



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

JUL 13 2010

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Clay R. Shields
Shields Fertilizer Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 98
Scotland Neck, North Carolina 27874

SUBJECT: Shields Fertilizer Company, Inc.
Consent Agreement and Final Order
Docket No. EPCRA-04-2010-2051(b)

Dear Mr. Shields:

Enclosed please find an executed copy of the Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) that resolves the EPCRA matter (Docket No. EPCRA-04-2010-2051(b)) involving Shields Fertilizer Company, Inc. The CAFO was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, as required by 40 C.F.R. Part 22 and became effective on date of filing.

Penalty payment of \$14,780 has been received and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Enforcement Section considers this matter closed.

Also enclosed, please find a copy of the "Notice of Securities and Exchange Commission Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings." This document puts you on notice of your potential duty to disclose to the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) any environmental enforcement actions taken by the EPA. If you have any questions with regards 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 Mr. Jyoti Bhushan at (404) 562-9182.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caron B. Falconer" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Caron B. Falconer, Chief
EPCRA Enforcement Section

Enclosure

Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov>

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4

IN THE MATTER OF:)
Shields Fertilizer Company, Inc.) Docket Number: EPCRA-04-2010-2051(b)
Respondent.)
_____)

HEARING CLERK

2010 JUL 13 AM 7:37

RECEIVED
EPA REGION IV

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

I. Nature of the Action

1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 325 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 11045, and pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the 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 Shields Fertilizer Company, Inc.

2. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18 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) and 22.18(b), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

II. Preliminary Statements

3. The authority to take action under Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045, is vested in the Administrator of EPA. The Administrator of EPA has delegated this authority under EPCRA to the Regional Administrators by EPA Delegation 22-3-A, dated May 11, 1994. The Regional Administrator, Region 4, has redelegated this authority to the Director, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, by EPA Region 4 Delegation 22-3-A, dated November 8, 1994. Pursuant to that delegation, the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division has the authority to commence an enforcement action as the Complainant in this matter.

4. Respondent is Shields Fertilizer Company, Inc., a corporation doing business in the State of North Carolina.

5. Respondent is a "person" as defined in Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7).

6. Respondent owns and operates a "facility" as that term is defined by Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4).

7. Respondent's facility is located at 308 East 12th Street, Scotland Neck, North Carolina.

III. EPA's Allegations of Violations

8. Section 312 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022, and the regulations found at 40 C.F.R. Part 370, provide that the owner or operator of a facility that is required to prepare or have available a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for hazardous chemicals under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) and regulations promulgated under that Act, shall submit to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the fire department with jurisdiction over the facility, by March 1, 1988, and on or before March 1 annually thereafter, a completed emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form (Tier I or Tier II) as described in 40 C.F.R. Part 370, containing the information required by that part for hazardous chemicals present at the facility at any one time in the calendar year in amounts equal to or greater than 10,000 pounds and containing the information required by that part for extremely hazardous substances (EHS) present at the facility at any one time in amounts equal to or greater than the threshold planning quantity (TPQ) or 500 pounds, whichever is less.

9. At some time during the calendar years of 2008, 2007 and 2006, aqua ammonia, was present at the facility in an amount equal to or greater than 10,000 pounds.

10. Aqua ammonia is a "hazardous chemical" as defined by Section 329(5) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(5) for which Respondent is required to prepare or have available an MSDS under OSHA at its facility.

11. Respondent failed to submit a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form for aqua ammonia to the SERC, the LEPC, and fire department with jurisdiction over the facility for calendar years 2008, 2007 and 2006, by March 1 of the year following the calendar year for which a report was required.

12. Respondent violated the reporting requirements of Section 312 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022, at its facility for calendar years 2008, 2007, and 2006, and is therefore subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045.

13. Pursuant to Section 325(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c), and 40 C.F.R. Part 19, EPA may assess a penalty of not more than \$37,500 for each violation of EPCRA Section 312 that occurred after January 12, 2009. Each day a violation of Section 312 continues constitutes a separate violation. Civil penalties under Section 325(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c), 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 certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of EPCRA at the facility.

18. Compliance with this CAFO shall resolve the allegations of violations contained herein. This CAFO shall not otherwise affect any liability of Respondent to the United States other than as expressed herein. Neither EPA nor Complainant waives any right to bring an enforcement action against Respondent for a violation of any federal or state statute, regulation or permit; to initiate an action for imminent and substantial endangerment; or to pursue criminal enforcement.

19. 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 EPCRA.

