1 SYLVIA QUAST Regional Counsel 2 BRIAN P. RIEDEL Assistant Regional Counsel U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 \*\* FILED \*\* 75 Hawthorne Street (ORC-2) 14JUL2017 - 03:25FM 5 San Francisco, CA 94105 U.S.EPA - Region of (415) 972-3924 6 riedel.brian@epa.gov 7 **UNITED STATES** 8 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY **REGION 9** 9 10 In the Matter of: Docket No. TSCA-09-2017- 0006 11 K Kittle LLC dba Rebath & 5 Day Kitchens CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL 12 ORDER PURSUANT TO 40 C.F.R. 13 Respondent. §§ 22.13 AND 22.18 14 **CONSENT AGREEMENT** 15 16 The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), Region 9, and K Kittle 17 LLC ("Respondent") agree to settle this matter and consent to the entry of this Consent 18 Agreement and Final Order ("CAFO"), which simultaneously commences and concludes this 19 matter in accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b). 20 I. AUTHORITY, JURISDICTION AND PARTIES 21 22 1. This a civil administrative penalty action brought against Respondent pursuant to Section 23 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA"), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), for violation of 24 Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, for failing to comply with Sections 402 and 406 of 25 TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2682 and 2686, and their implementing rules issued at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, 26 Subpart E. 27 28 In the Matter of: K Kittle LLC ReBath & 5 Day Kitchens Consent Agreement and Final Order 1

- 2. Complainant is the Director of the Enforcement Division, EPA, Region 9, who has been duly delegated the authority to bring and settle this action under TSCA.
- 3. Respondent, an Arizona corporation located in Phoenix, Arizona, is a residential kitchen and bathroom designer and remodeler.

# II. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AND REGULATORY SECTIONS

- 4. Pursuant to Section 406(b) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2686(b), 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E requires a person who performs for compensation a renovation of target housing to provide a lead hazard information pamphlet to the owner and occupant before beginning the renovation.
- 5. Pursuant to Sections 402(a) and (c) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2682(a) and (c), 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E sets forth requirements for certification of individuals and firms engaged in lead-based paint activities and work practice standards for renovation, repair and painting activities in target housing.
- 6. "Target housing" means any housing constructed prior to 1978, except housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities (unless any child who is less than six years of age resides or is expected to reside in such housing) or any 0-bedroom dwelling. Section 401 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2681.
- 7. "Person" means any natural or judicial person including any individual, corporation, partnership, or association; any Indian Tribe, State, or political subdivision thereof; any interstate body; and any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
- 8. "Firm" means a company, partnership, corporation, sole proprietorship, or individual doing business, association, or other business entity; a Federal, State, Tribal, or local government

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agency; or a nonprofit organization. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.

other surface coatings. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.

- 9. "Renovation" means the modification of any existing structure, or portion thereof, that results in the disturbance of painted surfaces, unless that activity is part of an abatement as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 745.223. The term "renovation" includes (but is not limited to): the removal, modification or repair of painted surfaces or painted components (e.g., modification of painted doors, surface restoration, window repair, surface preparation activity (such as sanding, scraping, or other such activities that may generate paint dust); the removal of building components (e.g., walls, ceilings, plumbing windows); weatherization projects (e.g., cutting holes in painted surfaces to install blown-in insulation or to gain access to attics planning thresholds to install weatherstripping), and interim controls that disturb painted surfaces....The term "renovation" does not include minor repair and maintenance activities. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
- 11. "Renovator" means any individual who either performs or directs workers who perform renovations. A certified renovator is a renovator who has successfully completed a renovator course accredited by EPA or an EPA-authorized State or Tribal program. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.

10. "Painted surface" means a component surface covered in whole or in part with paint or

- 12. "Pamphlet" means the EPA pamphlet titled, "Renovate Right: Important Lead Hazard Information for Families, Child Care Providers and Schools," developed under Section 406(a) of TSCA for use in complying with Section 406(b) of TSCA, or any State or Tribal pamphlet approved by EPA pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.326 that is developed for the same purpose. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
  - 13. No more than 60 days before beginning renovation activities in any residential dwelling

unit of target housing, the firm performing the renovation must provide the owner of the unit with the "pamphlet," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, and either obtain from the owner a written acknowledgment that the owner has received the "pamphlet" or obtain a certificate of mailing the "pamphlet" at least 7 days prior to the renovation. 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(1).

