

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75270

FILED

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REGIONAL HEARING CLERK
EPA REGION VI

In the Matter of

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§

LACC, LLC US
Westlake, Louisiana

Docket No. CAA-06-2022-3355

Respondent.

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

Preliminary Statement

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 (“EPA” or “Complainant”), and LACC, LLC US, (“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 instituted 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)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7). 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), and 40 C.F.R. § 22.34, 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 of EPA, Region 6, as duly delegated by the Administrator of the EPA and the Regional Administrator, EPA, Region 6.

4. Respondent is LACC, LLC US, a corporation incorporated in the state of Delaware and authorized to conduct business in the state of Louisiana.

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). The objective of Section 112(r) is to minimize the consequences of any such release of any substance listed pursuant to Section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3), or any other extremely hazardous substance.

6. Section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3), mandates the Administrator to promulgate a list of regulated substances which, in the case of an accidental release, are known to cause or may reasonably be anticipated to cause death, injury, or serious adverse effects to human health or the environment. Section 112(r)(5) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(5), mandates that the Administrator establish a threshold quantity for any substance listed pursuant to Section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3). The list of regulated substances and respective threshold quantities is codified at 40 C.F.R. § 68.130.

7. Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), requires the Administrator to promulgate regulations that address release prevention, detection, and correction requirements for stationary sources with threshold quantities of regulated substances listed pursuant to Section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3). On June 20, 1996, EPA promulgated a final rule known as the Risk

Management Program, 40 C.F.R. Part 68 – Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions, which implements Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7).

8. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 68 require owners and operators to develop and implement a Risk Management Program at each stationary source with over a threshold quantity of regulated substances. The Risk Management Program must include, among other things, a hazard assessment, a prevention program, and an emergency response program. The Risk Management Program is described in a Risk Management Plan (RMP) that must be submitted to the EPA.

9. 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 subject to 40 C.F.R. Part 68 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.

10. The regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 68.10 set forth how the Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions of 40 C.F.R. Part 68 apply to each program level of covered processes. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.10(i), a covered process is subject to Program 3 requirements if the process does not meet the requirements of Program 1, as described in 40 C.F.R. § 68.10(g), and if it is in a specified North American Industrial Classification System code or is subject to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) process safety management standard, 29 C.F.R. § 1910.119.

11. 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 \$37,500 for violations that occurred before November 2,

2015, and to \$51,796 for violations that occur after November 2, 2015, and are assessed after January 12, 2022.

Definitions

12. 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.

13. Section 112(r)(2)(A) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(A), and the regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “accidental release” as an unanticipated emission of a regulated substance or other extremely hazardous substance into the ambient air from a stationary source.

14. Section 112(r)(2)(C) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(C), and the regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “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.

15. Section 112(r)(2)(B) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(B), and the regulation 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.

16. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “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.

17. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “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.

18. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “covered process” as a process that has a regulated substance present in more than a threshold quantity as determined under 40 C.F.R. § 68.115.

EPA Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

19. 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).

20. Respondent is the owner and operator of the facility that was located at: 2200 Bayou D’Inde Pass, Westlake, Louisiana 70669 (“the Facility”).

21. Pursuant to Section 114 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7414, the EPA conducted an on-site inspection and compliance evaluation of the Facility from February 15, 2022, to February 17, 2022, to determine Respondent’s compliance with Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), and 40 C.F.R. Part 68 (“the Inspection”).

22. The Facility is a “stationary source” pursuant to Section 112(r)(2)(C) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(2)(C), and the regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3.

23. The Respondent is an ethylene facility that uses ethane in an ethane cracking process to produce up to one million metric tons per year of ethylene product. The facility also consists of an Integrated Combustion Control System that consists of an enclosed ground flare and a high-pressure ground flare. The Respondent’s ethylene processes meet the definition of “process” and “covered process”, as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 68.3. The Respondent’s RMP program level 3 covered processes store or otherwise use a regulated substance in an amount exceeding the applicable threshold.

24. 1,3-Butadiene, Propylene, Methane, Ethane, Propane, Ethylene, Butene, Pentane, Butane, and Chlorine are “regulated substances” pursuant to Section 112(r)(2)(B) of the CAA, and the regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3. The threshold quantity for each of the regulated substances listed above, except for Chlorine, as listed in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130 is 10,000 pounds. The threshold quantity for the regulated

substance, Chlorine, as listed in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130 is 2,500 pounds.

25. Respondent has greater than a threshold quantity of Methane, Ethane, Propane, Propylene, Ethylene, 1,3-Butadiene, Pentane, Butane, Butene, and Chlorine in processes at the Facility, meeting the definition of “covered process” as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 68.3.

26. From the time Respondent first had on-site greater than a threshold quantity of Methane, Ethane, Propane, Propylene, Ethylene, 1,3-Butadiene, Pentane, Butane, Butene, and Chlorine, in its processes, Respondent was subject to the requirements of Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), and 40 C.F.R. Part 68 because it was the owner or operator of a stationary source that had more than a threshold quantity of a regulated substance in a process.

27. From the time Respondent first had on-site greater than a threshold quantity of Methane, Ethane, Propane, Propylene, Ethylene, 1,3-Butadiene, Pentane, Butane, Butene, and Chlorine, in its processes, Respondent was required to submit an RMP pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(a) and comply with the Program 3 prevention requirements because pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.10(i), the covered process at the Facility did not meet the eligibility requirements of Program 1 and is in North American Industry Classification System code 32511 (petrochemical manufacturing) and is subject to the OSHA process safety management standard, 29 C.F.R. § 1910.119.

