

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX

2014 JUL -1 AM 9: 27

US EPA - REGION IX
HEARING CLERK

In the matter of)	U.S. EPA Docket No.
)	RCRA- 9-2014- 0006
Bowman Plating Company, Inc.)	
)	
EPA ID No. CAD008475964)	CONSENT AGREEMENT AND
)	FINAL ORDER PURSUANT TO
)	40 C.F.R. SECTIONS 22.13 AND
<u>Respondent.</u>)	22.18

CONSENT AGREEMENT

A. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is a civil administrative enforcement action instituted pursuant to Section 3008(a)(1) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA"), as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(1), and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits, 40 Code of Federal Regulations ("C.F.R.") Part 22. Complainant is the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 ("EPA"). Respondent is Bowman Plating Company, Inc. (Respondent or "Bowman").
2. Respondent owns and operates a facility located at 2631 East 126th Street, in Compton, California, 90222 (the "Facility"). The Facility's EPA Identification Number is CAD008475964. Respondent is a metal finishing company that performs a number of activities on aerospace parts including, but not limited to, non-destructive testing, cleaning and applying anodize finishes, chemical conversion and paint coatings to aluminium, titanium, and/or stainless steel alloys for the aerospace industry.
3. On October 19, 2011, an unannounced RCRA Compliance Evaluation Inspection ("CEI") was conducted by inspectors from the EPA. The purpose of the inspection was to determine the Facility's compliance with applicable federal environmental statutes and regulations, and in particular RCRA, as amended, and the regulations in 40 C.F.R. Parts 261-265, 268, 273 and 279, and the regulations adopted by the California authorized program under RCRA in the California Code of Regulations ("C.C.R.")¹, Title 22,

¹ All citations to the "C.C.R." refer to Division 4.5 of Title 22 of the current California Code of Regulations. EPA is enforcing California hazardous waste management program requirements as

Division 4.5 and the California Health and Safety Code, Division 20. Based upon the findings EPA made during the inspection, and additional information obtained subsequent to the inspection, EPA determined that Respondent had violated California Health & Safety Code § 25100 *et seq.* and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto, as approved and authorized by the United States.

4. This Consent Agreement and Final Order pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Sections 22.13 and 22.18 ("CA/FO"), simultaneously commences and concludes this proceeding, wherein EPA alleges that Respondent failed to: (1) obtain a permit for storage of hazardous waste, a violation of 22 C.C.R. §§ 66262.34 and 66270.1 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34 and 270.1]; (2) maintain adequate aisle space, a violation of 22 C.C.R. §§ 66262.34(a)(4) and 66265.35 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a) and 265.35]; (3) close containers of hazardous waste, a violation of 22 C.C.R. §§ 66262.34(a)(4) and 66265.173 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a) and 265.173]; and (4) maintain and operate the facility to minimize the possibility of any unplanned release, a violation of 22 C.C.R. §§ 66262.34(a)(4) and 66265.31 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a) and 265.31]. These are all in violation of Section 3001 *et seq.* of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6921 *et seq.*, and state regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

B. JURISDICTION

5. On August 1, 1992, the State of California received authorization to administer the hazardous waste management program in lieu of the federal program pursuant to § 3006 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6926, and 40 C.F.R. Part 271. The authorized program is established pursuant to the Hazardous Waste Control Law, Chapter 6.5 of Division 20 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the regulations promulgated thereunder at Title 22, Division 4.5 of the California Code of Regulations, 22 C.C.R. §§ 66001 *et seq.* The State of California has been authorized for all the regulations referenced in this CA/FO.
6. Respondent is a "person" as defined in 22 C.C.R. § 66260.10 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
7. Respondent is the "operator" of a facility as defined in 22 C.C.R. § 66260.10 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
8. Respondent is a "generator" of hazardous waste as defined in 22 C.C.R. § 66260.10 [40 C.F.R. § 260.10].
9. Respondent is or has been engaged in "storage" of hazardous waste as defined in 22 C.C.R. § 66260.10 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 260.10].

approved and authorized by the United States. Corresponding Federal citations are provided in brackets.

