



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

JUL 8 7 2014

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Bill Oehler  
Ward & Oehler, Ltd.  
Attorneys at Law  
1765 Greenview Drive SW  
Rochester MN 55902

Re: Eickhoff Fertilizer, Inc., Fountain, Minnesota  
Consent Agreement and Final Order  
Docket No. **CAA-05-2014-0038**

Dear Mr. Oehler:

Enclosed please find a fully executed Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) in resolution of the above case. U.S. EPA filed the original CAFO with the Regional Hearing Clerk on August 1, 2014. Under the terms of the CAFO a civil penalty in the amount of \$13,000 is due according to the manner prescribed in paragraphs 42-44 and reference your check with the docket number.

Please feel free to contact Greg Chomycia at (312) 353-8217 if you have any questions regarding the enclosed documents. Please direct any legal questions to Sheila McAnaney, Assistant Regional Counsel at (312) 353-3114. Thank you for your assistance in resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

  
James Entzinger, Acting Chief  
Chemical Emergency  
Preparedness & Prevention Section

Enclosure

cc. Sheila McAnaney, ORC

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5

In the Matter of:

Eickhoff Fertilizer, Inc.  
Fountain, Minnesota,



Proceeding to Assess a Civil Penalty  
Under Section 113(d) of the Clean Air  
Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)

Respondent

Docket No. CAA-05-2014-0038

Consent Agreement and Final Order

Preliminary Statement

1. This is an administrative action commenced and concluded under Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act (the Act), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), and Sections 22.1(a)(2), 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, for violations of Section 112(r) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), and the implementing regulations.

2. Complainant is the Director of the Superfund Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 5, Chicago, Illinois.

3. Respondent is Eickhoff Fertilizer, Inc. (Respondent), a corporation doing business in the State of Minnesota.

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). 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 respective interests and in the public interest.

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

#### **Jurisdiction and Waiver of Right to Hearing**

7. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set out in paragraphs 9-26 in this CAFO, and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations in the 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** **(Jurisdictional Allegations)**

9. Section 112(r)(1) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(1), provides that it shall be the objective of the regulations and programs authorized under this subsection to prevent the accidental release and to minimize the consequences of any such release of any substance listed pursuant to Section 112(r)(3), or any other extremely hazardous substance.

10. Section 112(r)(3) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3), provides that the Administrator shall promulgate, not later than 24 months after November 15, 1990, an initial list of 100 substances which, in the case of an accidental release, are known to cause or may reasonably be anticipated to cause death, injury, or serious adverse effects to human health or the environment.

11. Section 112(r)(7)(A) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7)(A), provides that in order to prevent accidental releases of regulated substances, the Administrator is authorized to promulgate release prevention, detection, and correction requirements which may include monitoring, record-keeping, reporting, training, vapor recovery, secondary containment, and

other design, equipment, work practice, and operational requirements.

12. Section 112(r)(7)(B)(i) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7)(B)(i), provides that within 3 years after November 15, 1990, the Administrator shall promulgate reasonable regulations and appropriate guidance to provide, to the greatest extent practicable, for the prevention and detection of accidental releases of regulated substances and for response to such releases by the owners or operators of the sources of such releases.

13. Section 112(r)(7)(B)(ii) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7)(B)(ii), provides that the regulations under this subparagraph shall require the owner or operator of stationary sources at which a regulated substance is present in more than a threshold quantity to prepare and implement a Risk Management Plan (RMP) to detect and prevent or minimize accidental releases of such substances from the stationary source, and to provide a prompt emergency response to any such releases in order to protect human health and the environment.

14. Under Section 112(r) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), the Administrator initially promulgated a list of regulated substances, with threshold quantities for applicability, at 59 Fed. Reg. 4478 (January 31, 1994), which has since been codified, as amended, at 40 C.F.R. § 68.130.

15. Section 112(a)(9) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(a)(9), defines “owner or operator” as “any person who owns, leases, operates, controls or supervises a stationary source.”

16. Under Section 112(r) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), the Administrator promulgated “Accidental Release Prevention Requirements: Risk Management Programs Under Clean Air Act Section 112(r)(7),” 61 Fed. Reg. 31668 (June 20, 1996), which were codified, and amended, at 40 C.F.R. Part 68: Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions.

17. “Stationary source” is defined to mean “any buildings, structures, equipment, installations, or substance emitting stationary activities which belong to the same industrial

group, which are located on one or more contiguous properties, which are under the control of the same person (or persons under common control), and from which an accidental release may occur.” 40 C.F.R. § 68.3.

