



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

JUN 24 2015

UNITED PARCEL SERVICE

Mr. Douglas Henderson, Esq.  
Attorney for Georgia Power Company  
Troutman Sanders  
600 Peachtree Street, Suite 5200  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Re: Georgia Power Company – Carrollton, GA  
Consent Agreement and Final Order  
Docket Number: CERCLA-04-2015-2008(b)

Dear Mr. Henderson:

Enclosed please find an executed copy of the Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) that resolves the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act matter (Docket No. CERCLA-04-2015-2008(b)) involving Georgia Power Company. The CAFO was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, as required by 40 C.F.R. Part 22 and became effective on the date of filing.

Also enclosed, please find a copy of the "Notice of Securities and Exchange Commission Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings." This document puts your client on notice of its potential duty to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) any environmental enforcement actions taken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you or your client has any questions with regard to the SEC's environmental disclosure requirements, you may refer to the contact phone number at the bottom of the SEC notice.

If you have any questions, please call Marlene Tucker at (404) 562-9536.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony G. Toney".

Anthony G. Toney  
Chief  
Chemical Safety and Enforcement Branch

Enclosures

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4**

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 )  
Georgia Power Company ) Docket Number: CERCLA-04-2015-2008(b)  
 )  
Respondent )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

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**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER**

**I. Nature of the Action**

1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, and pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22. Complainant is the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Region 4, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Respondent is Georgia Power Company.

2. The authority to take action under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, is vested in the Administrator of EPA. The Administrator of EPA has delegated this authority under CERCLA to the Regional Administrators by EPA Delegations 14-31, dated May 11, 1994. The Regional Administrator, Region 4, has redelegated to the Director, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, the authority under CERCLA by EPA Region 4 Delegation 14-31 dated March 8, 1999, and updated August 6, 2004. Pursuant to these delegations, the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division has the authority to commence an enforcement action as the Complainant in this matter.

3. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b) and desire to resolve this matter and settle the allegations described herein without a formal hearing. Therefore, without the taking of any evidence or testimony, the making of any argument, or the adjudication of any issue in this matter, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

**II. Preliminary Statements**

4. Respondent, Georgia Power Company, is a corporation doing business in the State of Georgia.

5. Respondent is a "person" and "the owner or operator" of a "facility", as those terms are defined in Sections 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9), Section 101(9) of

CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9), and Section 101(20)(A) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(20)(A).

6. Respondent's facility is located at 1371 Liberty Church Road, Carrollton, GA 30116.

### III. EPA's Allegation of Violation

7. Section 102(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9602(a), required the Administrator of EPA to publish a list of substances designated as hazardous substances which, when released into the environment, may present substantial danger to public health or welfare or the environment, and to promulgate regulations establishing the quantity of any hazardous substance the release of which was required to be reported under Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a). EPA has published and amended such a list, including the corresponding reportable quantities (RQ) for those substances. This list, which is codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 302, was initially published on April 4, 1985 (50 Fed. Reg. 13474) and is periodically amended.

8. Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), and the regulations found at 40 C.F.R. § 302.6, require a person in charge of a facility or vessel to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC), as soon as he or she has knowledge of a release of a hazardous substance from such facility or vessel in an amount equal to, or greater than the RQ.

9. Respondent was in charge of the facility on May 19, 2014.

10. Sodium hypochlorite is a "hazardous substance" as that term is defined by Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), with an RQ of 100 pounds, as specified in 40 C.F.R. § 302.4.

11. On May 19, 2014, Respondent's facility had a release of sodium hypochlorite above the RQ.

12. EPA alleges that Respondent violated the notification requirements of Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), by failing to immediately notify the NRC as soon as Respondent had knowledge of the release of sodium hypochlorite in an amount equal to or greater than its RQ at Respondent's facility, and is therefore subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609.

13. Pursuant to Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, and 40 C.F.R. Part 19, EPA may assess a penalty not to exceed \$37,500 for each violation of Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), that occurred after December 6, 2013. Each day a violation of Section 103 continues constitutes a separate violation. Civil penalties under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, may be assessed by Administrative Order.

### IV. Consent Agreement

14. For the purposes of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations

set out above, but neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set out above.

15. Respondent waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement.

16. Respondent consents to the assessment of, and agrees to pay, the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.