10. Respondent generates and accumulates, or has generated and accumulated, materials that are “wastes” as defined in 22 C.C.R. §§ 66260.10 and 66261.2 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 260.10 and 261.2].
11. At the Facility, Respondent generates and accumulates, or has generated and accumulated, “hazardous waste” as defined in California Health & Safety Code § 25117, and 22 C.C.R. §§ 66260.10 and 66261.3 [*see also* RCRA § 1004(5), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 260.10 and 261.3]. These hazardous wastes include, but are not limited to, plating wastewater treatment sludges (F006, D007), paint filters and paint wastes (D007), spent cyanide plating baths and solids (D002, D003, D007, and F008), spent paint remover (D002, F003) and spent paint solvent (D001, F005).
12. Section 3006 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6926 provides, *inter alia*, that authorized state hazardous waste programs are carried out under Subtitle C of RCRA. Therefore, a violation of any requirement of law under an authorized state hazardous waste program is a violation of a requirement of Subtitle C of RCRA.
13. A violation of California’s authorized hazardous waste program, found at H&SC § 25100 *et seq.*, constitutes a violation of Subtitle C of RCRA and, therefore, a person who violates California’s authorized hazardous waste program is subject to the powers vested in the EPA Administrator by Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928.
14. Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928, authorizes the EPA Administrator to issue orders assessing a civil penalty for any past or current violation, or requiring compliance immediately or within a specified time for violation, of any requirement of Subtitle C of RCRA, Section 3001 of RCRA *et seq.*, 42 U.S.C. § 6921 *et seq.*
15. The Administrator has delegated the authority under Section 3008 of RCRA to the EPA Regional Administrator for Region 9, who has redelegated this authority to the signatory.

C. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

COUNT I

Failure to obtain a permit for storage of hazardous waste

16. Paragraphs 1 through 15 above are incorporated herein by this reference as if they were set forth here in their entirety.
17. 22 C.C.R. § 66262.34(a) allows a generator to accumulate hazardous waste onsite for up to 90 days without a permit or interim status, provided that the generator complies with certain requirements. Those requirements include that generators who accumulate hazardous waste must label each hazardous waste tank or container with the words “hazardous waste” and the date accumulation of the waste begins. The label must be visible for inspection [*see also* 40 C.F.R. § 262.34(a)]. 22 C.C.R. § 66262.34(f) also requires that the label show the composition and physical state of the wastes; a statement or statements which call attention to the particular hazardous properties of the waste (e.g.,

flammable, reactive, etc.); and the name and address of the person producing the waste.

18. At the time of the CEI, the EPA Inspectors observed several containers of RCRA hazardous waste that were not marked with the words “hazardous waste” and did not include the required accumulation start date.
19. Because Respondent failed to properly label containers of hazardous waste, it was not entitled to store hazardous waste without a permit. Therefore EPA alleges that Respondent violated the requirements of 22 C.C.R. §§ 66262.34(f) and 270.1 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a) and 270.1].

COUNT II

Failure to provide adequate aisle space

20. Paragraphs 1 through 19 above are incorporated herein by this reference as if they were set forth here in their entirety.
21. 22 C.C.R. §§ 66262.34(a)(4) and 66265.35 require that the owner or operator must maintain aisle space to allow the unobstructed movement of personnel, fire protection equipment, spill control equipment, and decontamination equipment to any area of facility operation in an emergency, unless the aisle space is not needed for any of these purposes [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a)(4) and 265.35].
22. On October 19, 2011, the EPA Inspectors observed five containers of hazardous waste that were stored without appropriate aisle space in an area where aisle space was needed.
23. Therefore, EPA alleges that Respondent stored hazardous waste without adequate aisle space, a violation of 22 C.C.R. §§ 66262.34(a)(4) and 66265.35 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a)(4) and 265.35].

COUNT III

Failure to close containers of hazardous waste

24. Paragraphs 1 through 23 above are incorporated herein by this reference as if they were set forth here in their entirety.
25. 22 C.C.R. §§ 66262.34(a)(1) and 66265.173(a) provide that a container holding hazardous waste must always be closed during storage, except when it is necessary to add or remove waste [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a)(1) and 265.173(a)].
26. During the CEI, EPA Inspectors observed two open containers of RCRA D008 waste, when no waste was being added to or removed.
27. Therefore, EPA alleges that Respondent has violated 22 C.C.R. §§ 66262.34(a)(1) and 66265.173(a) [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a)(1) and 265.173(a)].