- 14. Firms performing renovations must retain documentation of compliance with the requirements of § 745.85, including documentation that a certified renovator was assigned to the project; that the certified renovator provided on-the-job training for workers used on the project; that the certified renovator performed or directed workers who performed all of the work practice tasks described in § 745.85(a); and that the certified renovator performed the post-renovation cleaning verification described in § 745.85(b). 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(b)(6).
- 15. Firms performing renovations must ensure that a certified renovator is assigned to each renovation performed by the firm and discharges all of the certified renovator responsibilities identified in § 745.90. 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(2).
- 16. A certified renovator must prepare the records required by § 745.86(b)(1)(ii) and (6). 40 C.F.R. § 745.90(b)(8).
- 17. Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), and the Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule at 40 C.F.R. Part 19, which implements the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. § 2461, as amended, authorize civil penalties not to exceed \$37,500 per day for each violation of Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, that occurred after January 12, 2009 but before November 2, 2015.

# III. ALLEGATIONS

- 18. Respondent is a "person," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
- 19. At all times relevant to this CAFO, Respondent was a "firm," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
- 20. At all times relevant to this CAFO, the residential property located at 2124 East Osborne Street, in Phoenix, Arizona 85016 ("Target Housing") was "target housing," as that term is defined at Section 401 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2681.
- 21. Within the period of August 18, 2014, to August 22, 2014, Respondent performed renovations ("Renovations") as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at the Target Housing.

# FIRST CLAIM

- 22. Paragraphs 1-21 of this CAFO are realleged and are incorporated herein by reference.
- 23. Respondent did not obtain from the owner of the Target Housing a written acknowledgment that the owner has received the Pamphlet or obtain a certificate of mailing the Pamphlet at least 7 days prior to the Renovations.
- 24. Respondent's failure to obtain from the owner of the Target Housing a written acknowledgment that the owner has received the Pamphlet or obtain a certificate of mailing the Pamphlet at least 7 days prior to the Renovations constitutes a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(1) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

### SECOND CLAIM

- 25. Paragraphs 1-24 of this CAFO are realleged and are incorporated herein by reference.
- 26. Respondent did not retain documentation that a certified renovator was assigned to the project; that a certified renovator provided on-the-job training for workers used; that a certified

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renovator performed or directed workers who performed all of the work practice tasks described in § 745.85(a); and that a certified renovator performed the post-renovation cleaning verification described in § 745.85(b) for the Renovations performed at the Target Housing.

27. Respondent's failures to retain documentation that a certified renovator was assigned to the project; that a certified renovator provided on-the-job training for workers used; that a certified renovator performed or directed workers who performed all of the work practice tasks described in § 745.85(a); and that a certified renovator performed the post-renovation cleaning verification described in § 745.85(b) for the Renovations performed at the Target Housing constitute four (4) violations of 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(b)(6) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

# THIRD CLAIM

- 28. Paragraphs 1-27 of this CAFO are realleged and are incorporated herein by reference.
- 29. Respondent did not ensure that a certified renovator discharged all of the certified renovator responsibilities identified in § 745.90 for the Renovations performed at the Target Housing.
- 30. Respondent's failure to ensure that a certified renovator discharged all of the certified renovator responsibilities identified in § 745.90 for the Renovations performed at the Target Housing constitutes a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(2) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

# IV. RESPONDENT'S ADMISSIONS

31. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2) and for the purpose of this proceeding, Respondent: (i) admits that EPA has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this CAFO and over

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| 1        |  |
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| 2        | Overnight Mail:  |
| 3        | U.S. Bank<br>1005 Convention Plaza   |
| 4        | Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL<br>ATTN Box 979077   |
|          | St. Louis, MO 63101  |
| 5        | ACH (also known as REX or remittance express):   |
| 6        | US Treasury REX/Cashlink ACH Receiver ABA = 051036706  |
| 7        | Account Number: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency CTX Format Transaction Code 22 - checking  |
| 8        | Physical location of US Treasury Facility 57000 Rivertech Court  |
| 9        | Riverdale, MD 20737 Remittance Express (REX) 1-866-234-5681  |
| 10       |  |
| 11       | On Line Payment: This payment option can be accessed from the information below:   |
| 12       | www.pay.gov Enter "sfo1.1" in the search field   |
| 13       | Open form and complete required fields   |
| 14       | If clarification regarding a particular method of payment remittance is needed, contact the EPA Cincinnati Finance Center at 513-487-2091. |
| 15<br>16 | Concurrently, a copy of the check or notification that the payment has been made by one of the   |
| 17       | other methods listed above, including proof of the date payment was made, shall be sent with   |
| 18       | a transmittal letter indicating Respondent's name, the case title, and the docket number to the  |
| 19       | following addressees:  |
| 20       | Regional Hearing Clerk   |
| 21       | Office of Regional Counsel (ORC-1) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 75 Hawthorne Street                                      |
| 22       |  |
| 23       | San Francisco, California 94105  |
| 24       | Max Weintraub  |
| 25       | Waste & Chemical Section (ENF-2-2) Enforcement Division  |
| 26       | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 75 Hawthorne Street   |
| 27       | San Francisco, CA 94105  |
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- 34. Payment of the above civil administrative penalty shall not be used by Respondent or any other person as a tax deduction from Respondent's federal, state, or local taxes.
- 35. If Respondent fails to pay the assessed civil administrative penalty specified in Paragraph 32 by the deadline specified in Paragraph 33, then Respondent shall pay to EPA a stipulated penalty of \$500 per day in addition to the assessed penalty. Stipulated penalties shall accrue until such time as the assessed penalty and all accrued stipulated penalties are paid and shall become due and payable upon written request by EPA. In addition, failure to pay the civil administrative penalty by the deadline specified in Paragraph 33 may lead to any or all of the following actions:
- a. The debt being referred to a credit reporting agency, a collection agency, or to the Department of Justice for filing of a collection action in the appropriate United States District Court. 40 C.F.R. §§ 13.13, 13.14, and 13.33. In any such collection action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of the assessed penalty and of this CAFO shall not be subject to review.
- b. The debt being collected by administrative offset (i.e., the withholding of money payable by the United States to, or held by the United States for, a person to satisfy the debt the person owes the Government), which includes, but is not limited to, referral to the Internal Revenue Service for offset against income tax refunds. 40 C.F.R. Part 13, Subparts C and H.
- c. EPA may (i) suspend or revoke Respondent's licenses or other privileges; or (ii) suspend or disqualify Respondent from doing business with EPA or engaging in programs EPA sponsors or funds. 40 C.F.R. § 13.17.
- d. In accordance with the Debt Collection Act of 1982 and 40 C.F.R. Part 13, interest, penalties charges, and administrative costs will be assessed against the outstanding amount that

