

FILED

April 14, 2026

12:22PM

**U.S. EPA REGION 7
HEARING CLERK**

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7
11201 RENNER BOULEVARD
LENEXA, KANSAS 66219**

In the Matter of)
)
NEW Cooperative, Inc.) **Docket No. CAA-07-2026-0177**
)
Respondent.)

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

Preliminary Statement

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 (EPA or Complainant), and NEW Cooperative, Inc. (Respondent) have agreed to a settlement of this action before the 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 and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits, 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2).

Jurisdiction

1. This proceeding is an administrative action for the assessment of civil penalties initiated pursuant to Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d). Pursuant to Section 113(d) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), the Administrator and the Attorney General jointly determined that this matter, in which the first date of alleged violation occurred more than twelve months prior to the initiation of the administrative action, was appropriate for administrative penalty action.

2. This Consent Agreement and Final Order serves as notice that the EPA has reason to believe that Respondent has violated the Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions in 40 C.F.R. Part 68, promulgated pursuant to Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), and that Respondent is therefore in violation of Section 112(r) of the CAA. Furthermore, this Consent Agreement and Final Order serves as notice pursuant to Section 113(d)(2)(A) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(2)(A), of the EPA's intent to issue an order assessing penalties for these violations.

Parties

3. Complainant is the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, Region 7, as duly delegated by the Administrator of EPA.

4. Respondent is NEW Cooperative, Inc., a corporation in good standing under the laws of the state of Iowa, which owns and operates two anhydrous ammonia distributing facilities

located at 2521 7 Mile Road, Charles City, Iowa (Charles City); and 203 West Oak Street, Red Oak, Iowa (Red Oak) (Respondent's Facilities).

Statutory and Regulatory Background

5. On November 15, 1990, the President signed into law the CAA Amendments of 1990. The Amendments added Section 112(r) to Title I of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), which requires the Administrator of the EPA to, among other things, promulgate regulations in order to prevent accidental releases of certain regulated substances. Section 112(r)(3), 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3), mandates that the Administrator promulgate a list of regulated substances, with threshold quantities, and defines the stationary sources that will be subject to the chemical accident prevention regulations mandated by Section 112(r)(7). Specifically, Section 112(r)(7), 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), requires the Administrator to promulgate regulations that address release prevention, detection, and correction requirements for these listed regulated substances.

6. On June 20, 1996, the EPA promulgated a final rule known as the Risk Management Program, 40 C.F.R. Part 68, which implements Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7). This rule requires owners and operators of stationary sources to develop and implement a risk management program that includes a hazard assessment, a prevention program, and coordination of emergency response activities.

7. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 68, titled Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions, set forth the requirements of a risk management program that must be established at each stationary source. The risk management program is described in a Risk Management Plan (RMP) that must be submitted to the EPA.

8. Pursuant to Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), and 40 C.F.R. § 68.150, an RMP must be submitted for all covered processes by the owner or operator of a stationary source that has more than a threshold quantity of a regulated substance in a process no later than the latter of June 21, 1999, or the date on which a regulated substance is first present above the threshold quantity in a process.

9. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 68.10 set forth how the Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions apply to covered processes. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.10(k), a covered process is subject to Program 2 requirements if the process does not meet the eligibility requirements of either Program 1 or Program 3, as described in 40 C.F.R. § 68.10(j) and (l), respectively.

10. Section 113(d) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), states that the Administrator may issue an administrative order against any person assessing a civil administrative penalty of up to \$25,000 per day of violation whenever, on the basis of any available information, the Administrator finds that such person has violated or is violating any requirement or prohibition of Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), and its implementing regulations. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701, as amended, and the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, 28 U.S.C. § 2461, and implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 19, increased these statutory maximum penalties to

\$59,114 for violations that occur after November 2, 2015, and for which penalties are assessed on or after January 8, 2025.

Definitions

11. Section 302(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e), defines “person” to include any individual, corporation, partnership, association, State, municipality, political subdivision of a State, and any agency department, or instrumentality of the United States and any officer, agent, or employee thereof.

12. Section 112(a)(9) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(a)(9), defines “owner or operator” as any person who owns, leases, operates, controls, or supervises a stationary source.