17. Respondent agrees to complete the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) as set forth in this CAFO.

18. Respondent certifies that as of the date of execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of CERCLA.

19. Compliance with this CAFO shall resolve the allegation of violation contained herein. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c), compliance with this CAFO only resolves Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the allegation in Section III of this CAFO and does not affect the right of the EPA or U.S. to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violation of law. This CAFO does not waive, extinguish or otherwise affect Respondent's obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of EPCRA, CERCLA or other applicable laws and regulations.

20. Complainant and Respondent agree to settle this matter by their execution of this CAFO. The parties agree that the settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that this CAFO is consistent with the applicable requirements of CERCLA.

#### V. Final Order

21. Respondent shall pay a CERCLA civil penalty of THREE HUNDRED FIFTY EIGHT DOLLARS (\$358) for the CERCLA violation alleged in Section III. Payment shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CAFO.

22. Respondent shall pay the CERCLA civil penalty by forwarding a cashier's or certified check, payable to "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund" to one of the following addresses:

BY MAIL

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Superfund Payments  
Cincinnati Finance Center  
P.O. Box 979076  
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

BY OVERNIGHT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Government Lockbox 979076  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Mail Station SL-MO-C2-GL  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
(314) 425-1818

The check shall reference on its face the name and the Docket Number of the CAFO.

23. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of the check, and a written statement that payment has been made in accordance with this CAFO, to the following persons at the following addresses:

Patricia Bullock  
Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mrs. Kerry Platt  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
Air, Pesticides & Toxics Management Division  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Saundi Wilson  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
Office of Environmental Accountability  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

24. For the purposes of state and federal income taxes, Respondent shall not be entitled, and agrees not to attempt, to claim a deduction for any civil penalty payment made pursuant to this CAFO. Any attempt by Respondent to deduct any such payments shall constitute a violation of this CAFO.

VI. Supplemental Environmental Project

25. Respondent shall undertake and complete the following Emergency Planning and Preparedness project within 45 days of the effective date of this CAFO. Respondent shall expend no less than ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY ONE DOLLARS (\$1,341) for the purchase of the following equipment and donation to the Heard County Fire & Emergency Services:

Quantity	Description
1 Each	7mm ACCESS Prusik x 200' (TE)
1 Each	7mm ACCESS Prusik x 200' (GLD)
1 Each	VANGUARD II, S (GOLD)
1 Each	VANGUARD II, M/L (GOLD)
4 Each	Extra Large Rescue D, S/G
10 Each	RIGGER OFFSET 'D' ALUMINUM S/G (SILVER)
4 Each	RT 3" NFWA PMP, Bearing (RD)

- 2 Each RT 3" NFPA Dbl PMP, Bear (RD)
- 3 Each RT MICRO DOUBLE PULLEY
- 2 Each RescueTECH Rescue Rappel Rack

26. This CAFO shall not be construed to constitute EPA's endorsement of the equipment or technology to be purchased by Respondent in connection with the SEP undertaken pursuant to the Agreement.

27. Respondent certifies that neither it, nor, to the best of its knowledge, the recipient of the Emergency Planning and Preparedness SEP, is a party to any open federal financial assistance transaction that is funding or could be used to fund the same activity as the SEP. Respondent further certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and belief after reasonable inquiry, there is no such open federal financial transaction that is funding or could be used to fund the same activity as the SEP, nor has the same activity been described in an unsuccessful federal financial assistance transaction proposal submitted to EPA within two years of the date of this settlement (unless the project was barred from funding as statutorily ineligible). For the purposes of this certification, the term "open federal financial assistance transaction" refers to a grant, cooperative agreement, loan, federally-guaranteed loan guarantee, or other mechanism for providing federal financial assistance whose financial performance period has not yet expired.

28. Respondent has obtained and presented to EPA a separate written Certification from the recipient of the SEP, the Heard County Fire & Emergency Services, stating that it is not a party to any open federal financial assistance transaction as stated in paragraph 27.

29. Respondent agrees that in order to receive credit for the SEP, it must fully and timely complete the SEP in accordance with Paragraph 25.

30. If Respondent fails to timely and fully complete any part of the SEP, including failure to spend the minimum amount of ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY ONE DOLLARS (\$1,341), Respondent shall pay to the United States a stipulated penalty of the difference between \$1,341 and the actual amount expended on the SEP.