COUNT IV

Failure to Maintain and Operate the Facility to Minimize the Possibility of any Unplanned Release

28. Paragraphs 1 through 27 above are incorporated herein by this reference as if they were set forth here in their entirety.
29. 22 C.C.R. §§ 66262.34(a)(4) and 66265.31 provide that facilities must be maintained and operated to minimize the possibility of a fire, explosion, or any unplanned sudden or non-sudden release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents to air, soil, or surface water which could threaten human health or the environment [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a) and 265.31].
30. On October 19, 2011, the EPA Inspectors observed that solvent- and water-based paint residue had been released and was accumulating in the secondary containment area of the Transfer Station.
31. Therefore, EPA alleges that Respondent has violated 22 C.C.R. §§ 66262.34(a)(4) and 66265.31 [*see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a) and 265.31].

D. CIVIL PENALTY

32. Section 3008(g) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(g), as adjusted by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 and the Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule, 40 C.F.R. Part 19, authorizes a civil penalty of up to thirty-seven thousand, five hundred dollars (\$37,500) per day for violations of Subtitle C of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6921 *et seq.*, occurring after January 12, 2009. Based upon the facts alleged herein and upon those factors which EPA must consider pursuant to Section 3008(a)(3) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(3), and the 2003 RCRA Civil Penalty Policy (“Penalty Policy”), including the seriousness of the violations, any good faith efforts by Respondent to comply with applicable requirements, and any economic benefit accruing to Respondent, as well as such other matters as justice may require, EPA proposes that Respondent be assessed NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$9,900.00) as the civil penalty for the violations alleged herein. The proposed penalties were calculated in accordance with the Penalty Policy.

E. ADMISSIONS AND WAIVERS OF RIGHTS

33. For the purposes of this proceeding, Respondent admits to the jurisdictional allegations set forth in Section B of this CA/FO and agrees not to contest EPA's jurisdiction and authority to enter into and issue this CA/FO and to enforce its terms. Further, Respondent will not contest EPA's jurisdiction and authority to compel compliance with this CA/FO in any enforcement proceedings, either administrative or judicial, or to impose sanctions for violations of this CA/FO.

34. Respondent neither admits nor denies any allegations of fact or law set forth in Section C of this CA/FO. Respondent hereby waives any rights Respondent may have to contest the allegations set forth in this CA/FO, waives any rights Respondent may have to a hearing on any issue relating to the factual allegations or legal conclusions set forth in this CA/FO, including without limitation a hearing pursuant to Section 3008(b) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(b), and hereby consents to the issuance of this CA/FO without adjudication. In addition, Respondent hereby waives any rights Respondent may have to appeal the Final Order attached to this Consent Agreement and made part of this CA/FO.

F. PARTIES BOUND

35. This CA/FO shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and its agents, successors and assigns, until such time as the civil penalty required under Sections D and G has been paid in accordance with Section G, and any delays in performance and/or stipulated penalties have been resolved. At such time as those matters are concluded, this CA/FO shall terminate and constitute full settlement of the violations alleged herein.
36. No change in ownership or corporate, partnership or legal status relating to the Facility will in any way alter Respondent's obligations and responsibilities under this CA/FO.
37. The undersigned representative of Respondent hereby certifies that he or she is fully authorized by Respondent to enter into this CA/FO, to execute and to legally bind Respondent to it.

G. PAYMENT OF CIVIL PENALTY

38. Respondent consents to the assessment of and agrees to pay a civil penalty of NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$9,900.00) in full settlement of the federal civil penalty claims alleged in this CA/FO.
39. Respondent shall submit payment of the NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$9,900.00) within thirty (30) calendar days of the Effective Date of this CA/FO in accordance with one of the options set forth below. The Effective Date of this CA/FO is the date the Final Order, signed by the Regional Judicial Officer, is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk. All payments shall indicate the name of the Facility, EPA identification number of the Facility, the Respondent's name and address, and the EPA docket number of this action.

