

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

FILED

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U.S. EPA, REGION IX
REGIONAL HEARING CLERK

DOCKET NO: CAA (112r)-09-2012-0013

This ESA is issued to: Sierra Chemical Co., Sparks Facility
2302 Larkin Circle,
Sparks, NV 89435

For: Violation of Section 112(r)(7) of the Clean Air Act.
At: Sierra Chemical Co, Sparks Facility, 2302 Larkin Circle, Sparks, NV 89435

This Expedited Settlement Agreement ("ESA") is being entered into by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), Region IX, by its duly delegated official, Jane Diamond, Superfund Director, and Sierra Chemical Co., Sparks Facility ("Respondent") pursuant to Section 113(a)(3) and (d) of the Clean Air Act (the "Act"), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a)(3) and (d), and by 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b). EPA has obtained the concurrence of the U.S. Department of Justice, pursuant to Section 113(d)(1) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(1), to pursue this administrative enforcement action.

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

1) Establish a system to promptly address the team's PHA findings and recommendations; assure that the recommendations are resolved in a timely manner and documented; document what actions are to be taken; complete actions as soon as possible; develop a written schedule of when these actions are to be completed; and communicate the actions to operating, maintenance, and other employees whose work assignments are in the process and who may be affected by the recommendations as required by Section 112(r)(7) of the Act, and 40 C.F.R. §68.67(e).

The respondent failed to have a tracking system that identifies that the deficiencies have been corrected. On April 15, 2011, the respondent provided documentation to EPA that this violation has been corrected.

2) Properly determine and document an appropriate response to each of the findings of the compliance audit and document that deficiencies had been corrected as required in Section 112(r)(7) of the Act, and 40 C.F.R. §68.79(d).

The respondent failed to have a tracking system that identifies that the deficiencies have been corrected. On April 15, 2011, the respondent provided documentation to EPA that this violation has been corrected.

3) Address steps for Temporary Operations and Emergency Operations in their written operating procedures as required by Section 112(r)(7) of the Act, 40 C.F.R. §68.69(a)(1)(iii) and 40 C.F.R. §68.69(a)(1)(v).

This needs to be addressed whether the facility operates in this mode or not. If they do not operate in this mode then it should be stated as such in the written operating procedures. On April 15, 2011, the respondent provided documentation to EPA that his violation has been corrected.

4) Certify annually that the operating procedures are current and accurate and that procedures have been reviewed as often as necessary as required by Section 112(r)(7) of the Act, 40 C.F.R. §68.69(c).

The respondent had not certified annually that the operating procedures were current and accurate. The procedures had not been certified since January 27, 2010 (approximately 6 weeks late). On April 15, 2011, the respondent provided documentation to EPA that his violation has been corrected.

SETTLEMENT

In consideration of Respondent's size of business, its full compliance history and previous penalties assessed, if any, its good faith effort to comply, the duration and seriousness of the violation, the economic impact of the penalty, and other factors as justice may require, the parties enter into this ESA in order to settle the violations described above for the total penalty amount of **\$5,400.00**.

This settlement is subject to the following terms and conditions:

The Respondent by signing below admits to jurisdiction, neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations contained above, and consents to the assessment of the penalty as stated above. Respondent waives its rights to a hearing afforded by Section 113(d)(2)(A) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. §7413(d)(2)(A), and to appeal this ESA. Each party to this action shall bear its own attorney's fees and costs, if any. Respondent also certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false submission to the United States Government, that the Respondent has corrected the violations listed above and have sent an **Online Payment through the Department of Treasury: WWW.PAY.GOV** (Enter SFO 1.1 in search field. Open form and complete required fields) **or alternatively send a cashier's check or certified check** (payable to the Treasurer, United States of America) in the amount of **\$5,400.00** in payment of the full penalty amount to the following address:

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

The check or online payment should reference Respondent's name and a copy of this ESA must be included with the check/online payment going to the Cincinnati Finance Center.

This original ESA and a copy of the check or online receipt must also be sent by certified mail to:

Angie Proboszcz (SFD-9-3)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Upon Respondent's submission of the signed original ESA, EPA will take no further civil penalty action against Respondent for the violations of the Act alleged above. This ESA shall not be construed as a covenant not to sue, a release, waiver, or limitation of any rights, remedies, powers, or authorities, civil or criminal that EPA has under the Act or any other statutory, regulatory, or common law enforcement authority of the United States, except as stated above.

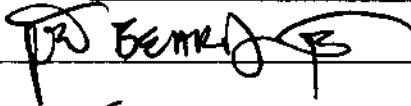
If the signed original ESA with an attached copy of the check is not returned to the EPA Region IX office at the above address in correct form by the Respondent within 30 days of the date of Respondent's receipt of the proposed ESA, the ESA is withdrawn, without prejudice to EPA's ability to file an enforcement action for the violations identified herein.

