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Regional Counsel

NATHANIEL N. MOORE

Assistant Regional Counsel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

75 Hawthorne Street (ORC-2)

San Francisco, CA 94105

Moore.Nathaniel@epa.gov

**UNITED STATES** ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION IX

In the Matter of:

Docket No. TSCA-09-2023-0059

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL **ORDER PURSUANT TO** 

Respondent.

40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13 AND 22.18

## **CONSENT AGREEMENT**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), Region IX, and ResiPro, LLC ("Respondent") agree to settle this matter and consent to the entry of this Consent Agreement and Final Order ("CAFO"), which simultaneously commences and concludes this matter in accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b).

### I. AUTHORITY, JURISDICTION, AND PARTIES

1. This is a civil administrative penalty action brought against Respondent pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA"), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), for violations of Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, for failing to comply with Sections 402 and 406 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2682 and 2686, and their implementing regulations promulgated at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E – Residential Property Renovation ("Subpart E").

- 2. Complainant is the Manager of the Toxics Section, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, EPA, Region IX, who has been duly delegated the authority to bring and settle this action under TSCA.
- 3. Respondent provides renovation services through the use of local contractors at residential properties. At all times relevant to this CAFO, Respondent was registered to do conduct business in the State of California as a foreign limited liability company with its place of organization in Georgia.
- 4. On February 15, 2019, ResiPro, LLC filed with the Secretary of State-State of California, a Name Change Amendment changing its name from Ameritrust Residential Services, LLC, to ResiPro, LLC, effective on the date of filing.

### II. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AND REGULATORY SECTIONS

- 5. Pursuant to Section 402(a) and (c) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2682(a) and (c), 40 C.F.R. § 745, Subpart E sets forth requirements for certification of individuals and firms engaged in lead-based paint activities and work practice standards for renovation, repair, and painting activities in target housing and child-occupied facilities.
- 6. Pursuant to Section 406(b) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2686(b), 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E requires a person who performs renovations for compensation in target housing and child-occupied facilities to provide a lead hazard information pamphlet to the owner and occupant before beginning the renovation.
- 7. "Firm" means a company, partnership, corporation, sole proprietorship, or individual doing business, association, or other business entity; a Federal, State, Tribal, or local government agency; or a nonprofit organization. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.

- 8. "Painted surface" means a component surface covered in whole or in part with paint or other surface coatings. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
- 9. "Pamphlet" means the EPA pamphlet titled "Renovate Right: Important Lead Hazard Information for Families, Child Care Providers and Schools" developed under Section 406(a) of TSCA for use in complying with Section 406(b) of TSCA, or any State or Tribal pamphlet approved by EPA pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.326 that is developed for the same purpose. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
- 10. "Person" means any natural or judicial person including any individual, corporation, partnership, or association; any Indian Tribe, State, or political subdivision thereof; any interstate body; and any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government.

  40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
- 11. "Renovation" means the modification of any existing structure, or portion thereof, that results in the disturbance of painted surfaces, unless that activity is part of an abatement as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 745.223. The term "renovation" includes (but is not limited to): the removal, modification or repair of painted surfaces or painted components (e.g., modification of painted doors, surface restoration, window repair, surface preparation activity (such as sanding, scraping, or other such activities that may generate paint dust)); the removal of building components (e.g., walls, ceilings, plumbing windows); weatherization projects (e.g., cutting holes in painted surfaces to install blown-in insulation or to gain access to attics planning thresholds to install weatherstripping), and interim controls that disturb painted surfaces. The term "renovation" does not include minor repair and maintenance activities. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
  - 12. "Renovator" means any individual who either performs or directs workers who perform

renovations. A certified renovator is a renovator who has successfully completed a renovator course accredited by EPA or an EPA-authorized State or Tribal program. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.

- 13. "Target housing" means any housing constructed prior to 1978, except housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities or any 0-bedroom dwelling (unless any child who is less than six years of age resides or is expected to reside in such housing). Section 401(17) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2681(17).
- 14. No more than 60 days before beginning renovation activities in any residential dwelling unit of target housing, the firm performing the renovation must provide the owner of the unit with the "pamphlet," and either obtain from the owner a written acknowledgment that the owner has received the "pamphlet" or obtain a certificate of mailing the "pamphlet" at least 7 days prior to the renovation. 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(1).
- 15. Firms performing renovations must ensure that a certified renovator is assigned to each renovation performed by the firm and discharges all of the certified renovator responsibilities identified in 40 C.F.R. § 745.90. 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(2).
- 16. Firms performing renovations must retain documentation of compliance with the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 745.85, including documentation that a certified renovator was assigned to the project; that the certified renovator provided on-the-job training for workers used on the project; that the certified renovator performed or directed workers who performed all of the work practice tasks described in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a); and that the certified renovator performed the post-renovation cleaning verification described in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(b).
  - 17. Firms must post signs clearly defining the work area and warning occupants and other

persons not involved in renovation activities to remain outside of the work area.