18. “Process” is defined to mean “any activity involving a regulated substance including any use, storage, manufacturing, handling, or on-site movement of such substances, or combination of these activities.” 40 C.F.R. § 68.3.

19. Under Section 112(r)(3) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(3), the Administrator has listed anhydrous ammonia, CAS No. 7664-47-7, as a substance which, in the case of an accidental release, is known to cause or may reasonably be anticipated to cause death, injury, or serious adverse effects to human health or the environment. The Administrator has further identified a threshold quantity of 10,000 lbs. of anhydrous ammonia for determining whether sources are subject to the Risk Management Program. 40 C.F.R. § 68.130, Table 1.

20. 40 C.F.R. § 68.115 provides that a “threshold quantity of a regulated substance listed in § 68.130 is present at a stationary source if the total quantity of the regulated substance contained in a process exceeds the threshold.”

21. 40 C.F.R. § 68.12 requires that the owner or operator of a stationary source subject to 40 C.F.R. Part 68 shall submit an RMP, as provided in 40 C.F.R. §§ 68.150 through 68.190.

22. The owner or operator of a stationary source subject to 40 C.F.R. Part 68 is required by 40 C.F.R. § 68.190(b)(1) to resubmit its RMP at least once every five years from its most recent update.

23. Section 112(r)(7)(E) of the Act provides that after the effective date of any regulation or requirement promulgated pursuant to Section 112(r), it shall be unlawful for any person to operate any stationary source in violation of such regulation or requirement.

24. Section 113(d) of the Act 42 U.S.C. §7413(d) and 40 C.F.R. Part 19 provide that the Administrator of the EPA may assess a civil penalty of up to \$32,500 per day of violation up to a total of \$270,000 for each violation of Section 112(r) of the Act that occurred from March 15, 2004 to January 12, 2009 and a civil penalty of up to \$37,500 per day of violation up to a total of \$295,000 for each violation of Section 112(r) of the Act that occurred after January 12, 2009.

25. Section 113(d)(1) of the Act limits the Administrator's authority to matters where the first alleged date of violation occurred no more than 12 months prior to initiation of the administrative action, except where the Administrator and the Attorney General of the United States jointly determine that a matter involving a longer period of violation is appropriate for an administrative penalty action.

26. The Administrator and the Attorney General of the United States, each through their respective delegates, have determined jointly that an administrative penalty action is appropriate for the period of violations alleged in this complaint.

#### **Factual Allegations and Alleged Violations**

27. Respondent is a "person," as defined at Section 302(e) of the Act, 40 U.S.C. § 7602(e).

28. Respondent is a Minnesota corporation with a farm supply facility located at 24189 250th Street, Fountain, Minnesota ("the Facility").

29. Respondent's facility consists of buildings, structures, equipment, installations, or substance emitting stationary activities which belong to the same industrial group, which are located on a contiguous property, which are under the control of the same person, and from which an accidental release may occur.

30. The Facility is a "stationary source," as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 68.3.

31. On June 21, 1999, having stored 10,000 lbs. or more of anhydrous ammonia, the Facility exceeded the applicability threshold established by 40 C.F.R. § 68.130, and became subject to 40 C.F.R. Part 68.

32. For purposes of compliance with 40 C.F.R. Part 68, in its RMP, the Respondent acknowledged that the Facility was required to meet Program 2 eligibility requirements at the Facility.

33. As owner or operator of the Facility, Respondent was required under 40 C.F.R. § 68.12 to submit an RMP to EPA on June 21, 1999.

34. On June 15, 1999, under Section 112(r) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412, and implementing regulations, 40 C.F.R. Part 68, the Respondent submitted an RMP to EPA for the Facility.

35. According to the RMP submitted to EPA, the Facility:

- a. fell within NAICS Code 49313, as Farm Product Warehousing and Storage;
- b. stored anhydrous ammonia CAS No. 7664-47-7 during its operations; and
- c. stored 260,000 lbs. of anhydrous ammonia.

36. On February 3, 2000, the Respondent resubmitted an RMP for the Facility.

37. Respondent was required to resubmit an RMP for the Facility no later than February 3, 2005 in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 68.190(b)(1).

38. Respondent failed to resubmit an RMP for the Facility by February 3, 2005.

39. On April 30, 2013, Respondent resubmitted an RMP in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 68.190(b)(1).

