



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAY 22 2017

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

ELECTRONIC SERVICE
VIA EMAIL

Ms. Chris Kim Kahn
Attorney
Frost Brown Todd
3300 Great American Tower
301 East Fourth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
ckahn@fbtlaw.com

Re: Leonhardt Plating Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, Consent Agreement and Final Order
Docket No. EPCRA-05-2017-0017

Dear Ms. Kahn:

Enclosed please find a copy of the fully executed Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) in resolution of the above case. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has filed the original CAFO with the Regional Hearing Clerk on May 22, 2017.

Please have your client pay the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act civil penalty in the amount of \$49,545 plus interest in the manner prescribed in paragraphs 60 and 61, and have your client reference its checks with the docket number EPCRA-05-2017-0017.

Your client's first payment is due on June 21, 2017.

Please feel free to contact James Entzminger at (312) 886-4062 if you have any questions regarding the enclosed documents. Please direct any legal questions to Matthew R. Dawson, Assistant Regional Counsel, at (312) 886-4360. Thank you for your assistance in resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Hans, Chief
Chemical Emergency Preparedness
and Prevention Section

enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

In the Matter of:)
)
Leonhardt Plating Company)
Cincinnati, Ohio,)
)
Respondent.)
)
)

Docket No. EPCRA-05-2017-0017
Proceeding to Assess a Civil Penalty Under
Section 325(c)(1) of the Emergency Planning
and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986

Consent Agreement and Final Order
Preliminary Statement

1. This is an administrative action commenced and concluded under Section 325(c)(1) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c)(1) and Sections 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules) as codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

2. The Complainant is, by lawful delegation, the Director of the Superfund Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Region 5.

3. Respondent is Leonhardt Plating Company, a corporation doing business in the State of Ohio.

4. Where the parties agree to settle one or more causes of action before the filing of a complaint, the administrative action may be commenced and concluded simultaneously by the issuance of a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2) and (3). 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b).

5. The parties agree that settling this action without the filing of a complaint or the adjudication of any issue of fact or law is in their interest and in the public interest.

6. Respondent consents to the assessment of the civil penalty specified in this CAFO, and the terms of the CAFO.

Jurisdiction and Waiver of Right to Hearing

7. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in this CAFO and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations in this CAFO.

8. Respondent waives its right to request a hearing as provided at 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c), any right to contest the allegations in this CAFO, and its right to appeal this CAFO.

Statutory and Regulatory Background

9. Section 312(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022(a), and its implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 370 require the owner or operator of a facility, which is required by the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) to prepare or have available a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for a hazardous chemical, to submit to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), community coordinator for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and fire department with jurisdiction over the facility by March 1, 1988, and annually thereafter on March 1, an emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form (Tier I or Tier II as described in 40 C.F.R. Part 370). The form must contain the information required by Section 312(d) of EPCRA, covering all hazardous chemicals present at the facility at any one time during the preceding year in amounts equal to or exceeding 10,000 pounds and all extremely hazardous chemicals present at the facility at any one time in amounts equal to or greater than 500 pounds

or the threshold planning quantity designated by U.S. EPA at 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Appendices A and B, whichever is lower.

10. Section 312(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022(a), assists state and local committees in planning for emergencies and makes information on chemical presence and hazards available to the public. A delay in reporting could result in harm to human health and the environment.

11. Under 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1200(b)(1), all employers are required to provide information to their employees about the hazardous chemicals to which they are exposed including, but not limited to, an MSDS.

12. Under Section 311(e) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11021(e), with certain exceptions, the term “hazardous chemical” has the meaning given such term by 29 U.S.C. § 1910.1200(c).

13. Under 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1200(c), a hazardous chemical is any chemical which is classified as a physical or health hazard, a simple asphyxiant, combustible dust, pyrophoric gas, or hazard not otherwise classified.