40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(1).

18. Before beginning the renovation, the firm must contain the work area by closing windows and doors in the work area and ensuring doors are covered with plastic sheeting or other impermeable material. Doors used as an entrance to the work area must be covered with plastic sheeting or other impermeable material in a manner that allows workers to pass through while confining dust and debris to the work area. 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(2)(i)(C).

19. Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), and the Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule at 40 C.F.R. Part 19, which implements the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. § 2461, as amended, authorize civil penalties not to exceed \$46,989 per day for each violation of Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, that occurred after November 2, 2015, where penalties are assessed on or after January 6, 2023.

#### III. ALLEGATIONS

- 20. At all times relevant to this CAFO, Respondent was a "person," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
- 21. At all times relevant to this CAFO, Respondent was a "firm," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
- 22. The properties located at 1309 S. Mansfield Ave., Los Angeles, CA ("Mansfield Property"); 751 W. 111<sup>th</sup> St., Los Angeles, CA ("111<sup>th</sup> St. Property"); 1602 Montevideo Lane, San Jose, CA ("Montevideo Property"); 22055 W. Ballinger St., Chatsworth, CA ("Ballinger Property"); 23612 Atmore Ave., Carson, CA ("Atmore Property"); and 38508 Lemsford Ave., Palmdale, CA ("Lemsford Property") (collectively "the Properties") are "target housing" as that

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term is defined at Section 401 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2681.

- 23. During the period of approximately January 2019 to June 2020, Respondent performed "renovations," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at the Mansfield Property ("Mansfield Renovation").
- 24. During the period of approximately December 2018 to June 2019, Respondent performed "renovations," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at the 111<sup>th</sup> St. Property ("111<sup>th</sup> St. Renovation").
- 25. During the period of approximately July 2019 to December 2019, Respondent performed "renovations," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at the Montevideo Property ("Montevideo Renovation").
- 26. During the period of approximately July 2019 to September 2019, Respondent performed "renovations," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at the Ballinger Property ("Ballinger Renovation").
- 27. During the period of approximately August 2019 to January 2020, Respondent performed "renovations," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at the Atmore Property ("Atmore Renovation").
- 28. During the period of approximately February 2019 to June 2019, Respondent performed "renovations," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, for compensation at the Lemsford Property ("Lemsford Renovation").
- 29. With respect to the Mansfield Renovation, 111th St. Renovation, Montevideo Renovation, Ballinger Renovation, Atmore Renovation, and Lemsford Renovation, (collectively "the Renovations") Respondent did not qualify for any of the exceptions involving a lead-free

determination identified in 40 C.F.R. § 745.82(a).

30. All of the Properties were vacant during the time Respondent performed the Renovations.

### INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

- 31. Respondent did not provide the owner(s) of the Mansfield Property, 111<sup>th</sup> St. Property, Montevideo Property, Ballinger Property, Atmore Property, and Lemsford Property the "pamphlet," nor receive a written acknowledgment that the owner(s) received the "pamphlet," or obtain a certificate of mailing for the "pamphlet" at least 7 days prior to the Mansfield Renovation, 111<sup>th</sup> St. Renovation, Montevideo Renovation, Ballinger Renovation, Atmore Renovation, and Lemsford Renovation.
- 32. Respondent's failure to provide the owner(s) of the Properties the "pamphlet" and receive a written acknowledgment that the owner(s) received the "pamphlet" or obtain a certificate of mailing for the "pamphlet" at least 7 days prior to the Renovations, constitute six violations of 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(1) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

### FIRM RESPONSIBILITIES

- 33. Respondent did not ensure that a certified renovator discharged all of the certified renovator responsibilities identified in 40 C.F.R. § 745.90 for the Mansfield Renovation, 111<sup>th</sup> St. Renovation, Montevideo Renovation, Ballinger Renovation, Atmore Renovation, and Lemsford Renovation.
- 34. Respondent's failure to ensure that a certified renovator discharged all of the certified renovator responsibilities identified in 40 C.F.R. § 745.90 for the Renovations, constitute six violations of 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(2) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

#### RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

35. Respondent did not retain the following documentation for the Mansfield Renovation, 111th St. Renovation, Montevideo Renovation, Ballinger Renovation, Atmore Renovation, and Lemsford Renovation: a certified renovator was assigned to the renovation; a certified renovator provided on-the-job training for workers used on the renovations; a certified renovator performed or directed workers who performed all of the work practice tasks described in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a); and a certified renovator performed the post-renovation cleaning verifications described in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(b).

