

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 4 ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER 61 FORSYTH STREET ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

# MAY 0 5 2011

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. J. Mike Williams Fowler, Hein, Cheatwood & Williams, P.A. Suite 220, Park Central 2970 Clairmont Road Atlanta, Georgia 30329

> Re: Las Colinas at Brook Hollow, 5651 Brook Hollow Parkway, Norcross, Georgia 30071 Docket No. TSCA-04-2011-2521(b)

Dear Mr. Williams:

Enclosed is a copy of the ratified Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) in the above-referenced matter. The original CAFO has been filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk and served on the parties as directed in Section 22.6 of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

As stated in Section V of the CAFO, the assessed penalty of \$3,880.00 is due within 30 days from the effective date. Please ensure that the face of your cashier's or certified check includes the name of the company and the Docket Number of this case. Penalty payment questions should be directed to Mr. Bryson Lehman either by telephone at (513) 487-2123 or by written correspondence to his attention at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Cincinnati Accounting Operations address identified in the CAFO. Should you have any questions about this matter or their compliance status in the future, please call me at (404) 562-8979 or Elmore Johnson at (404) 562-9787.

Also enclosed is a copy of the October 2001 Enforcement Alert titled "U.S. EPA Notifying Defendants of Securities and Exchange Commission's Environmental Disclosure

Requirements." This document puts your client on notice of their potential duty to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission any environmental enforcement actions taken by EPA.

Sincerely.

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Jeaneanne M. Gettle Chief Pesticides and Toxic Substances Branch

Enclosures

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#### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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Respondent.

IN THE MATTER OF:

Las Colinas at Brook Hollow

Docket No.: TSCA-04-2011-2521(b)

#### CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

#### I. Nature of the Action

- This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances
  Control Act (TSCA), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), and pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of
  Practice Governing Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the
  Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), 40 C.F.R. Part
  Complainant is the Director of the Air, Pesticides, and Toxics Management Division,
  U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4. Respondent is Las Colinas at Brook
  Hollow.
- 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), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

#### 11. Preliminary Statements

- 3. The Administrator of EPA promulgated regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F under the authority of Section 1018 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4852d, also known as Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992. Pursuant to Title X, it is a prohibited act under Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, for any person to fail or refuse to comply with a provision of Title X or any rule or order issued under Title X.
- 4. For purposes of enforcing Title X under TSCA, the penalty for each violation applicable under Section 16 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615, shall not be more than \$10,000. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 requires EPA to review and adjust penalties, as necessary, for inflation at least once every four years. As such, pursuant to the Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation Rule, 40 C.F.R. Part 19, the revised maximum penalty for each violation occurring after January 30, 1997, through January 12, 2009, is \$11,000 and for each violation occurring after January 12, 2009, the maximum penalty for each violation is \$16,000.
- 5. The authority to take action under Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), is vested in the Administrator of EPA. The Administrator of EPA has delegated this authority under TSCA to EPA Region 4 by EPA Delegation 12-2-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 12-2-A. Pursuant to the aforementioned Delegations, the Director of Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division has authority to commence an enforcement action as the Complainant in this matter.

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 Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.5(c)(4) the following person is authorized to receive service for EPA in this proceeding:

> Elmore Johnson Lead and Children's Health Section U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960 (404) 562-9787.

#### **III.** Specific Allegations

- Respondent is a Lessor, as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.103, of residential housing located at 5651 Brook Hollow Parkway, Norcross, Georgia. These residential units are "target housing," as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.
- Based on information obtained by EPA on or about April 15, 2010, relating to Respondent's contracts to lease its target housing described above, EPA alleges that Respondent violated Section 409 of TSCA and 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F as follows:
  - a. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.107(a)(1), a Lessor shall provide the Lessee an EPAapproved lead hazard information pamphlet before the Lessee is obligated under any contract to lease target housing. Respondent failed to provide Lessee an EPAapproved pamphlet in at least one lease.
  - b. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.107(a)(2), a Lessor shall disclose to the Lessee the presence of any known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the target housing. Respondent failed to disclose to the Lessee the presence of any known lead-based paint in at least one lease.
  - c. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.107(a)(3), a Lessor shall disclose to each Agent the presence of any known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the target housing, and the existence of any available records or reports pertaining to lead-based

paint. Respondent failed to disclose to the Agent the presence of any known leadbased paint and the existence of any records or reports in at least one lease.

- d. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.107(a)(4), a Lessor shall provide to the Lessee any records or reports available to the Lessor pertaining to lead-based paint and/or leadbased paint hazards in the target housing. Respondent failed provide to the Lessee any records or reports in at least one lease.
- e. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(1), each contract to lease target housing shall include, as an attachment to or within the contract, the Lead Warning Statement.
  Respondent failed to include an appropriate statement in at least one lease.
- f. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(2), each contract to lease target housing shall include, as an attachment to or within the contract, a statement disclosing the presence of known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the target housing being leased, or a statement indicating no knowledge of the presence of lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards. Respondent failed to include an appropriate statement in at least one lease.
- g. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(3), each contract to lease target housing shall include, as an attachment to or within the contract, a list of any records or reports available to the Lessor that pertain to lead hazard information, or an indication that no such list exists. Respondent failed to include the appropriate information in at least one lease.
- h. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(4), each contract to lease target housing shall include in the contract for lease a statement by the Lessee affirming receipt of the information. Respondent failed to include the appropriate information in at least

one lease.

- Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(5), each contract to lease target housing shall include, as an attachment to or within the contract, a statement by the one or more Agents involved in the transaction to lease target housing that the Agent(s) has informed the Lessor of the Lessor's obligations and that the Agent(s) is aware of his duty to ensure compliance. Respondent failed to include the appropriate information in at least one lease.
- j. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(6), each contract to lease target housing shall include in the contract for lease signatures of the Lessor, Agent, and Lessee certifying to the accuracy of their statements, as well as dates. Respondent failed to include the appropriate information in at least one lease.

#### IV. Consent Agreement

- For the purposes of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth above and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set forth above.
- Respondent waives its right to a hearing on the allegations contained herein and its right to appeal the proposed Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement.
- Respondent consents to the assessment of the penalty proposed by EPA and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.
- 12. Respondent certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F.
- 13. Compliance with this CAFO shall resolve the allegations of the 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 violation of any federal or state statute, regulation or permit, to initiate an action for imminent and substantial endangement, or to pursue criminal enforcement.

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 TSCA.

#### V. Final Order

- Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS (\$3,880) which shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CAFO.
- 16. Respondent shall remit the penalty payment by either a cashier's or certified check made payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America."

#### The Respondent shall note on the face of the check the

#### Respondent's Name and the Docket Number associated with this CAFO.

The penalty payment shall be sent by one of the following methods to the address

indentified for the method chosen.

Address for payment submittal using the United States Postal Service:

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

Address for payment submittal using other mail service (e.g., Federal Express, United Parcel Service (UPS), DHL, etc.):

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

17. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of the check and a written statement that the payment is being 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 Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960;

Elmore Johnson Lead and Children's Health Section U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960; and

Saundi Wilson Office of Environmental Accountability U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960.

- 18. For the purposes of state and federal income taxation, Respondent shall not be entitled, and agrees not to attempt, to claim a deduction for any civil penalty payment pursuant to this CAFO. Any attempt by Respondent to deduct any such payments shall constitute a violation of this CAFO.
- 19. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, EPA is entitled to assess interest and penaltics 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 date of entry of this CAFO, if the penalty is not paid by the date required. A charge will also be assessed to cover the administrative costs, both direct and indirect, of overdue debts.

In addition, a late payment penalty charge shall be applied on any principal amount not paid within 90 days of the due date.

- 20. Complainant and Respondent shall bear their own costs and attorney fees in this matter.
- 21. This CAFO shall be binding upon the Respondent, its successors and assigns.
- 22. 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 to legally bind that party to this CAFO.

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# **VI. Effective Date**

23. 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:

**Respondent:** Los Colinas at Brook Hollow Docket No.: TSCA-04-2011-2521(b)

- Date: 2/7/2011 By:

Name: -Thomas P. King

Title: Risk MANAGOR

**Complainant:** U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

By:

Henry A. Spagg Beverly H. Banister, Director

Air. Pesticides and Toxics Management Division

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this

4 day of \_\_\_\_\_ , 2011.

Date: 4/21/2011

By:

B. fikus

Susan B. Schub **Regional Judicial Officer** 

Las Colinas at Brook Hollow

Docket No.: TSCA-04-2011-2521(b)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the date set out below, I filed the original and one copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order and served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order, In the Matter of Las Colinas at Brook Hollow,

Docket Number: TSCA-04-2011-2521(b), to the addressees listed below.

J. Mike Williams (via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested) Fowler, Hein, Cheatwood & Williams, P.A. Suite 220, Park Central 2970 Clairmont Road Atlanta, Georgia 30329

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Elmore Johnson Lead and Children's Health Section U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(via EPA's internal mail)

(via EPA's internal mail)

Robert Caplan (Senior Attorney) Office of Environmental Accountability U.S. EPA Region 4 **61** Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303

By:

Patricia A. Bullock Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. EPA Region 4 **61** Forsyth Street Atlanta, GA 30303 (404) 562-9511

Date: 5-5-11

## EPA ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CONTROL NUMBER FORM

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s form	Saundi Wilson		on 4/24/11
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	(Office)	×,	(Telephone Number)
	Non-SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree USAO COLLECTS	$\overline{\mathbf{v}}$	Administrative Order/Consent Agreement FMO COLLECTS PAYMENT
	SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree DOJ COLLECTS		Oversight Silling - Cost Package required: Sent with bill
	DOJ COLLEC IS		Not sent with bill
	Other Receivable		Oversight Billing - Cast Package not require
	This is an original debt		This is a modification.
YEE:	Las Colinas at Braz	sk thilew	· ·
	(Name of person and/or Co		ity making the payment)
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