This ESA is binding on the parties signing below.

This ESA is effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

FOR RESPONDENT – Sierra Chemical Co., Sparks Facility

Signature: _____



Date: 13 Aug 12


Name (print): Mike Meglen

Joe M. Beard Jr., P.E.

Title (print): Facility Manager

Regulatory Compliance Manager

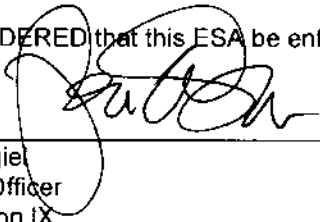
FOR COMPLAINANT:


Jane Diamond
Superfund Director
U.S. EPA Region IX

Date: 23 August 2012

Bob

It is hereby ORDERED that this ESA be entered and Respondent pays the above penalty.



Date: 8-28-12

Steven L. Jawgiel
Chief Judicial Officer
U.S. EPA Region IX

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the original of the fully executed Consent Agreement and Final Order in the matter of SIERRA CHEMICAL CO. (SPARKS FACILITY). (Docket #: CAA(112r)-09-2012-0013) 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:

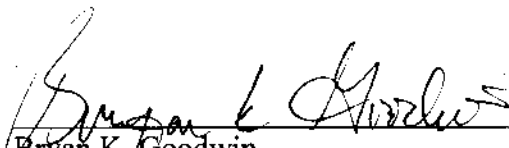
A copy was mailed via CERTIFIED MAIL to:

Joe M. Beard, Jr., PE
Regulatory Compliance Manager
Sierra Chemical Company (Sparks Facility)
2302 Larkin Circle
Sparks, NV 89431

CERTIFIED MAIL NUMBER: 7008 1140 0004 5420 7104

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

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


Bryan K. Goodwin
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA, Region IX

8/29/12
Date



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

CERTIFIED MAIL NO: 7008 1140 0004 5420 7104
Return Receipt Requested

AUG 29 2012

Mr. Joe M. Beard Jr., PE
Regulatory Compliance Manager
Sierra Chemical Company, Sparks Facility
2302 Larkin Circle
Sparks, NV 89431

Re: Sierra Chemical Company, Sparks Facility, 2302 Larkin Circle, Sparks, NV 89431
EPA Facility ID # 1000 0013 3875

Dear Mr. Beard,

This letter transmits a copy of the fully executed Expedited Settlement Agreement that resolves the alleged violations of Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 112(r)(7) at Sierra Chemical Company, Sparks Facility, 2302 Larkin Circle, Sparks, NV 89431. The violation is for failure to:

1) *Establish a system to promptly address the team's PHA findings and recommendations; assure that the recommendations are resolved in a timely manner and documented; document what actions are to be taken; complete actions as soon as possible; develop a written schedule of when these actions are to be completed; and communicate the actions to operating, maintenance, and other employees whose work assignments are in the process and who may be affected by the recommendations as required by Section 112(r)(7) of the Act, and 40 C.F.R. §68.67(e).*

The facility failed to have a tracking system that identifies that the deficiencies have been corrected. On April 15, 2011, the facility provided documentation to EPA that this violation has been corrected.

2) *Properly determine and document an appropriate response to each of the findings of the compliance audit and document that deficiencies had been corrected as required in Section 112(r)(7) of the Act, and 40 C.F.R. §68.79(d).*

The facility failed to have a tracking system that identifies that the deficiencies have been corrected. On April 15, 2011, the facility provided documentation to EPA that this violation has been corrected.

3) *Address steps for Temporary Operations and Emergency Operations in their written*

Operating Procedures as required by Section 112(r)(7) of the Act, 40 C.F.R. §68.69(a)(1)(iii) and 40 C.F.R. §68.69(a)(1)(v).

This needs to be addressed whether the facility operates in this mode or not. If they do not operate in this mode then it should be stated as such in the written operating procedures. On April 15, 2011, the facility provided documentation to EPA that his violation has been corrected.

4) Certify annually that the operating procedures are current and accurate and that procedures have been reviewed as often as necessary as required by Section 112(r)(7) of the Act, 40 C.F.R. §68.69(c).

The facility had not certified annually that the operating procedures were current and accurate. The procedures had not been certified since January 27, 2010 (approximately 6 weeks late). On April 15, 2011, the facility provided documentation to EPA that his violation has been corrected.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information about the CAA Section 112(r)(7) requirements, please feel free to contact Angie Proboszcz of my staff at (415) 972-3077.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Diamond', is written over the typed name.

Jane Diamond
Director, Superfund Division

Enclosures