40. Respondent's failure to timely resubmit an RMP for the Facility was a violation of Section 112(r)(7)(E) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7)(E), and 40 C.F.R. § 68.190(b)(1).

41. The violation of 40 C.F.R. Part 68, Section 112(r) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(7), described in paragraph 40 above, is subject to the assessment of a civil penalty under Section 113(d) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d).

**Civil Penalty**

42. Pursuant to Section 113(e) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 113(e), Complainant determined that an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action is \$13,000. In determining the penalty amount, Complainant considered the nature, circumstances, and gravity of the violations, and with respect to Respondent, its ability to pay, prior history of violations, economic benefit or savings from the violations, and other factors as justice may require. Complainant also considered EPA's Combined Enforcement Response Policy for Clean Air Act Sections 112(r)(1), 112(r)(7), and 40 C.F.R. Part 68, dated June 2012.

43. Within 30 days after the effective date of this CAFO, Respondent must pay the \$13,000.00 civil penalty by sending a cashier's or certified check, payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America, using one of the following mail options:

For regular U.S. Postal Service mail, check must be sent to:

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

For express mail, check must be sent to:

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

The check must note "Eickhoff Fertilizer, Inc." and the docket number of this CAFO.



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

Attn: Regional Hearing Clerk, (E-19J)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

Greg Chomycia (SC-5J)  
Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section  
Superfund Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

Sheila McAnaney, (C-14J)  
Office of Regional Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

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

46. If Respondent does not pay timely the civil penalty, EPA may refer this matter to the Attorney General who will recover such amount, plus interest, handling charges, nonpayment penalties and the United States' enforcement expenses for the collection action, in the appropriate district court of the United States under Section 113(d)(5) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(5). The validity, amount and appropriateness of the civil penalty are not reviewable in a collection action.

47. 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 overdue amount from the date payment was due at a rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury. Respondent must pay a \$15

handling charge each month that any portion of the penalty is more than 30 days past due. In addition, Respondent must pay a quarterly nonpayment penalty each quarter during which the assessed penalty is overdue according to Section 113(d)(5) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(5). This nonpayment penalty will be 10 percent of the aggregate amount of the outstanding penalties and nonpayment penalties accrued from the beginning of the quarter.

---

**General Provisions**

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

49. The CAFO does not affect the right of EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violation of law.

50. This CAFO does not affect Respondent's responsibility to comply with the Act and other applicable federal, state, and local laws.

51. Respondent certifies that it is complying fully with 40 C.F.R. Part 68 to the extent applicable to Respondent.

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

53. 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.

54. Each party agrees to bear its own costs and attorneys' fees in this action.

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

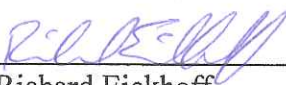
56. The effective date of this CAFO is the date when this CAFO is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk's office.

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

In the Matter of Eickhoff Fertilizer, Inc.  
Docket No.

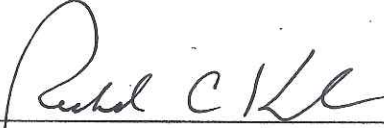
Eickhoff Fertilizer, Inc., Respondent

Date: 7/7/14

By:  CFO  
Richard Eickhoff  
Eickhoff Fertilizer, Inc.

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Complainant

7-17-14  
Date


  
Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER**  
**In the Matter of Eickhoff Fertilizer, Inc.**  
Docket No.     **CAA-05-2014-0038**

**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.

7-28-2014  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susán Hedman  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5

CAA-05-2014-0038

Certificate of Service

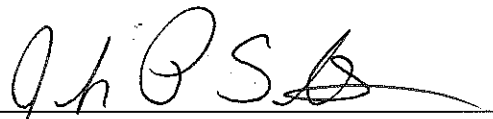
I hereby certify that I have caused a copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) to be served upon the persons designated below, on the date below, by causing said copies to be delivered by depositing in the U.S. Mail, First Class, and certified-return receipt requested, postage prepaid, at Chicago, Illinois, in envelope addressed to:

Richard Eickhoff  
Eickhoff Fertilizer, Inc.  
24189 250<sup>h</sup> Street  
Fountain, Minnesota 55935

Bill Oehler  
Ward & Oehler, Ltd.  
Attorneys at Law  
1765 Greenview Drive SW  
Rochester MN 55902

I have further caused the original CAFO and this Certificate of Service, and one copy, to be filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard; Chicago, Illinois 60604, on the date below.

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2014.

  
Jayrah P. Sanders  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5