



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

DEC 31 2019

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

CERTIFIED MAIL 7017 3380 0000 7283 1918  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Jim Hlatky  
Agronomy Division Manager  
Pro-Ag Farmers Cooperative  
601 East Soo Street, Suite A  
Parkers Prairie, Minnesota 56361

Re: Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order In the Matter of Pro-Ag Farmers  
Cooperative Docket Number FIFRA-05-2020-0011

Mr. Hlatky:

Enclosed please find a copy of a fully executed Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order in resolution of the above case. This document was filed on December 31, 2019 with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

The civil penalty in the amount of \$4,800 is to be paid in the manner described in paragraphs 14-15. Please be certain that the docket number is written on both the transmittal letter and on the check. Payment is due within 30 calendar days of the filing date.

Thank you for your cooperation in resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. Calvo".

Estrella Calvo  
Pesticides and Toxics Compliance Section

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5



In the Matter of:	)	
	)	Docket No. FIFRA-05-2020-0011
Pro-Ag Farmers Cooperative	)	
Parkers Prairie, Minnesota	)	EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT
	)	AGREEMENT AND
Respondent.	)	FINAL ORDER
_____	)	

**EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT and FINAL ORDER**

1. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) alleges that Pro-Ag Farmers Cooperative (“Respondent”) failed to comply with Section 7(c) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. § 136e(c), for its facilities, EPA Establishment Numbers (EPA Est. Nos.) 51958-MN-1, located at 210 South Railroad Avenue, Parkers Prairie, Minnesota 56361; 51958-MN-2, located at 4911 County Road 7, Brandon, Minnesota 56315; 51958-MN-3, located at 313 Inman Street, Henning, Minnesota 56551; and 70065-MN-1, located at 209 North Bridge Street, Highway 71, Clarissa, Minnesota 56440.

2. Section 7(c) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136e(c) requires any producer operating a registered pesticide-producing establishment to inform EPA of the types and amounts of pesticides (and, if applicable, active ingredients used in producing pesticides); which it is producing; which it has produced during the past year; and which it has sold or distributed during the past year. In addition, § 136e(c) provides that the required information shall be kept current and submitted to the Administrator annually, as required by regulations prescribed by the Administrator.

3. 40 C.F.R. § 167.85(a) and (b) adds requirements for reporting: devices produced at registered pesticide-producing establishments; the name and address of the establishment; and an

estimate of the amount of pesticide product to be produced during the current year.

4. 40 C.F.R. § 167.85(c), requires the producer to obtain, complete and submit annually a pesticide reporting form supplied by EPA. The applicable form, "EPA Form 3540-16, *Pesticide Report for Pesticide-Producing and Device-Producing Establishments*" requires, *inter alia*, identification of the establishment; identification of the company; authorized signature and signature date; and specific pesticide production information. In addition, the "*Instructions for Completing EPA Form 3540-16 Pesticide Report for Pesticide-Producing and Device-Producing Establishments*" provides additional detail regarding information required on the Form.

5. 40 C.F.R. § 167.85(d) requires the pesticide-production reports to be filed annually on or before March 1, even if the producer has not produced any pesticidal products for that reporting year.

6. Respondent's annual report for EPA Est. No. 51958-MN-1, located in Parkers Prairie, Minnesota, for calendar year 2018, has not been submitted to EPA, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 167.85(d).

7. Respondent's annual report for EPA Est. No. 51958-MN-2, located in Brandon, Minnesota, for calendar year 2018, has not been submitted to EPA, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 167.85(d).

8. Respondent's annual report for EPA Est. No. 51958-MN-3, located in Henning, Minnesota, for calendar year 2018, has not been submitted to EPA, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 167.85(d).

9. Respondent's annual report for EPA Est. No. 70065-MN-1, located in Clarissa, Minnesota, for calendar year 2018, has not been submitted to EPA, as required by 40 C.F.R.

§ 167.85(d).

10. Respondent's failure to comply with Section 7(c) of FIFRA and 40 C.F.R.

§ 167.85, constitutes a violation of Section 12(a)(2)(L) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(2)(L).

11. EPA and Respondent agree that settlement of this matter is in the public interest.

12. EPA is authorized to enter into this Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order ("Agreement"). Accordingly, this proceeding for the assessment of a civil penalty is simultaneously commenced and concluded, pursuant to Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l, and 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2)-(3).

