

**UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR**

In the Matter of:)	
)	
The Geo Group, Inc.,)	Docket No. FIFRA-09-2024-0066
)	
Respondent.)	

JOINT MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A NEUTRAL

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.16(a), Complainant and Respondent now jointly move for the appointment of a neutral in the above-referenced matter pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(d)(3). The Presiding Officer’s Prehearing Order issued on August 6, 2024 provides that the Presiding Officer may consider such a joint motion filed no later than seven (7) days after the deadline for the filing of Complainant’s Rebuttal Prehearing Exchange. In this case, Complainant’s Rebuttal Prehearing Exchange was filed on October 25, 2024, the deadline provided in the Prehearing Order. Thus, this motion is timely.

As stated in the Prehearing Order, Agency policy encourages settlement of a proceeding without the necessity of a formal hearing and acknowledges that the benefits of a negotiated settlement may far outweigh the uncertainty, time and expense associated with a litigated proceeding. Order at 1. Section 22.18(d) provides that the parties may engage in any process within the scope of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Act, 5 U.S.C. §§581 *et seq.*, which may facilitate voluntary settlement efforts. At this time, the parties wish to continue to engage in settlement discussions and believe that these discussions will benefit from the appointment of a neutral. The parties understand that, under 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(d)(3), if the Presiding Officer

grants this motion, the Presiding Officer shall forward the motion to the Chief Administrative Law Judge, who will designate a qualified neutral.

Accordingly, Complainant and Respondent request that this joint motion be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

10/31/2024
Date

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10/31/2024
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that an electronic copy of the foregoing Joint Motion for Appointment of a Neutral *In the Matter of The Geo Group, Inc.*, Docket No. FIFRA-09-2024-0066, was filed and served on the Presiding Officer this day through the Office of Administrative Law Judge's E-Filing System. I certify that an electronic copy of this Joint Motion for Appointment of Neutral was sent this day by e-mail to the following e-mail address for service on Respondent: Gregory M. Munson, Esq. at gmunson@gunster.com.

10/31/2024
Date

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