14. Section 325(c)(1) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c)(1), authorizes U.S. EPA to assess a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day of violation of EPCRA Section 312. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701 note, and its implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 19 increased these statutory maximum penalties to \$37,500 per day of violation for violations that occurred from January 12, 2009 through November 2, 2015.

Factual Allegations and Alleged Violations

15. Respondent is a “person” as that term is defined under Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7).

16. At all times relevant to this CAFO, Respondent was an owner or operator of the facility located at 5753 Este Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio (facility).

17. At all times relevant to this CAFO, Respondent was an employer at the facility.

18. Respondent's facility consists of buildings, equipment, structures and other stationary items which are located on a single site or on contiguous or adjacent sites, and which are owned or operated by the same person.

19. Respondent's facility is a "facility" as that term is defined under Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4).

20. Nitric acid is classified as a physical or health hazard, or hazard not otherwise classified.

21. Nitric acid (CAS #7697-37-2) is a "hazardous chemical" within the meaning of Section 311(e) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11021(e), and 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1200(c).

22. Nitric acid (CAS #7697-37-2) is an "extremely hazardous substance" according to Section 302(a)(2) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11002(a)(2).

23. Nitric acid (CAS #7697-37-2) has a minimum threshold level of 500 pounds, as provided in 40 C.F.R. Part 370.

24. Sulfuric acid is classified as a physical or health hazard, or hazard not otherwise classified.

25. Sulfuric acid (CAS #7664-93-9) is a "hazardous chemical" within the meaning of Section 311(e) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11021(e), and 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1200(c).

26. Sulfuric acid (CAS #7664-93-9) is an "extremely hazardous substance" according to Section 302(a)(2) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11002(a)(2).

27. Sulfuric acid (CAS #7664-93-9) has a minimum threshold level of 500 pounds, as provided in 40 C.F.R. Part 370.

28. During at least one period of time in calendar year 2012, nitric acid and sulfuric acid were present at the facility in amounts equal to or greater than the minimum threshold level under Section 312 of EPCRA.

29. During at least one period of time in calendar year 2013, nitric acid and sulfuric acid were present at the facility in amounts equal to or greater than the minimum threshold level under Section 312 of EPCRA.

30. During at least one period of time in calendar year 2014, nitric acid and sulfuric acid were present at the facility in amounts equal to or greater than the minimum threshold level under Section 312 of EPCRA.

31. OSHA requires Respondent to prepare, or have available, an MSDS for nitric acid.

32. OSHA requires Respondent to prepare, or have available, an MSDS for sulfuric acid.

33. Section 312 of EPCRA required Respondent to submit to the SERC, LEPC and fire department with jurisdiction over the facility, a completed emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid on or before March 1, 2013, for calendar year 2012.

34. Section 312 of EPCRA required Respondent to submit to the SERC, LEPC and fire department with jurisdiction over the facility, a completed emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid on or before March 1, 2014, for calendar year 2013.

35. Section 312 of EPCRA required Respondent to submit to the SERC, LEPC and fire department with jurisdiction over the facility, a completed emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid on or before March 1, 2015, for calendar year 2014.

36. At all times relevant to this CAFO, the Ohio SERC was the SERC for Ohio under Section 301(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11001(a).

37. At all times relevant to this CAFO, the Hamilton County LEPC was the LEPC for Hamilton County, Ohio under Section 301(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11001(c).

38. At all times relevant to this CAFO, the Cincinnati Fire Department was the fire department with jurisdiction over the facility.

Count 1 (EPCRA 312/2012)

39. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 1 through 38 of this CAFO as if set forth in this paragraph.

40. Respondent failed to timely submit to the SERC, the LEPC, and the local fire department with jurisdiction over the facility, a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid by March 1, 2013, for calendar year 2012.

41. Respondent submitted to the SERC, the LEPC, and the local fire department with jurisdiction over the facility, a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid on October 1, 2015, for calendar year 2012.

