



UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

IN THE MATTER OF )  
 )  
HABEEBA SHARIFF and ) DOCKET NO. TSCA-05-2008-0007  
M. ANWAR SHARIFF, )  
 )  
 )  
RESPONDENTS )

PREHEARING ORDER

As you previously have been notified, I have been designated by the November 17, 2008 Order of the Chief Administrative Law Judge to preside in the above captioned matter.<sup>1/</sup> This proceeding arises under the authority of Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a). This proceeding is governed by the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (the "Rules of Practice"), 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.1-32. The parties are advised to familiarize themselves with both the applicable statute(s) and the Rules of Practice.

The Complaint alleges that Respondents violated Section 1018 of the Residential Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4851 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations. Complainant proposes the assessment of a civil administrative penalty in the amount of \$18,958 against Respondents. The Complaint alleges that Respondent Habeeba Shariff owned the property at issue in this matter and that Respondent M. Anwar Shariff managed the property. Complaint ¶¶ 17, 18. Respondent M. Anwar Shariff filed an Answer and indicated that he may have filed

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<sup>1/</sup> In response to an inquiry from this office, Complainant agreed to participate in the Alternate Dispute Resolution ("ADR") process offered by this office. Respondents did not respond to the inquiry, which is deemed to be a declination of their participation in ADR.

the Answer on behalf of both Respondents. Respondents Habeeba Shariff and M. Anwar Shariff must file written declarations clarifying whether Respondent M. Anwar Shariff is appearing individually or also on behalf of Respondent Habeeba Shariff. See 40 C.F.R. § 22.10. Such declarations must be filed by **December 17, 2008**.

United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") policy, found in the Rules of Practice at Section 22.18(b), 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b), encourages settlement of a proceeding without the necessity of a formal hearing. The benefits of a negotiated settlement may far outweigh the uncertainty, time, and expense associated with a litigated proceeding.

The record before me does not indicate that settlement discussions between the parties have been held. The parties are directed to hold a settlement conference on this matter on or before **December 31, 2008** to attempt to reach an amicable resolution of this matter. See Section 22.4(c)(8) of the Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. § 22.4(c)(8). Complainant shall file a status report regarding such conference and the status of settlement on or before **January 12, 2009**.

In the event that the parties fail to reach a settlement by that date, they shall strictly comply with the requirements of this order and prepare for a hearing. The parties are advised that extensions of time will not be granted absent a showing of good cause. See Section 22.7(b) of the Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. § 22.7(b). The pursuit of settlement negotiations or an averment that a settlement in principle has been reached will not constitute good cause for failure to comply with the prehearing requirements or to meet the schedule set forth in this Prehearing Order. Of course, the parties are encouraged to initiate or continue to engage in settlement discussions during and after preparation of their prehearing exchange.

The following requirements of this Order concerning prehearing exchange information are authorized by Section 22.19(a) of the Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. § 22.19(a). As such, it is directed that the following prehearing exchange takes place:

1. Each party <sup>2/</sup> shall submit:

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<sup>2/</sup> Respondents may choose to file a joint prehearing exchange, or each Respondent may file separately.

- (a) the names of any expert or other witnesses it intends to call at the hearing, together with a brief narrative summary of each witness' expected testimony, or a statement that no witnesses will be called; and
- (b) copies of all documents and exhibits which each party intends to introduce into evidence at the hearing. The exhibits should include a curriculum vitae or resume for each proposed expert witness. If photographs are submitted, the photographs must be actual unretouched photographs. The documents and exhibits shall be identified as "Complainant's" or "Respondents'" exhibit,<sup>3/</sup> as appropriate, and numbered with Arabic numerals (e.g., "Complainant's Exhibit 1"); and
- (c) a statement expressing its view as to the place for the hearing and the estimated amount of time needed to present its direct case.

See Sections 22.19(a), (b), (d) of the Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.19(a), (b), (d); see also Section 22.21(d) of the Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. § 22.21(d).