EPA Findings of Violation

28. The facts stated in the EPA Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law above are herein incorporated.

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

Count 1 – Failure to Update and Revalidate the Process Hazard Analysis

30. 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 3 to implement the prevention requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.65 through 68.87. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.67(f) provides that at least every five (5) years

after the completion of the initial process hazard analysis, the process hazard analysis shall be updated and revalidated by a team meeting the requirements in paragraph (d) of this section, to assure that the process hazard analysis is consistent with the current process.

31. At the time of the Inspection, Respondent failed to complete a process hazard analysis five years after its initial process hazard analysis completed May 20, 2016.

32. Respondent's failure to update and revalidate the process hazard analysis within five (5) years after the completion of the initial process hazard analysis, to assure that the process hazard analysis is consistent with the current process, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.67(f), as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d)(3), is a violation of Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7).

Count 2 – Failure to Certify Operating Procedures Annually

33. 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 3 to implement the prevention requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.65 through 68.87. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.69(c), the operating procedures shall be reviewed as often as necessary to assure that they reflect current operating practice, including changes that result from changes in process chemicals, technology, and equipment, and changes to stationary sources. The owner or operator shall certify annually that these operating procedures are current and accurate.

34. At the time of the Inspection, Respondent failed to provide documentation that it conducted an annual certification of its operating procedures for years 2020 and 2021.

35. Respondent's failure to certify annually that the operating procedures are current and accurate, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.69(c), as required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(d)(3), is a violation of Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7).

Count 3 – Failure to Update Required Corrections for the Emergency Contact Information

36. The regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 68.12(a) requires the owner or operator of a stationary source subject to Part 68 to submit a single RMP. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.195(b), the owner or operator of a stationary source for which a RMP was submitted shall correct the RMP Emergency

contact information, within one month of any changes in the emergency contact information required under 40 C.F.R. § 68.160(b)(6), the owner or operator shall submit a correction of that information.

37. At the time of the Inspection, Respondent failed to update in its RMP the name of the designated emergency contact within one month from the retirement of that individual in October 2019.

38. Respondent's failure to submit a correction of the emergency contact information within one month of any change, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 68.195(b), is a violation of Section 112(r)(7) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7).

CONSENT AGREEMENT

39. For the purpose 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 any conditions specified herein;
- (e) waives any right to contest the allegations set forth herein; and
- (f) waives its rights to appeal the Final Order accompanying this 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.

Penalty Payment

42. Respondent agrees that, in settlement of the claims alleged herein, Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of **thirty-eight thousand two hundred and sixty-four dollars (\$38,264.00)**, as set forth below.

43. 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 by certified or cashier's check made payable to the "United States Treasury" and sent to:

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

or by alternate payment method described at <http://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>.

44. A copy of the check or other information confirming payment shall simultaneously be sent to the following:

Lorena S. Vaughn
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500 (ORC)
Dallas, Texas 75270-2102
vaughn.lorena@epa.gov; and

Tony Robledo
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
Air Enforcement Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500 (ECDAC)
Dallas, Texas 75270-2101
Robledo.Tony@epa.gov

45. 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 of six

percent (6%) per year compounded annually 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).

Effect of Settlement and Reservation of Rights

46. 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.

47. 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 paragraph directly below.

48. Full payment of the penalty proposed in this Consent Agreement shall not affect the right of the Agency or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for violations of law not addressed in the Consent Agreement and Final Order. 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.

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

General Provisions

50. By signing this Consent Agreement, the undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that it is fully authorized to execute and enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and has the legal capacity to bind the party it represents to this Consent Agreement.

51. 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 filing of the Final Order by the Regional Hearing Clerk for EPA, Region 6. Unless otherwise stated, all time periods stated herein shall be calculated in calendar days from such date.

52. The penalty specified herein shall represent civil penalties assessed by EPA and shall not

be deductible for purposes of Federal, State, and local taxes.

53. 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.

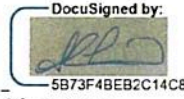
54. The EPA and Respondent agree to the use of electronic signatures for this matter pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.6. The EPA and Respondent further agree to electronic service of this Consent Agreement and Final Order by email to the following:

To EPA: pittman.lawrence@epa.gov

To Respondent: lauren.rucinski@keanmiller.com;
 daniel.kennedy@lottechem.com
 andrew.lavin@lottechem.com

**RESPONDENT:
LACC, LLC US**

Date: 8/3/2022



Signature

Andrew Lavin

Print Name

EHS&S Manager

Title

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret Osborne".

Digitally signed by MARGARET
OSBOURNE
Date: 2022.08.03 20:15:45 -05'00'

Cheryl T. Seager
Director
Enforcement and
Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. EPA, Region 6

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.

This Final Order shall resolve only those causes of action alleged in the Consent Agreement. Nothing in this Final Order shall be construed to waive, extinguish, or otherwise affect Respondent's (or its officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, or assigns) obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations, including the regulations that were the subject of this action.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

**THOMAS
RUCKI**

Digitally signed by THOMAS RUCKI
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government,
ou=Environmental Protection
Agency, cn=THOMAS RUCKI,
0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=6800100
3655804
Date: 2022.08.04 16:27:14 -04'00'

Thomas Rucki
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was electronically delivered to the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA, Region 6, 1201 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas 75270-2102, and that a true and correct copy was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy via Email to Complainant:

pittman.lawrence@epa.gov

Copy via Email to Respondent:

lauren.rucinski@keanmiller.com;

daniel.kennedy@lottechem.com

andrew.lavin@lottechem.com

Copy via Email to Regional Hearing Clerk:

vaughn.lorena@epa.gov

Dated this 5th day of August, 2022.

LAWRENCE
PITTMAN

Digitally signed by LAWRENCE
PITTMAN
Date: 2022.08.09 08:58:49 -05'00'

Signed
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region 6