31. For purposes of Paragraph 29, the determination as to whether Respondent has fully and timely completed the SEP shall be in the sole discretion of EPA.

32. Respondent certifies that, as of the date this CAFO is signed, it is not required to perform any part of the SEP by any federal, state, or local law, regulation, permit or order, or by any agreement or grant. Respondent further certifies that, as of this date, it has not received and is not negotiating to receive, credit for any part of the SEP in any other enforcement action of any kind.

33. Any public statement, oral or written, by Respondent making any reference to the SEP shall include the following language:

“This project was undertaken in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action taken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for an alleged violation of Section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).”

34. No later than sixty (60) calendar days after the effective date of this CAFO, Respondent shall submit to EPA a SEP Completion Report. The Report shall be sent to the Chemical Management and Emergency Planning Section, to the attention of Mrs. Kerry Platt at the address provided above. The Report shall include the following:

- (a) an affidavit from an authorized company official, attesting that the SEP has been completed or explaining in detail any failure to complete it; and
- (b) copies of appropriate documentation, including invoice receipts, showing a total expenditure of no less than \$1,341, was spent on the Emergency Planning and Preparedness SEP described in Paragraph 24; and
- (c) documentation proving that the equipment was donated to and received by the Heard County Fire & Emergency Services.

Respondent shall send EPA any additional documentation requested by EPA.

35. If Respondent fails to timely submit a SEP Completion Report as required by this CAFO, Respondent shall pay to the United States a stipulated penalty of \$100 for each calendar day that the report is late.

36. Respondent shall pay any stipulated penalties that accrue under this CAFO within 15 calendar days of the receipt by Respondent of written demand from EPA for such penalties. Such penalties shall be paid in accordance with the procedures set forth above for the payment of the civil penalty.

37. For Federal Income Tax purposes, Respondent agrees that it will neither capitalize into inventory or basis nor deduct any costs or expenditures incurred in performing the SEP.

38. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, EPA is entitled to assess interest and penalties on debts owed to the United States, and a charge to cover the cost of processing and handling a delinquent claim. Interest will therefore begin to accrue on the civil penalty from the effective date of this CAFO if the penalty is not paid by the date required. Interest will be assessed at the rate established by the Secretary of Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717. A charge will be assessed to cover the costs of debt collection, including processing and handling costs and attorney fees. In addition, a penalty charge will be assessed on any portion of the debt that remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days after payment is due.

39. Complainant and Respondent shall bear their own costs and attorney fees in this matter.

40. This CAFO shall be binding upon the Respondent, its successors, and assigns.
41. The following individual is authorized to receive service for EPA in this proceeding:

Verne H. George  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
Chemical Management and Emergency Planning Section  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(404) 562-8451

42. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this CAFO certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into this CAFO and legally bind that party to it.

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VI. Effective Date

43. The effective date of this CAFO shall be the date on which the CAFO is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

Georgia Power Company

By: Tanya Blalock Date: 4/28/15

Name: Tanya Blalock (Typed or Printed)

Title: General Manager Environmental Affairs (Typed or Printed)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By: Beverly H. Banister for Date: 05/20/15

Beverly H. Banister

Director

Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division

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APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this 24th day of June, 2015.



Carol F. Baschon  
Acting Regional Judicial Officer

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order, In the Matter of, Georgia Power Company, Docket Number: CERCLA-04-2015-2008(b), on the parties listed below in the manner indicated:

Verne H. George  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303

(via EPA's internal mail)

Marlene Tucker  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
Office of Environmental Accountability  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303

(via EPA's internal mail)

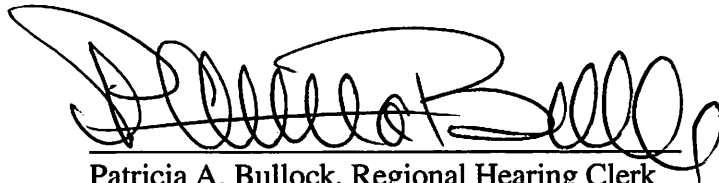
Robert Caplan  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
Office of Environmental Accountability  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303

(via EPA's internal mail)

Douglas Henderson  
Troutman Sanders  
600 Peachtree Street, Suite 5200  
Atlanta, GA 30308

(Certified Mail- Return Receipt Requested)

Date: 6-24-15



Patricia A. Bullock, Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency, Region 4  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(404) 562-9511