of Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

(via EPA's internal mail)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
 Patricia A. Bullock, Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960  
(404) 562-9511

Date: 3/16/17