- 2. Complainant shall submit a statement explaining in detail how the proposed penalty was determined, including a description of how the specific provisions of any Agency penalty or enforcement policies and/or guidelines were applied in calculating the penalty.
- 3. Respondents shall submit a statement explaining why the proposed penalty should be reduced or eliminated. If any Respondent intends to take the position that it is unable to pay the proposed penalty or that payment will have an adverse effect on its ability to continue to do business, that Respondent shall furnish supporting documentation such as certified copies of financial statements or tax returns.

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<sup>3/</sup> If Respondents choose to submit separate prehearing information, the documents and exhibits should be identified appropriately (e.g. "Respondent Habeeba Shariff's Exhibit 1" or "Respondent M. Anwar Shariff's Exhibit 1").

4. Complainant shall submit a statement regarding whether the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 ("PRA"), 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501 et seq., applies to this proceeding, whether there is a current Office of Management and Budget control number involved herein and whether the provisions of Section 3512 of the PRA are applicable in this case.

See Section 22.19(a)(3) of the Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. § 22.19(a)(3).

The prehearing exchanges delineated above shall be filed in *seriatim* manner, according to the following schedule:

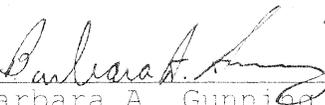
- February 24, 2009 - Complainant's Initial Prehearing Exchange
- March 24, 2009 - Respondents' Prehearing Exchange, including any direct and/or rebuttal evidence
- April 7, 2009 - Complainant's Rebuttal Prehearing Exchange (if necessary)

In his Answer to the Complaint, Respondent M. Anwar Shariff exercised his right to request a hearing pursuant to Section 554 of the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA"), 5 U.S.C. § 554. If the parties cannot settle with a Consent Agreement and Final Order, a hearing will be held in accordance with Section 556 of the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 556. Section 556(d) of the APA provides that a party is entitled to present its case or defense by oral or documentary evidence, to submit rebuttal evidence, and to conduct such cross-examination as may be required for a full and true disclosure of the facts. Thus, each Respondent has the right to defend itself against Complainant's charges by way of direct evidence, rebuttal evidence, or through cross-examination of Complainant's witnesses. Each Respondent is entitled to elect any or all three means to pursue its defense. If either Respondent elects only to conduct cross-examination of Complainant's witnesses and to forgo the presentation of direct and/or rebuttal evidence, that Respondent shall serve a statement to that effect on or before the date for filing its prehearing exchange. Each party is hereby reminded that failure to comply with the prehearing exchange requirements set forth herein, including a Respondent's statement of election only to conduct cross-examination of Complainant's witnesses, can result in the entry of a default judgment against the defaulting party. See Section 22.17 of the Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. § 22.17.

The original and one copy of all pleadings, statements and documents (with any attachments) required or permitted to be filed in this Order (including a ratified Consent Agreement and Final Order) shall be filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, and copies

(with any attachments) shall be sent to the undersigned and all other parties. The parties are advised that E-mail correspondence with the Administrative Law Judge is not authorized. See Section 22.5(a) of the Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. § 22.5(a). The prehearing exchange information required by this Order to be sent to the Presiding Judge, as well as any other further pleadings, shall be addressed as follows:

Judge Barbara A. Gunning  
Office of Administrative Law Judges  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Code 1900L  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
Telephone: 202-564-6281

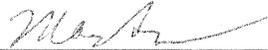
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara A. Gunning  
Administrative Law Judge

Dated: November 21, 2008  
Washington, DC

**In the Matter of *Habeeba Shariff, and/or Skokie Illinois and M. Anwar Shariff, Chicago, Illinois and/or Eden Prairie, Minnesota, Respondents.***  
**Docket No. TSCA-05-2008-0007**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing **Prehearing Order**, dated November 21, 2008, was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees listed below.



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Mary Angeles  
Legal Staff Assistant

Original and One Copy by Pouch Mail to:

Tywanna Greene  
Acting Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA / Region V  
77 West Jackson Blvd., E-13J  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Copy by Pouch Mail to:

Michael Berman, Esq.  
Assistant Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA / ORC / Region V / C-14J  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Copy by Regular Mail to:

M. Anwar Shariff.  
18281 Coneflower Lane  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

Habeeba Shariff  
3957 North Ashland  
Chicago, IL 60613

Dated: November 21, 2008  
Washington, D.C.