36. Respondent's failure to retain the documentation listed directly above, for the Renovations, constitute twenty-four violations of 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(b)(6) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

# WORK PRACTICE STANDARDS: STANDARDS FOR RENOVATION ACTIVITIES

- 37. Respondent did not post warning signs clearly defining the work area and warning occupants and other persons not involved in renovation activities to remain outside of the work area during the Mansfield Renovation, 111<sup>th</sup> St. Renovation, Montevideo Renovation, Ballinger Renovation, Atmore Renovation, and Lemsford Renovation.
- 38. Respondent's failure to post warning signs clearly defining the work area and warning occupants and other persons not involved in renovation activities to remain outside of the work area during the Renovations, constitute six violations of 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(1) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

# WORK PRACTICE STANDARDS: STANDARDS FOR RENOVATION ACTIVITIES

39. Respondent did not cover doors used as an entrance to the work area with plastic sheeting

or other impermeable material in a manner that allowed worked to pass through while confining dust and debris to the work area during the Mansfield Renovation, 111<sup>th</sup> St. Renovation, Montevideo Renovation, Ballinger Renovation, Atmore Renovation, and Lemsford Renovation.

40. Respondent's failure to contain the work area and cover doors with plastic sheeting or other impermeable material during the Renovations, constitute six violations of 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(2)(i)(C) and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

### IV. RESPONDENT'S ADMISSIONS

- 41. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2) and for the purpose of this proceeding, Respondent:
  - a. admits the jurisdictional allegations contained herein;
  - b. neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations contained herein;
  - c. consents to the assessment of the stated civil penalty and to any conditions specified herein;
  - d. waives any right to contest the allegations contained herein; and
  - e. waives the right to appeal the proposed Final Order accompanying this Consent Agreement.

#### V. CIVIL ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY

- 42. Respondent agrees to the assessment of a penalty in the amount of ONE HUNDRED ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND FOURTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$101,443) as final settlement of the civil claims against Respondent arising under TSCA as alleged in Section III of this CAFO.
- 43. Respondent shall pay the assessed penalty no later than thirty (30) calendar days from the effective date of this CAFO. The assessed penalty shall be paid by certified or cashier's check, including the name and docket number of this matter, payable to "Treasurer, United States of

1	America," or paid by one of the other methods listed below and sent as follows:		
2	Regular Mail:		
3	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency		
4	Fines and Penalties		
4	Cincinnati Finance Center PO Box 979077		
5	St. Louis, MO 63197-9000		
6			
7	Wire Transfers: Wire transfers must be sent directly to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City with		
	the following information:		
8	Federal Reserve Bank of New York		
9	ABA = 021030004		
10	Account = 68010727 SWIFT address = FRNYUS33		
	33 Liberty Street		
11	New York, NY 10045		
12	Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read "D 68010727		
13	Environmental Protection Agency"		
14	Overnight Mail:		
14	U.S. Bank		
15	1005 Convention Plaza Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL		
16	ATTN Box 979077		
17	St. Louis, MO 63101		
	ACH (also known as REX or remittance express):		
18	US Treasury REX/Cashlink ACH Receiver ABA = 051036706		
19	Account Number: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency		
20	CTX Format Transaction Code 22 - checking		
	Physical location of US Treasury Facility 5700 Rivertech Court		
21	Riverdale, MD 20737		
22	Remittance Express (REX) 1-866-234-5681		
23	Online Payment:		
24	This payment option can be accessed from the information below:		
	www.pay.gov		
25	Enter "sfo1.1" in the search field		
26	Open form and complete required fields		
27			
28	In the Matter of Deather IIC		
٥	In the Matter of: <i>ResiPro</i> , <i>LLC</i> Consent Agreement and Final Order		

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

Concurrently, a copy of each check or notification that the payment has been made by one of the other methods listed above, including proof of the date payment was made, shall be sent with a transmittal letter indicating Respondent's name, the case title, and the docket number to the following addressees:

Regional Hearing Clerk: R9HearingClerk@epa.gov

Christopher Rollins: rollins.christopher@epa.gov

- 44. Payment of the above civil administrative penalty shall not be used by Respondent or any other person as a tax deduction from Respondent's federal, state, or local taxes.
- 45. If Respondent fails to pay the assessed civil administrative penalty specified in Paragraph 42 by the manner and deadlines specified in Paragraph 43, then the entire remaining balance of the assessed penalty shall immediately become due and payable. Respondent also shall pay to EPA a stipulated penalty of \$100 per day for each day that payment is late in addition to the assessed penalty. Stipulated penalties shall accrue until such time as the assessed penalty and all accrued stipulated penalties are paid and shall become due and payable upon written request by EPA. In addition, failure to pay the civil administrative penalty by the manner and deadlines specified in Paragraph 43 may lead to any or all of the following actions:
  - a. The debt being referred to a credit reporting agency, a collection agency, or to the Department of Justice for filing of a collection action in the appropriate United States District Court. 40 C.F.R. §§ 13.13, 13.14, and 13.33. In any such collection