V. Final Order

20. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of FOURTEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS (\$14,780), for the violations alleged in Section III. Payment shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CAFO.

21. Respondent shall pay the penalty by forwarding a cashier's or certified check, payable to: "Treasurer, United States of America," to one of the following addresses:

By Mail:

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

By Overnight:

U.S. Bank
Attn: Natalie Pearson (314) 418-4087
1005 Convention Plaza
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

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

22. 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:

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

Jyoti Bhushan
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

23. 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.

24. 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.

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

26. This CAFO shall be binding upon the Respondent, its successors and assigns.

27. The following individual represents EPA in this matter and is authorized to receive service for EPA in this proceeding:

Caron B. Falconer
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Air, Pesticides & Toxic Management Division
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 562-8451

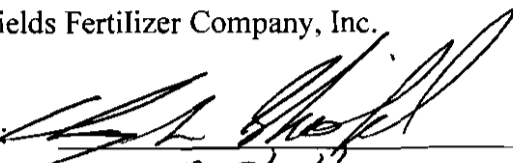
28. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this CAFO certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into this CAFO and legally bind that party to it.

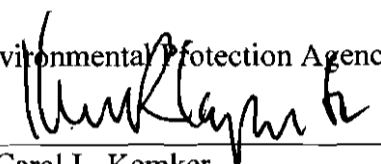
VI. Effective Date

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

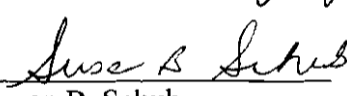
AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

Shields Fertilizer Company, Inc.

By:  Date: 6/30/10
Name: Clay R. Shields (Typed or Printed)
Title: Vice Pres. (Typed or Printed)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
By:  Date: 6/29/2010
Carol L. Kemker
Acting Director
Air, Pesticides & Toxics
Management Division
Region 4

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this 12th day of July, 2010


Susan B. Schub
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

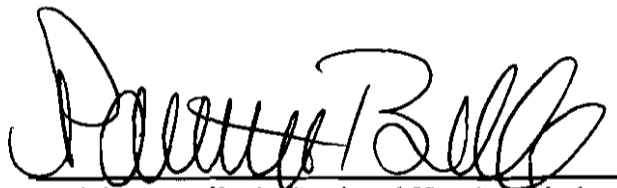
I hereby certify that I have this day served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order, in the Matter of Shields Fertilizer Company, Inc., Docket Number EPCRA-04-2010-2051(b), on the parties listed below in the manner indicated:

Caron B. Falconer (Via EPA's internal mail)
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Air, Pesticides & Toxics Management Division
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Robert Caplan (Via EPA's internal mail)
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Office of Environmental Accountability
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. Clay R. Shields (Via Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested)
Shields Fertilizer Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 98
1005 Greenwood Street
Scotland Neck, North Carolina 27874

Date: 7-13-10



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

EPA ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CONTROL NUMBER FORM

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ORIGINATING OFFICE:

(Attach a copy of the final order and transmittal letter to Defendant/Respondent)

This form was originated by: Saundi Wilson on 7/8/06 (Name) (Date)

in the Region 4, ORC, OEA (Office) at (404) 562-9504 (Telephone Number)

Non-SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree USAO COLLECTS

Administrative Order/Consent Agreement FMO COLLECTS PAYMENT

SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree DOJ COLLECTS

Oversight Billing - Cost Package required: Sent with bill

Other Receivable

Not sent with bill

This is an original debt

Oversight Billing - Cost Package not required

This is a modification

PAYEE: Shields Fertilizer Company Inc (Name of person and/or Company/Municipality making the payment)

The Total Dollar Amount of the Receivable: \$ 14,780 (If installments, attach schedule of amounts and respective due dates. See Other side of this form.)

The Case Docket Number: EPCRA 01 2010 2051 (6)

The Site Specific Superfund Account Number:

The Designated Regional/Headquarters Program Office:

The IFMS Accounts Receivable Control Number is: Date

If you have any questions, please call: of the Financial Management Section at:

DISTRIBUTION:

A. JUDICIAL ORDERS: Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the FINAL JUDICIAL ORDER should be mailed to:

- 1. Debt Tracking Officer Environmental Enforcement Section Department of Justice RM 1647 P.O. Box 7611, Benjamin Franklin Station Washington, D.C. 20044
2. Originating Office (EAD)
3. Designated Program Office

B. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS: Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the Administrative Order should be to:

- 1. Originating Office
2. Regional Hearing Clerk
3. Designated Program Office
4. Regional Counsel (EAD)