42. Each day Respondent failed to submit to the SERC, the LEPC, and the local fire department with jurisdiction over the facility, a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical

Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid by March 1, 2013, for calendar year 2012 constitutes a separate violation of Section 312(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022(a).

Count 2 (EPCRA 312/2013)

43. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 1 through 38 of this CAFO as if set forth in this paragraph.

44. Respondent failed to timely submit to the SERC, the LEPC, and the local fire department with jurisdiction over the facility, a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid by March 1, 2014, for calendar year 2013.

45. Respondent submitted to the SERC, the LEPC, and the local fire department with jurisdiction over the facility a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid on October 1, 2015, for calendar year 2013.

46. Each day Respondent failed to submit to the SERC, the LEPC, and the local fire department with jurisdiction over the facility, a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid by March 1, 2014, for calendar year 2013 constitutes a separate violation of Section 312(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022(a).

Count 3 (EPCRA 312/SERC)

47. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 1 through 38 of this CAFO as if set forth in this paragraph.

48. Respondent failed to timely submit to the SERC a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid by March 1, 2015, for calendar year 2014.

49. Respondent submitted to the SERC a completed Emergency and Hazardous

Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid on October 1, 2015, for calendar year 2014.

50. Each day Respondent failed to submit to the SERC a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid by March 1, 2015, for calendar year 2014 constitutes a separate violation of Section 312(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022(a).

Count 4 (EPCRA 312/LEPC)

51. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 1 through 38 of this CAFO as if set forth in this paragraph.

52. Respondent failed to timely submit to the LEPC a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid by March 1, 2015, for calendar year 2014.

53. Respondent submitted to the LEPC a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid on October 1, 2015, for calendar year 2014.

54. Each day Respondent failed to submit to the LEPC a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid by March 1, 2015, for calendar year 2014 constitutes a separate violation of Section 312(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022(a).

Count 5 (EPCRA 312/fire department)

55. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 1 through 38 of this CAFO as if set forth in this paragraph.

56. Respondent failed to timely submit to the Cincinnati Fire Department a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid by March 1, 2015, for calendar year 2014.

57. Respondent submitted to the Cincinnati Fire Department a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid on October 1, 2015, for calendar year 2014.

58. Each day Respondent failed to submit to the Cincinnati Fire Department a completed Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form including nitric acid and sulfuric acid by March 1, 2015, for calendar year 2014 constitutes a separate violation of Section 312(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022(a).

Civil Penalty

59. Complainant has determined that an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action is \$49,545 for the EPCRA violations. In determining the penalty amount, Complainant considered the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violations, and with respect to Respondent, its ability to pay, prior history of violations, economic benefit or savings resulting from the violations and any other matters as justice may require. Complainant also considered U.S. EPA's Enforcement Response Policy for Sections 304, 311 and 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and Section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, dated September 30, 1999 (EPCRA/CERCLA Enforcement Response Policy).

60. Respondent must pay a \$49,545 civil penalty for the EPCRA violations in two installments with interest as follows:

<u>Installment</u>	<u>Due by</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest (1%)</u>
Payment #1	Within 30 days of effective date of CAFO	\$24,772.50	\$24,772.50	\$0
Payment #2	Within 180 days of effective date of CAFO	\$24,875.72	\$24,772.50	\$103.22

61. Respondent must pay the installments by sending a cashier's or certified check, payable to "Treasurer, United States of America," to:

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

The checks must note the following: Leonhardt Plating Company and the docket number of this CAFO EPCRA-05-2017-0017.