- action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of the assessed penalty and of this CAFO shall not be subject to review.
- b. The debt being collected by administrative offset (i.e., the withholding of money payable by the United States to, or held by the United States for, a person to satisfy the debt the person owes the Government), which includes, but is not limited to, referral to the Internal Revenue Service for offset against income tax refunds. 40 C.F.R. Part 13, Subparts C and H.
- c. EPA may (i) suspend or revoke Respondent's licenses or other privileges; or (ii) suspend or disqualify Respondent from doing business with EPA or engaging in programs EPA sponsors or funds. 40 C.F.R. § 13.17.
- d. In accordance with the Debt Collection Act of 1982 and 40 C.F.R. Part 13, interest, penalties charges, and administrative costs will be assessed against the outstanding amount that Respondent owes to EPA for Respondent's failure to pay in full the assessed civil administrative penalty by the deadlines specified in Paragraph 43. Interest will be assessed at an annual rate that is equal to the rate of current value of funds to the United States Treasury (i.e., the Treasury tax and loan account rate) as prescribed and published by the Secretary of the Treasury in the Federal Register and the Treasury Fiscal Requirements Manual Bulletins.

  40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a)(1). Penalty charges will be assessed monthly at a rate of 6% per annum. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(c). Administrative costs for handling and collecting Respondent's overdue debt will be based on either actual or average cost incurred, and will include both direct and indirect costs. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). In addition,

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if this matter is referred to another department or agency (e.g., the Department of Justice, the Internal Revenue Service), that department or agency may assess its own administrative costs, in addition to EPA's administrative costs, for handling and collecting Respondent's overdue debt.

#### VI. RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

46. In executing this CAFO, Respondent certifies that it is now fully in compliance with the federal regulations promulgated at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E.

#### VII. **RETENTION OF RIGHTS**

47. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c), this CAFO only resolves Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts specifically alleged in Section III of this CAFO. Nothing in this CAFO is intended to or shall be construed to resolve (i) any civil liability for violations of any provision of any federal, state, or local law, statute, regulation, rule, ordinance, or permit not specifically alleged in Section III of this CAFO; or (ii) any criminal liability. EPA specifically reserves any and all authorities, rights, and remedies available to it (including, but not limited to, injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions) to address any violation of this CAFO or any violation not specifically alleged in Section III of this CAFO.

48. This CAFO does not exempt, relieve, modify, or affect in any way Respondent's duty to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, rules, ordinances, and permits.

#### VIII. ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS

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

IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

50. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18(b)(3) and 22.31(b), this CAFO shall be effective on the date that the final order contained in this CAFO, having been approved and issued by either the Regional Judicial Officer or Regional Administrator, is filed.

# X. BINDING EFFECT

- 51. The undersigned representative of Complainant and the undersigned representative of Respondent each certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and to bind the party he or she represents to this CAFO.
- 52. The provisions of this CAFO shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and its officers, directors, employees, agents, trustees, servants, authorized representatives, successors, and assigns.

1	FOR RESPONDENT, RESIPRO, LLC:		
2	4.25.23	Scott Miller	
3	DATE	Scott Miller, Esq.	
4		Senior Counsel and Risk Officer ResiPro, LLC	
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7			
8	FOR COMPLAINANT, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION IX:		
9	June 2, 2023	MATTHEW SALAZAR SALAZAR Date: 2023.06.02 13:27:04 -07'00'	
	DATE	Matt Salazar, PE	
10		Manager, Toxics Section Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division	
11		U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX	
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28		In the Matter of: ResiPro, LLC	
		Consent Agreement and Final Order	

# **FINAL ORDER**

Complainant and Respondent, having entered into the foregoing Consent Agreement, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Consent Agreement and Final Order (Docket No. TSCA-09-2023-0059) be entered, and that Respondent shall pay a civil administrative penalty in the amount of ONE HUNDRED ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND FOURTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$101,443), and comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Consent Agreement. This Consent Agreement and Final Order shall become effective upon filing.

BEATRIC Digitally signed by BEATRICE WONG

Date: 2023.06.07
11:05:17 -07'00'

Date

Beatrice Wong Regional 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 ResiPro, LLC (Docket No. TSCA-09-2023-0059) 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 via electronic mail:

**Respondent:** 

Alex P. Basilevsky, Partner Obermayer, Rebmann, Maxwell & Hippel, LLP Centre Square West 1500 Market Street, Suite 3400 Philadelphia, PA 19102-2101 (215) 665-3094 Alex.Basilevsky@obermayer.com

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**Complainant:** 

Nathaniel Moore Assistant Regional Counsel (ORC-2) U.S. EPA, Region IX 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105 Moore.Nathaniel@epa.gov



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Date

Ponly J. Tu Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. EPA - Region IX

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CERTIFIATE OF SERVICE