Regular Mail:

Payment shall be made by certified or cashier's check payable to "Treasurer of the United States" and sent as follows:

US Environmental Protection Agency
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
PO Box 979077
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000.

Wire Transfers:

Wire transfers must be sent directly to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City with the following information:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York

ABA = 021030004

Account = 68010727

SWIFT address = FRNYUS33

33 Liberty Street

New York, NY 10045

Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read "D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency"

Overnight Mail:

U.S. Bank

1005 Convention Plaza

Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL

ATTN Box 979077

St. Louis, MO 63101

ACH (also known as REX or remittance express):

Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) for receiving US currency

PNC Bank

808 17th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20074

ABA = 051036706

Transaction Code 22 – checking

Environmental Protection Agency

Account 31006

CTX Format

On Line Payment:

This payment option can be accessed from the information below:

www.pay.gov

Enter "sfo1.1" in the search field

Open form and complete required fields

If clarification regarding a particular method of payment remittance is needed, contact the EPA Cincinnati Finance Center at 513-487-2091.

40. At the time payment is made, a copy of the payment transmittal shall be sent to:

Regional Hearing Clerk (RC-1)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

and

Chris Rollins (ENF 2-2)
Enforcement Division
Waste and Chemical Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105.

41. In accordance with the Debt Collection Act of 1982 and U.S. Treasury directive (TFRM 6-8000), each payment must be received by the due date set forth in this CA/FO to avoid additional charges.

H. DELAY IN PERFORMANCE/STIPULATED PENALTIES

42. In the event Respondent fails to meet any requirement set forth in this CA/FO, Respondent shall pay stipulated penalties as set forth below:
For failure to submit a payment to EPA by the time required in this CA/FO: ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100) per day for first to fifteenth day of delay, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500) per day for sixteenth to thirtieth day of delay, and ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000) per day for each day of delay thereafter.
43. All penalties owed to EPA under this Section shall be due within thirty (30) days of receipt of a notification of noncompliance. Such notification shall describe the noncompliance and shall indicate the amount of penalties due. Interest at the current rate published by the United States Treasury, as described at 40 C.F.R. §13.11, shall begin to accrue on the unpaid balance at the end of the thirty-day period.
44. All penalties shall be made payable by certified or cashier's check to "Treasurer of the United States" and shall be remitted as described in Paragraph 39.
45. The payment of stipulated penalties shall not alter in any way Respondent's obligation to complete the performance required hereunder.
46. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, EPA may, in its unreviewable discretion, waive any portion of stipulated penalties that have accrued pursuant to this CA/FO.
47. The stipulated penalties set forth in this Section do not preclude EPA from pursuing any other remedies or sanctions which may be available to EPA by reason of Respondent's failure to comply with any of the requirements of this CA/FO.

I. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

48. By signing this consent agreement, Respondent certifies under penalty of law to EPA that the Respondent has fully complied with RCRA Hazardous Waste Management requirements, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6921–6939e, and the federally authorized California hazardous waste management program including 22 C.C.R. § 66262.34(a) [see also 40 C.F.R. § 262.34(a)], 22 C.C.R. § 66265.31 [see also 40 C.F.R. § 265.31]; 22 C.C.R. § 66265.35 [see also 40 C.F.R. § 265.35], 22 C.C.R. § 66265.173(a) [see also 40 C.F.R. § 265.173(a)], that formed the basis for the violations alleged in this CA/FO. This certification of compliance is based upon true, accurate, and complete information, which the signatory can verify personally or regarding which the signatory has inquired of the person or persons directly responsible for gathering the information.

J. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

49. EPA hereby reserves all of its statutory and regulatory powers, authorities, rights and remedies, both legal and equitable, including the right to require that Respondent perform tasks in addition to those required by this CA/FO, except as to those civil penalties for the violations and facts alleged herein. EPA further reserves all of its statutory and regulatory powers, authorities, rights and remedies, both legal and equitable, which may pertain to Respondent's failure to comply with any of the requirements of this CA/FO, including without limitation, the assessment of penalties under Section 3008(c) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(c). This CA/FO shall not be construed as a covenant not to sue, release, waiver or limitation of any rights, remedies, powers or authorities, civil or criminal, which EPA has under RCRA (except as to those civil penalties for the violations and facts alleged herein); the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA"); or any other statutory, regulatory or common law enforcement authority of the United States.
50. Compliance by Respondent with the terms of this CA/FO shall not relieve Respondent of its obligations to comply with RCRA or any other applicable local, State or federal laws and regulations.
51. The entry of this CA/FO and Respondent's consent to comply shall not limit or otherwise preclude EPA from taking additional enforcement actions should EPA determine that such actions are warranted except as they relate to Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the specific alleged violations and facts as set forth in Section C of this CA/FO.
52. This CA/FO is not intended to be nor shall it be construed as a permit. This CA/FO does not relieve Respondent of any obligation to obtain and comply with any local, State or federal permits.

K. OTHER CLAIMS

53. Nothing in this CA/FO shall constitute or be construed as a release from nor an admission by Respondents of any other claim, cause of action or demand in law or equity by or against any person, firm, partnership, entity or corporation for any liability it may have arising out of or relating in any way to the generation, storage, treatment, handling, transportation, release, or disposal of any hazardous constituents, hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, pollutants, or contaminants found at, taken to, or taken from the Facility.

L. MISCELLANEOUS

54. This CA/FO may be amended or modified only by written agreement executed by both EPA and Respondent.

55. The headings in this CA/FO are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect interpretation of this CA/FO.

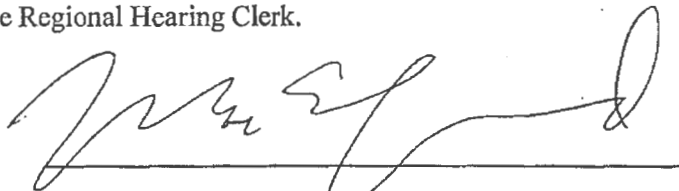
56. Each party shall bear its own attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements incurred in this proceeding.

57. The Effective Date of this CA/FO is the date the Final Order, signed by the Regional Judicial Officer, is filed by the Regional Hearing Clerk.

IT IS SO AGREED.

4/29/14

Date



Mac Esfandi, President
Bowman Plating Company

6/26/14

Date



Doug K. McDaniel, Chief
Waste and Chemical Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

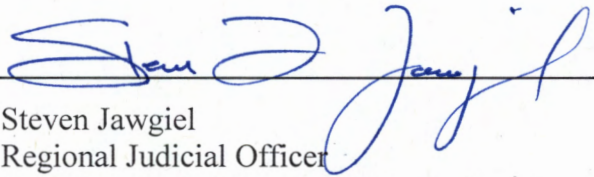
FINAL ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Consent Agreement and Final Order pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Sections 22.13 and 22.18 (U.S. EPA Docket No. RCRA-9 -2014- 0006) be entered and that Bowman Plating Company, Inc. pay a civil penalty of \$9,900.00 due within thirty (30) days from the Effective Date of this Consent Agreement and Final Order. Payment must be made pursuant to Section G of the Consent Agreement.

This Final Order shall be effective upon filing by the Regional Hearing Clerk.

06/30/14

Date



Steven Jawgiel
Regional Judicial Officer
United States Environmental Protection Agency,
Region 9

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the original of the fully executed Consent Agreement and Final Order in the matter of **Bowman Plating Company, Inc. (Docket #: RCRA-09-2014-0006)** was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105, and that a true and correct copy of the same was sent to the following parties:

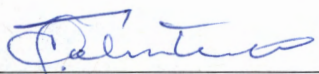
A copy was mailed via CERTIFIED MAIL to:

Mac Esfandi, President
Bowman Plating Company
2631 East 126th Street
Compton, CA 90222

CERTIFIED MAIL NUMBER: 7010 1670 0000 7048 0159

And additional copy was hand-delivered to the following U.S. EPA case attorney:

Rebecca Sugerman, Esq.
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105



for: Steven Armsey
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA, Region IX



Date