13. In signing this Agreement, Respondent: (a) admits that Respondent is subject to the requirements in Paragraphs 2 through 5 above; (b) admits that EPA has jurisdiction over Respondent and Respondent's conduct as alleged herein; (c) neither admits nor denies the factual allegations contained herein; (d) consents to the assessment of this penalty; and (e) waives any right to contest the allegations contained herein, and its right to appeal the proposed Final Order set forth at page 7 of this Agreement.

14. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Agreement, Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of \$4,800.00 (four thousand and eight hundred dollars and 00 cents) for the FIFRA violations identified in this Agreement by sending a cashier's or certified check, payable to "Treasurer, United States of America" via either:

- U.S. Mail to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
P.O. Box 979077  
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

- Or overnight/common carrier (*i.e.*, FedEx, DHL, UPS) to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Government Lockbox 979077

1005 Convention Plaza SL-MO-C2-GL  
St. Louis, MO 63101

Alternatively, the penalty payment to "Treasurer, United States of America" may be made via:

- Electronic deposit for payment (Vendor Express, Fedwire, Pay.gov) at <http://www2.epa.gov/financial/makepayment> following the online directions for an electronic funds transfer (EFT).

The check or electronic funds transfer instrument must state the case title ("In the Matter of: Pro-Ag Farmers Cooperative"), and the docket number of this Agreement.

15. When it pays the penalty, Respondent must send a notice of payment that states Respondent's name, complete address, and the case docket number (along with a photocopy of the check or a statement of affirmation or receipt of an electronic funds transfer) to:

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

Abigail Wesley  
Pesticides and Toxics Compliance Section (ECP-17J)  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

16. Payment of the civil penalty shall resolve only Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts alleged herein.

17. The civil penalty is not deductible for federal tax purposes.

18. If Respondent does not timely pay the civil penalty, 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 penalties are not reviewable in a collection action.

19. EPA reserves all of its rights to take enforcement action for any other past, present,

or future violations by Respondent of FIFRA, any other federal statute or regulation, or this Agreement.

20. Respondent certifies that it is complying with Section 7(c) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136e(c), and its implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 167.85.

21. Upon signing and returning this Agreement to EPA, Respondent waives any and all remedies, claims for relief and other available rights to judicial or administrative review that Respondent may have with respect to any issue of fact or law set forth in this Expedited Settlement Agreement, including the opportunity for a hearing or appeal pursuant to FIFRA and 40 C.F.R. Part 22 and any right of judicial review under Chapter 7 of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 701 -706.

22. Each party shall bear its own costs and fees, if any.

23. The Agreement authorized by EPA's execution of the Final Order attached hereto constitutes a Final Order under 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

24. This Agreement is binding on the parties signing below, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b), is effective upon filing of the Final Order.

IT IS SO AGREED,

FOR RESPONDENT PRO-AG FARMERS COOPERATIVE:


Name (print): Jim Hlatky

Title (print): Agronomy Manager

Signature: Jim Hlatky

Date 12-13-19

APPROVED BY EPA:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael D. Harris  
Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5

Date 12-18-19

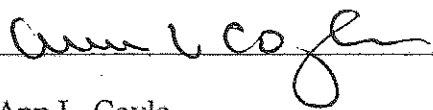
In the Matter of: Pro-Ag Farmers Cooperative

**FINAL ORDER**

Pursuant to authority of Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l, and 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b), and according to the terms of this Agreement, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

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

IT IS SO ORDERED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann L. Coyle  
Regional Judicial Officer  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5

Date 12/30/19



In the matter of: Pro-Ag Farmers Cooperative  
Docket Number: FIFRA-05-2020-0011

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Expedited Settlement Agreement**, which was filed on, December 31, 2019 this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy by certified mail  
Return-receipt requested:

Mr. Jim Hlatky  
Agronomy Division Manager  
Pro-Ag Farmers Cooperative  
601 East Soo Street, Suite A  
Parkers Prairie, Minnesota 56361

Copy by e-mail to  
Attorney for Complainant:

Josh Zaharoff  
[zaharoff.josh@epa.gov](mailto:zaharoff.josh@epa.gov)

Copy by e-mail to  
Regional Judicial Officer:

Ann Coyle  
[coyle.ann@epa.gov](mailto:coyle.ann@epa.gov)

Dated:

December 31, 2019 

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