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Respondent owes to EPA for Respondent's failure to pay the civil administrative penalty by the deadline specified in Paragraph 33. Interest will be assessed at an annual rate that is equal to the rate of current value of funds to the United States Treasury (i.e., the Treasury tax and loan account rate) as prescribed and published by the Secretary of the Treasury in the Federal Register and the Treasury Fiscal Requirements Manual Bulletins. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a)(1). Penalty charges will be assessed monthly at a rate of 6% per annum. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(c). Administrative costs for handling and collecting Respondent's overdue debt will be based on either actual or average cost incurred, and will include both direct and indirect costs. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). In addition, if this matter is referred to another department or agency (e.g., the Department of Justice, the Internal Revenue Service), that department or agency may assess its own administrative costs, in addition to EPA's administrative costs, for handling and collecting Respondent's overdue debt.

#### VI. RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

36. In executing this CAFO, Respondent certifies that it is now fully in compliance with the federal regulations promulgated at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E.

#### VII. RETENTION OF RIGHTS

37. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c), this CAFO only resolves Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts specifically alleged in Section III of this CAFO. Nothing in this CAFO is intended to or shall be construed to resolve (i) any civil liability for violations of any provision of any federal, state, or local law, statute, regulation, rule, ordinance, or permit not specifically alleged in Section III of this CAFO; or (ii) any criminal liability. EPA specifically reserves any and all authorities, rights, and remedies available to it

(including, but not limited to, injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions) to address any violation of this CAFO or any violation not specifically alleged in Section III of this CAFO.

38. This CAFO does not exempt, relieve, modify, or affect in any way Respondent's duty to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, rules, ordinances, and permits.

# VIII. ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS

39. Each party shall bear its own attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements incurred in this proceeding.

### IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

40. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18(b)(3) and 22.31(b), this CAFO shall be effective on the date that the final order contained in this CAFO, having been approved and issued by either the Regional Judicial Officer or Regional Administrator, is filed.

### X. BINDING EFFECT

- 41. The undersigned representative of Complainant and the undersigned representative of Respondent each certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and to bind the party he or she represents to this CAFO.
- 42. The provisions of this CAFO shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and its officers, directors, employees, agents, trustees, servants, authorized representatives, successors, and assigns.

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Complainant and Respondent, having entered into the foregoing Consent Agreement,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this CAFO (Docket No. TSCA-09-2017-606) be
entered, and that Respondent shall pay a civil administrative penalty in the amount of
NINETEEN THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND TEN DOLLARS (\$19,810) and comply
with the terms and conditions set forth in the Consent Agreement. This Consent Agreement and
Final Order shall become effective upon filing.

<u>07/13/17</u> DATE

STEVEN L. JAWGIEL Regional Judicial Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the original and one copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order has been filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, Region IX and that a true and correct copy was sent by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to:

Lori Lund President K Kittle LLC 4102 W Adams Street, Suites 4-6 Phoenix, AZ 85009 Certified Mail #706 1370 0000 0743 5310

and Hand-Delivered to:

Brian Riedel Office of Regional Counsel U.S. EPA, Region IX 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105

Steven Armsey

Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. EPA, Region IX