13. Section 112(r)(2)(C) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(C), and the regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 define “stationary source,” in part, as any buildings, structures, equipment, installations or substance-emitting stationary activities which belong to the same industrial group, which are located on one or more contiguous properties, which are under the control of the same person (or persons under common control), and from which an accidental release may occur.

14. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 define “regulated substance” as any substance listed pursuant to Section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, as amended, in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130.

15. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 define “threshold quantity” as the quantity specified for regulated substances pursuant to Section 112(r)(5) of the CAA, as amended, listed in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130 and determined to be present at a stationary source as specified in 40 C.F.R. § 68.115.

16. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 define “process” as any activity involving a regulated substance including any use, storage, manufacturing, handling or on-site movement of such substances, or combination of these activities. For the purposes of this definition, any group of vessels that are interconnected, or separate vessels that are located such that a regulated substance could be involved in a potential release, shall be considered a single process.

Factual Allegations

17. Respondent is, and at all times referred to herein was, a “person” as defined by Section 302(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e).

18. Respondent owns and operates two anhydrous ammonia distributing facilities located at 2521 7 Mile Road, Charles City, Iowa (Charles City); and 203 West Oak Street, Red Oak, Iowa (Red Oak). The Facilities are each a “stationary source” as defined by Section 112(r)(2)(C) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(C), and in 40 C.F.R. § 68.3.

19. Anhydrous ammonia is a “regulated substance” pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.3. The threshold quantity for anhydrous ammonia, as listed in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130, is 10,000 pounds.

20. EPA Region 7 conducted inspections at the Charles City facility in August 2023 and at Red Oak in December 2024 to determine compliance with Section 112(r) of the CAA and 40 C.F.R. Part 68.

21. Information gathered during the EPA inspections revealed that Respondent had greater than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia in a process at its Facilities.

22. Information gathered during the EPA inspection revealed that Respondent stores and distributes agricultural products, including anhydrous ammonia, at its Facilities, and therefore is engaged in a process at its Facilities.

23. From the time Respondent first had onsite at each Facility greater than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia in a process, Respondent was subject to the requirements of Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), and 40 C.F.R. Part 68 because it was an owner and operator of a stationary source that had more than a threshold quantity of a regulated substance in a process.

24. From the time Respondent first had onsite at each Facility greater than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia in a process, Respondent was subject to Program 2 prevention program requirements because pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.10(k), the process does not meet the eligibility requirements of either Program 1 or Program 3, as described in 40 C.F.R. § 68.10(j) and (l), respectively.

25. From the time Respondent first had onsite at each Facility greater than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia in a process, Respondent was required under Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), to submit an RMP for each Facility pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(a) and comply with the Program 2 requirements provided at 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(c) and detailed in Subpart C.

Allegations of Violation

26. Complainant hereby states and alleges that Respondent has violated the CAA and federal regulations promulgated thereunder as follows:

Count 1

27. The facts stated above are herein incorporated.

28. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(a) requires the owner or operator of a stationary source subject to the Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions, 40 C.F.R. Part 68, to submit a single RMP as provided in 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.150 to 68.185. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.160, the owner or operator shall complete a single registration form that provides, *inter alia*, the Program level of each covered process and whether the stationary source is subject to 29 C.F.R. § 1910.119.

29. The EPA inspections revealed that Respondent failed to submit an RMP pursuant to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.150 to 68.185. Specifically:

- (a) At the Red Oak facility, Respondent failed to provide the operator phone number on the RMP as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.160(b)(4).
- (b) At the Red Oak and Charles City facilities, Respondent failed to update the emergency contact information on the RMP as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.195(b).

30. Respondent's failure to submit an RMP pursuant to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.150 to 68.185, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(a), is a violation of Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7).

Count 2

31. The facts stated above are herein incorporated.

32. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d)(3) requires the owner or operator of a stationary source with a process subject to Program 2 to implement the Program 2 prevention requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.48 through 68.60.

33. The EPA inspections revealed that Respondent failed to implement the Program 2 prevention requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.48 through 68.60. Specifically:

- (a) At Respondent's Charles City and Red Oak facilities, Respondent failed to document that equipment in the covered process is designed in compliance with recognized and generally accepted good engineering, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.48(b);
- (b) At the Red Oak facility, Respondent failed to perform inspections and tests on process equipment, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.56(d);
- (c) At the Charles City facility, Respondent failed to promptly determine and document an appropriate response to each of the findings of the compliance audit and document that deficiencies were corrected, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.58(d).

