

2011 DEC 28 PM 2: 26

**BEFORE THE UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III**

REGULATORY CLEANING CENTER
EPA REGION III PHILA. PA

In the Matter of:	:	
	:	
Better Engineering Manufacturing Inc.	:	Docket No. EPCRA-03-2012-0066
8361 Town Center Court	:	
Baltimore, MD 21236	:	
	:	
Respondent	:	CONSENT AGREEMENT
	:	
Better Engineering Manufacturing Inc.	:	
8361 Town Center Court	:	
Baltimore, MD 21236	:	
	:	
	:	Proceeding under EPCRA § 325(c),
	:	42 U.S.C. § 11045(c)
Facility.	:	

CONSENT AGREEMENT

Preliminary Statement

This Consent Agreement is entered into by the Director of the Land and Chemicals Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III ("Complainant"), and Better Engineering Manufacturing Inc. ("Respondent"), pursuant to Sections 313 and 325(c) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 ("EPCRA"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 11023 and 11045(c), the regulations implementing EPCRA § 313, as set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 372, and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/ Termination or Suspension of Permits ("Consolidated Rules of Practice"), 40 C.F.R. Part 22. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and .18(b)(2) and (3), this Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order (collectively, "CAFO"), simultaneously commence and conclude this proceeding to resolve violations of EPCRA § 313, 42 U.S.C. § 11023, as alleged herein, by Respondent at its facility located at 8361 Town Center Court, Baltimore, MD 21236.

General Provisions

1. For purposes of this proceeding only, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth in this CAFO.
2. Except as provided in Paragraph 1, above, Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations and legal conclusions set forth in this CAFO.

3. Respondent agrees not to contest the jurisdiction of EPA with respect to the execution of this Consent Agreement, the issuance of the attached Final Order, or the enforcement of this CAFO.
4. For purposes of this proceeding only, Respondent hereby expressly waives any right to contest any issue of law or fact set forth in this Consent Agreement and any right to appeal the accompanying Final Order.
5. Respondent consents to the issuance of this CAFO and agrees to comply with its terms and conditions.
6. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees in connection with this proceeding.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

7. In accordance with Sections 22.13(b) and .18(b)(2) of the Consolidated Rules, Complainant adopts the following findings of fact and conclusions of law.
8. Section 313 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023, and 40 C.F.R. Part 372 require, *inter alia*, that the owner or operator of a facility that: 1) has 10 or more employees; 2) has a primary Standard Industrial Classification ("SIC") Code of 20 [2000] through 39 [3900] (as in effect on July 1, 1985), or other SIC or industry code as set forth in 40 C.F.R. Section 372.22(b); and 3) manufactured, processed or otherwise used a toxic chemical listed in 40 C.F.R. § 372.65, in excess of the threshold quantities established under Section 313(f) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(f), during the calendar year for which the form is required, to complete and submit a toxic chemical release form ("Form R") or appropriate alternative threshold report ("Form A") for each such toxic chemical to EPA and the state in which the facility is located, by July 1 of the following calendar year.
9. Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.3 define "facility" to mean, in relevant part, all buildings, equipment, structures, and other stationary items that are located on a single site and that are owned or operated by the same person.
10. Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7), defines "person" to include any corporation.
11. Respondent is incorporated in the State of Maryland and is a "person" as defined in Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7).
12. Respondent owns and operates, and at the time of the violations alleged herein, owned and operated a manufacturing plant located at 8361 Town Center Court, Baltimore, Maryland, 21236 ("Facility").
13. Respondent's Facility is a "facility" as defined in Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. §

11049(4), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.3.

14. During the 2007 calendar year, Respondent employed 10 or more full-time employees at the Facility.
15. During the 2007 calendar year, the Facility had a primary SIC code of 3559.
16. Respondent was required to complete and submit a Form R or Form A for each toxic chemical listed in 40 C.F.R. § 372.65 which was manufactured, processed, or otherwise used at the Facility in excess of the threshold quantity set forth in Section 313(f) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(f), during any calendar year, to EPA and the State of Maryland by July 1 of the following calendar year.