62. A transmittal letter, stating Respondent's name, the case name, Respondent's complete address, and the case docket number, must accompany the payment. Respondent must send a copy of the checks and transmittal letter to:

Regional Hearing Clerk (E-19J)
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

James Entzminger (SC-5J)
Chemical Emergency Preparedness
and Prevention Section
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Matthew R. Dawson (C-14J)
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

63. This civil penalty is not deductible for federal tax purposes.

64. If Respondent does not timely pay any installment payment as set forth in paragraph 60, above, the entire unpaid balance of the civil penalty and any amount required by paragraph 65, shall become due and owing upon written notice by U.S. EPA to Respondent of the delinquency. U.S. EPA may bring an action to collect any unpaid portion of the penalty with interest, handling charges, nonpayment penalties and the United States enforcement expenses for the collection action. The validity, amount and appropriateness of the civil penalty are not reviewable in a collection action.

65. Pursuant to 31 C.F.R. § 901.9, Respondent must pay the following on any amount overdue under this CAFO. Interest will accrue on any amount overdue from the date the payment was due at a rate established pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717. Respondent must pay a \$15 handling charge each month that any portion of the penalty is more than 30 days past due. In addition, U.S. EPA will assess a 6 percent per year penalty on any principal amount 90 days past due.

General Provisions

66. This CAFO resolves only Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations alleged in the CAFO.

67. This CAFO does not affect the rights of U.S. EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law.

68. Respondent certifies that it is complying with Section 312(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022(a).

69. This CAFO does not affect Respondent's responsibility to comply with EPCRA and other applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

70. This CAFO is a "final order" for purposes of U.S. EPA's EPCRA/CERCLA Enforcement Response Policy.

71. The terms of this CAFO bind Respondent and its successors and assigns.

72. Each person signing this consent agreement certifies that he or she has the authority to sign for the party whom he or she represents and to bind that party to its terms.


73. Each party agrees to bear its own costs and attorney's fees in this action.

74. This CAFO constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.

75. Consistent with the Standing Order Authorizing E-Mail Service of Orders and Other Documents Issued by the Regional Administrator or Regional Judicial Officer under the Consolidated Rules, dated March 27, 2015, the parties consent to service of this CAFO by e-mail at the following valid e-mail addresses: dawson.matthew@epa.gov (for Complainant), and ckahn@fbtlaw.com (for Respondent). The parties waive their right to service by the methods specified in 40 C.F.R. § 22.6.

Leonhardt Plating Company, Respondent

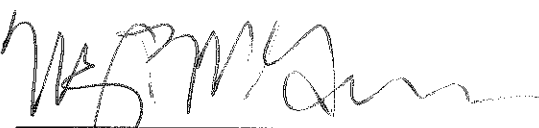
5/4/17
Date



Scott Leonhardt
President
Leonhardt Plating Company

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Complainant

5/16/2017
Date



Margaret M. Guerriero, Acting Director
Superfund Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5

In the Matter of: Leonhardt Plating Company, Cincinnati, Ohio
Docket No. EPCRA-05-2017-0017

Final Order

This Consent Agreement and Final Order, as agreed to by the parties, shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk. This Final Order concludes this proceeding pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18 and 22.31. IT IS SO ORDERED.

May 9, 2017
Date

Ann L. Coyle
Ann L. Coyle
Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5

In the Matter of: Leonhardt Plating Company, Cincinnati, Ohio
Docket No. EPCRA-05-2017-0017

Certificate of Service

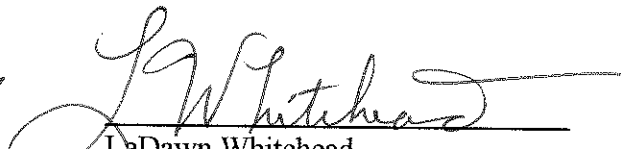
I certify that I sent a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order, which was filed on May 22, 2017 in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy by E-mail to
Attorney for Respondent: Chris Kim Kahn
Frost Brown Todd
ckahn@fbtlaw.com

Copy by E-mail to
Attorney for Complainant: Matthew R. Dawson
Dawson.matthew@epa.gov

Copy by E-mail to
Regional Judicial Officer: Ann Coyle
Coyle.ann@epa.gov

Dated: May 22, 2017


LaDawn Whitehead
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5