34. Respondent's failures to comply with Program 2 prevention requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.48 through 68.60, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d)(3), violate Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7).

Count 3

35. The facts stated above are herein incorporated.

36. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d)(4) requires the owner or operator of a stationary source with a process subject to Program 2 to coordinate response actions with local emergency planning and response agencies as provided in 40 C.F.R. § 68.93. Specifically:

- (a) At Respondent's Red Oak, and Charles City facilities, Respondent failed to provide the emergency action plans to the local emergency planning and response organizations as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.93(b).
- (b) At Respondent's Red Oak facility, Respondent failed to document coordination with local authorities as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.93(c).

37. Respondent's failures to comply with the emergency coordination requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 68.93, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d)(4), violate Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7).

CONSENT AGREEMENT

38. For the purposes of this proceeding, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2), Respondent:

- (a) admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth herein;
- (b) neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations stated herein;
- (c) consents to the assessment of a civil penalty, as stated herein;
- (d) consents to the issuance of any specified compliance or corrective action order;
- (e) consents to any conditions specified herein;
- (f) consents to any stated Permit Action;
- (g) waives any right to contest the allegations set forth herein; and
- (h) waives its rights to appeal the Final Order accompanying this Consent Agreement.

39. By signing this consent agreement, Respondent waives any rights or defenses that Respondent has or may have for this matter to be resolved in federal court, including but not limited to any right to a jury trial, and waives any right to challenge the lawfulness of the Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement.

40. Respondent consents to the issuance of this Consent Agreement and Final Order and consents for the purposes of settlement to the payment of the civil penalty specified herein.

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

42. The parties consent to service of this Consent Agreement and Final Order electronically at the following e-mail addresses: huston.liz@epa.gov (for Complainant) and jwells@newcoop.com (for Respondent). Respondent understands that the Consent Agreement and Final Order will become publicly available upon filing.

Penalty Payment

43. Respondent agrees that, in settlement of the claims alleged herein, Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of one hundred nineteen thousand two hundred fifty-five (\$119,255), as set forth below.

1. Respondent shall pay the penalty within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Final Order. Such payment shall identify Respondent by name and docket number and shall be made using any payment method provided at <http://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>. For instructions for wire transfers and additional information, see <https://www.epa.gov/financial/additional-instructions-making-payments-epa>.

2. Confirmation of payment shall simultaneously be sent to the following:

Regional Hearing Clerk
R7_Hearing_Clerk_Filings@epa.gov; and

Liz Huston, Attorney
huston.liz@epa.gov

3. Respondent understands that its failure to timely pay any portion of the civil penalty may result in the commencement of a civil action in Federal District Court to recover the full remaining balance, along with penalties and accumulated interest. In such case, interest shall begin to accrue on a civil or stipulated penalty from the date of delinquency until such civil or stipulated penalty and any accrued interest are paid in full. 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(b)(1). Interest will be assessed at a rate of the United States Treasury Tax and loan rates in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 3717. Additionally, a charge will be assessed to cover the costs of debt collection including processing and handling costs, and a non-payment penalty charge on a per year, compounded annually basis will be assessed on any portion of the debt which remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days after payment is due. 31 U.S.C. § 3717(e)(2).

4. Pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 6050X and 26 C.F.R. § 1.6050X-1, the EPA is required to send to the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") annually, a completed IRS Form 1098-F ("Fines, Penalties, and Other Amounts") with respect to any court order or settlement agreement (including administrative settlements) that require a payor to pay an aggregate amount that EPA reasonably believes will be equal to, or in excess of, \$50,000 for the payor's violation of any law or the investigation or inquiry into the payor's potential violation of any law, including amounts paid for "restitution or remediation of property" or to come "into compliance with a law." The

EPA is further required to furnish a written statement, which provides the same information provided to the IRS, to each payor (i.e., a copy of IRS Form 1098-F). Respondent's failure to provide IRS Form W-9 or Tax Identification Number ("TIN"), as described below, may subject Respondent to a penalty, per 26 U.S.C. § 6723, 26 U.S.C. § 6724(d)(3), and 26 C.F.R. § 301.6723-1. To provide the EPA with sufficient information to enable it to fulfill these obligations, Respondent herein agrees that:

- (a) Respondent shall complete an IRS Form W-9 ("Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification"), which is available at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>;
- (b) Respondent shall certify that its completed IRS Form W-9 includes Respondent's correct TIN or that Respondent has applied and is waiting for issuance of a TIN;
- (c) Respondent shall email its completed Form W-9 to EPA's Cincinnati Finance Division at sherrer.dana@epa.gov within 30 days after the Final Order ratifying this Agreement is filed, and the EPA recommends encrypting IRS Form W-9 email correspondence; and
- (d) In the event that Respondent has certified in its completed IRS Form W-9 that it does not yet have a TIN but has applied for a TIN, Respondent shall provide EPA's Cincinnati Finance Division with Respondent's TIN, via email, within five (5) days of Respondent's receipt of a TIN issued by the IRS.

Effect of Settlement and Reservation of Rights

5. Full payment of the penalty proposed in this Consent Agreement shall only resolve Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations alleged herein. Complainant reserves the right to take any enforcement action with respect to any other violations of the CAA or any other applicable law.

6. The effect of settlement described in the immediately preceding paragraph is conditioned upon the accuracy of Respondent's representations to the EPA, as memorialized in the paragraph directly below.

7. Respondent certifies by the signing of this Consent Agreement that it is presently in compliance with all requirements of the CAA and its implementing regulations.

8. Full payment of the penalty proposed in this Consent Agreement shall not in any case affect the right of the Agency or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. This Consent Agreement and Final Order does not waive, extinguish, or otherwise affect Respondent's obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of the CAA and regulations promulgated thereunder.

9. This Consent Agreement and Final Order constitutes an “enforcement response” as that term is used in EPA’s *Clean Air Act Combined Enforcement Response Policy for Clean Air Act Sections 112(r)(1), 112(r)(7) and 40 C.F.R. Part 68* to determine Respondent’s “full compliance history” under Section 113(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(e).

10. Complainant reserves the right to enforce the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

General Provisions

11. By signing this Consent Agreement, the undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that they are fully authorized to execute and enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and have the legal capacity to bind the party they represent to this Consent Agreement.

12. This Consent Agreement shall not dispose of the proceeding without a final order from the Regional Judicial Officer or Regional Administrator ratifying the terms of this Consent Agreement. This Consent Agreement and Final Order shall be effective upon the filing of the Final Order by the Regional Hearing Clerk for EPA, Region 7. Unless otherwise stated, all time periods stated herein shall be calculated in calendar days from such date.

13. The penalty specified herein shall represent civil penalties assessed by the EPA and shall not be deductible for purposes of Federal, State, or local taxes.

14. This Consent Agreement and Final Order shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and Respondent’s agents, successors and/or assigns. Respondent shall ensure that all contractors, employees, consultants, firms, or other persons or entities acting for Respondent with respect to matters included herein comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement and Final Order.

RESPONDENT:
NEW COOPERATIVE, INC.

Date: 4.6.2026



Signature

Jon Wells

Name

Safety & Risk Manager

Title

COMPLAINANT:
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Date: _____

Alyse Stoy
Acting Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7

Date: _____

Elizabeth Huston
Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7

FINAL ORDER

Pursuant to Section 113(d) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, the foregoing Consent Agreement resolving this matter is hereby ratified and incorporated by reference into this Final Order.

Respondent is ORDERED to comply with all of the terms of the Consent Agreement. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b), the effective date of the foregoing Consent Agreement and this Final Order is the date on which this Final Order is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Karina Borromeo
Regional Judicial Officer

Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify a true and correct copy of the Administrative Order for Compliance on Consent was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Regional Hearing Clerk:

R7_Hearing_Clerk_Filings@epa.gov

Copy emailed to Respondent:

John Wells, New Cooperative, Inc.
Jwells@newcoop.com

Copy emailed to representatives of EPA:

Elizabeth Huston
EPA Region 7 Office of Regional Counsel
Huston.liz@epa.gov

Abigail Widiker
EPA Region 7 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
Widiker.abigail@epa.gov

Aaron Banes
EPA Region 7 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
Banes.aaron@epa.gov

Date: _____

Regional Hearing Clerk