Count I – Chromium 2007

17. The allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 16, above, are incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
18. “Chromium” is a “toxic chemical” as defined in EPCRA §§ 313(c) and 329(10), 42 U.S.C. §§ 11023(c) and 11049(10), 40 C.F.R. § 372.3, and is listed in 40 C.F.R. § 372.65.
19. As set forth in Section 313(f)(1)(B)(iii) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(f)(1)(B)(iii), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.25, the reporting threshold amount for chromium which is processed at a facility is 25,000 pounds.
20. Respondent processed more than 25,000 pounds of chromium at the Facility during the 2007 calendar year.
21. Pursuant to EPCRA § 313(a), 42 U.S.C. § 11023(a), Respondent was required to submit to the Administrator of EPA and the State of Maryland by July 1 of 2008, a completed Form R or Form A for the chromium processed at the Facility during calendar year 2007.
22. Respondent filed the required Form R or Form A for the toxic chemical chromium processed at the Facility during calendar year 2007 with the Administrator of EPA and the State of Maryland on or about November 15, 2010.
23. Respondent’s failure to timely file its Form R or Form A to EPA or the State of Maryland for the toxic chemical chromium processed at the Facility during calendar year 2007, by July 1, 2008, constitutes one violation of Section 313 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023.

Civil Penalty

24. Section 325(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c), provides that any person who violates EPCRA § 313, 42 U.S.C. § 11023, shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per violation. Pursuant to the Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for

Inflation, 40 C.F.R. Part 19, as revised (73 Fed. Reg. 75340-46 (December 11, 2008)), violations of Section 313 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023, which occurred between March 16, 2004 and January 12, 2009, are subject to an increased statutory maximum penalty of \$32,500 per violation and that the maximum inflation-adjusted penalty for violations occurring after January 12, 2009 is \$37,500 per violation.

25. In settlement of EPA's claims for civil monetary penalties for the violations alleged in this Consent Agreement, Respondent consents to the assessment of a civil penalty in the amount of FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$4,500.00), which Respondent agrees to pay in accordance with the terms set forth below. Such civil penalty shall become due and payable immediately upon Respondent's receipt of a true and correct copy of this CAFO, fully executed by all parties, signed by the Regional Administrator or the Regional Judicial Officer, and filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk. In order to avoid the assessment of interest, administrative costs, and late payment penalties in connection with such civil penalty, Respondent must pay such civil penalty no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the date on which this CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered to Respondent.
26. The aforesaid civil penalty set forth above in Paragraph 25, above, is based on a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the facts and circumstances of this case, the statutory factors set forth in EPCRA § 325(b)(1)(C), 42 U.S.C. § 11045(b)(1)(C), and the penalty criteria set forth in EPA's *Enforcement Response Policy for Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (1986)* (August 10, 1992), as amended. Complainant has also considered the Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation, 40 C.F.R. Part 19, the June 6, 2006 memorandum by Acting EPA Toxics and Pesticides Enforcement Division Director Stephanie P. Brown entitled *Penalty Policy Supplements Pursuant to the 2004 Civil Monetary Inflation Adjustment Rule* ("Brown Memorandum") and the April 6, 2010 memorandum from EPA Waste and Chemical Division Director Rosemarie Kelley entitled *Revision to Adjusted Penalty Policy Matrices Package Issued on November 16, 2009* ("Kelley Memorandum"). The settlement in this proceeding is consistent with the provisions and objectives of EPCRA § 313, 42 U.S.C. § 11023, and 40 C.F.R. Part 372.
27. Respondent shall pay the civil penalty amount assessed in Paragraph 25, above, plus any interest, administrative fees, and late payment penalties owed, in accordance with Paragraphs 28, 29, 30, and 31, below, by either cashier's check, certified check, or electronic wire transfer, in the following manner:
 - a. All payments by Respondent shall reference Respondent's name and address, and the Docket Number of this action, *i.e.*, EPCRA-03-2012-0066;
 - b. All checks shall be made payable to "United States Treasury";
 - c. All payments made by check and sent by regular mail shall be addressed to:

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

Customer service contact: 513-487-2105

- d. All payments made by check and sent by overnight delivery service shall be addressed for delivery to:

U.S. Bank
Government Lockbox 979077
U.S. EPA, Fines & Penalties
1005 Convention Plaza
Mail Station SL-MO-C2-GL
St. Louis, MO 63101

Contact: 314-418-1028

- e. All payments made by check in any currency drawn on banks with no USA branches shall be addressed for delivery to:

Cincinnati Finance
US EPA, MS-NWD
26 W. M.L. King Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45268-0001

- f. All payments made by electronic wire transfer shall be directed to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA = 021030004
Account No. = 68010727
SWIFT address = FRNYUS33
33 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10045

Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read:
"D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency"

- g. All electronic payments made through the Automated Clearinghouse (ACH), also known as Remittance Express (REX), shall be directed to:

US Treasury REX / Cashlink ACH Receiver
ABA = 051036706
Account No.: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency
CTX Format Transaction Code 22 - Checking

Physical location of U.S. Treasury facility:
5700 Rivertech Court
Riverdale, MD 20737

Contact: 866-234-5681

h. On-Line Payment Option:

WWW.PAY.GOV/paygov/

Enter **sfo 1.1** in the search field. Open and complete the form.

i. Additional payment guidance is available at:

http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/finservices/make_a_payment.htm

j. Payment by Respondent shall reference Respondent's name and address, and the EPA Docket Number of this CAFO.

A copy of Respondent's check or a copy of Respondent's electronic fund transfer shall be sent simultaneously to:

T. Chris Minshall
Senior Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region III (3RC30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

and

Ms. Lydia Guy
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA, Region III (3RC00)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

28. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, EPA is entitled to assess interest and

late payment penalties on outstanding debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the costs of processing and handling a delinquent claim, as more fully described below. Accordingly, Respondent's failure to make timely payment as specified herein shall result in the assessment of late payment charges including interest, penalties, and/or administrative costs of handling delinquent debts.

29. Interest on the civil penalty assessed in this CAFO will begin to accrue on the date that a true and correct copy of this CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered to Respondent. However, EPA will not seek to recover interest on any amount of the civil penalty that is paid within thirty (30) calendar days after the date on which such interest begins to accrue. Interest will be assessed at the rate of the United States Treasury tax and loan rate in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a).
30. The costs of the Agency's administrative handling of overdue debts will be charged and assessed monthly throughout the period a debt is overdue. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). Pursuant to Appendix 2 of EPA's *Resources Management Directives - Cash Management*, Chapter 9, EPA will assess a \$15.00 administrative handling charge for administrative costs on unpaid penalties for the first thirty (30) day period after the payment is due and an additional \$15.00 for each subsequent thirty (30) days the penalty remains unpaid.
31. A late payment penalty of six percent per year will be assessed monthly on any portion of the civil penalty that remains delinquent more than ninety (90) calendar days. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(c). Should assessment of the penalty charge on the debt be required, it shall accrue from the first day payment is delinquent. 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d).
32. Respondent agrees not to deduct for federal tax purposes the civil monetary penalty assessed in this CAFO.

Certification

33. The individual who signs this Consent Agreement on behalf of Respondent certifies that the Facility referred to in this Consent Agreement is currently in compliance with all applicable requirements of EPCRA Section 313, 42 U.S.C. § 11023.

Other Applicable Laws

34. Nothing in this CAFO shall relieve Respondent of its obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Reservation of Rights

35. This Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order resolve only EPA's claims for civil penalties for the specific violations of EPCRA Section 313, 42 U.S.C. § 11023, alleged herein. EPA reserves the right to commence action against any person, including Respondent, in response to any condition which EPA determines may present an imminent

and substantial endangerment to the public health, public welfare, or the environment. In addition, this settlement is subject to all limitations on the scope of resolution and to the reservation of rights set forth in Section 22.18(c) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice. Further, EPA reserves any rights and remedies available to it under EPCRA, the regulations promulgated thereunder, and any other federal laws or regulations for which EPA has jurisdiction, to enforce the provisions of this CAFO, following its filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

Scope of Settlement

36. The settlement set forth in this CAFO shall constitute full and final satisfaction of Complainant's civil claims for penalties for the specific violations alleged herein. Compliance with the CAFO shall not be a defense to any action commenced at any time for any other violation of the federal laws and regulations administered by EPA.

Parties Bound

37. This Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order shall apply to and be binding upon the EPA, the Respondent and the officers, directors, employees, contractors, successors, agents, and assigns of Respondent. By his or her signature below, the person who signs this Consent Agreement on behalf of Respondent is acknowledging that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to execute this Consent Agreement and to legally bind Respondent to the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order.

Effective Date

38. The effective date of this Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order is the date on which the Final Order, signed by the Regional Administrator of EPA, Region III, or his designee, the Regional Judicial Officer, is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice.

Entire Agreement

39. This Consent Agreement and the accompanying Final Order constitute the entire agreement and understanding of the parties regarding settlement of all claims pertaining to the specific violations alleged herein and there are no representations, warranties, covenants, terms, or conditions agreed upon between the parties other than those expressed in this CAFO.

For Respondent:

Date: 12/14/11

By: Keith Hiss
Keith Hiss, President and General Manager
Better Engineering Manufacturing Inc.

For Complainant:

Date: 12/19/11

By: T. Chris Minshall
T. Chris Minshall
Senior Assistant Regional Counsel

Accordingly, I hereby recommend that the Regional Administrator, or his designee, the Regional Judicial Officer, issue the attached Final Order.

Date: 12/22/11

By: Abraham Ferdas
Abraham Ferdas, Director
Land and Chemicals Division
for

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III

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Better Engineering Manufacturing Inc. : Docket No. EPCRA-03-2012-0066
8361 Town Center Court :
Baltimore, MD 21236 :
Respondent : FINAL ORDER
Better Engineering Manufacturing Inc. :
8361 Town Center Court :
Baltimore, MD 21236 :
Facility. : Proceeding under EPCRA § 325(c),
42 U.S.C. § 11045(c)


FINAL ORDER

Complainant, the Director of the Land and Chemicals Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, and Respondent, Better Engineering Manufacturing Inc., have executed a document entitled "Consent Agreement," which I hereby ratify as a Consent Agreement in accordance with the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits ("Consolidated Rules of Practice"), 40 C.F.R. Part 22 (with specific reference to Sections 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3)). The terms of the foregoing Consent Agreement are accepted by the undersigned and incorporated into this Final Order as if fully set forth at length herein.

Based on the representations of the parties in the attached Consent Agreement, the civil penalty agreed to therein is based upon consideration of, *inter alia*, EPA's *Enforcement Response Policy for Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (1986)* (August 10, 1992), the statutory factors set forth in EPCRA § 325(b)(1)(C), 42 U.S.C. § 11045(b)(1)(C), and the provisions and objectives of EPCRA § 313, 42 U.S.C. § 11023. **NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO** Section 325(c) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 ("EPCRA"), 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c), and the Consolidated Rules of Practice, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Respondent pay a civil penalty of **FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$4,500.00)** and comply with the terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement.

The effective date of the foregoing Consent Agreement and this Final Order is the date on which this Final Order is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

Date: 12/28/11


Renée Sarajian
Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. EPA, Region III

In the Matter of Better Engineering Manufacturing Inc.

Docket No. EPCRA-03-2012-0066

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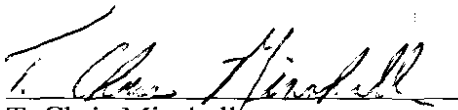
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REGIONAL HEARING CLERK
EPA REGION III PHILA, PA

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 28th day of December 2011, I sent a copy of the foregoing CONSENT AGREEMENT and FINAL ORDER by U.S. Mail, to the following person:

Keith Hiss
President and General Manager
Better Engineering Manufacturing Inc.
8361 Town Center Court
Baltimore, MD 21236



T. Chris Minshall
Senior Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III