



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

JAN 17 2008

CERTIFIED MAIL 7005 3110 0003 6266 0813
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Phillip R. Feagan
Feagan Law Firm, PLLC
P.O. Box 309
Columbus, North Carolina 28722

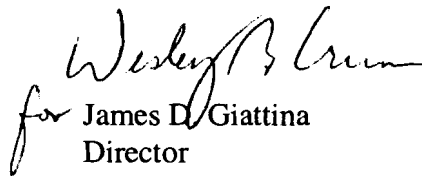
Re: Consent Agreement and Final Order
Docket No. CWA-04-2008-4503(b)
White Oak Plantation
Tryon, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Feagan:

Enclosed please find a fully executed copy of the Consent Agreement and Final Order that has been finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Regional Administrator. Please make note of the provisions under Paragraph IV. Payment.

Should you have any questions or problems, please contact Mr. Maurice Horsey at (404) 562-9764.

Sincerely,


for James D. Giattina
Director
Water Management Division

Enclosure

cc: North Carolina Department of Environment
and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4

RECEIVED
EPA REGION III
HEARING ROOM

2008 JAN 17 PM 1:30

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
White Oak Development Partners, LLC) CONSENT AGREEMENT AND
White Oak Plantation) FINAL ORDER
Tryon, North Carolina)
RESPONDENT.) DOCKET NO. CWA-04-2008-4503(b)

CONSENT AGREEMENT

I. Statutory Authority

1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 309(g)(2)(B) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(B), and the *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits*, including Subpart I, published at 64 Fed. Reg. 40176 (July 23, 1999) and codified at 40 Code of Federal Regulations ("C.F.R.") Part 22.

2. The authority to take action under Section 309(g)(2)(B) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(B), is vested in the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). The Administrator has delegated this authority to the Regional Administrator, Region 4, who in turn has delegated this authority to the Director of the Water Management Division of EPA, Region 4 ("Complainant").

II. Allegations

3. At all times relevant to this action, White Oak Development Partners, LLC ("Respondent"), was a limited liability company duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina and, therefore, a "person" within the meaning of Section 502(5) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5).

4. At times relevant to this action, Respondent owned and/or operated a construction site known as White Oak Plantation ("Development") located at 2659 Sandy Plains Road, Tryon, North Carolina.

5. To accomplish the objective of the CWA, defined in Section 101(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1251(a), as to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's waters, Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), prohibits the discharge of pollutants by any person into waters of the United States except as in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit issued pursuant to Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

6. Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, establishes a NPDES Permit Program authorizing EPA or authorized states to administer the NPDES Permit Program, including the issuance of NPDES permits allowing for the discharge of pollutants, including storm water, into navigable waters subject to specific terms and conditions. EPA has granted the State of North Carolina through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (“NCDENR”) approval to issue NPDES permits pursuant to Section 402(b) of the CWA.

7. NCDENR issued a *General Permit to Discharge Stormwater Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System*, Permit No. NCG010000 (“Permit”) in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 143-215.1 and the CWA. The Permit was effective October 1, 2001, and expires September 30, 2008.

8. The NCDENR Division of Land Resources, Land Quality Section, is responsible for the enforcement of North Carolina General Statute 113A-54.1, the rules adopted by the North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission, and the approval of coverage under the Permit upon submission and approval of an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (“Plan”).

9. On October 5, 2005, Respondent submitted a Plan for the Development to NCDENR seeking approval of the Plan and coverage under the Permit. NCDENR approved the Plan and sent Respondent its approval along with a copy of the Permit, with Permit coverage commencing on November 14, 2005, the date that the Plan was approved.

10. Part I.A.6 of the Permit requires the Permittee to control the management and disposal of litter and sanitary waste from the Development such that no adverse impacts to water quality occur.

11. Part I.C.1 of the Permit requires the Permittee to comply with Final Limitations and Controls specified for storm water discharges once disturbance has begun on the site until completion of construction or development and establishment of a permanent groundcover.

12. Part I.C.2 of the Permit requires the Permittee to provide operation and maintenance necessary to operate storm water controls at optimum efficiency.

13. Part II.B.1 of the Permit requires the Permittee to comply with all conditions of the Permit.

14. Part II.B.2 of the Permit requires the Permittee to take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of the Permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health and the environment.

15. Part II.C.1 of the Permit requires the Permittee to properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control which are installed or used to achieve compliance with the conditions of the Permit.

16. On March 13, 2007, representatives of EPA, in conjunction with NCDENR, performed a Compliance Storm Water Evaluation Inspection (“CSWEI”) at the Development to evaluate the treatment and disposal of storm water in accordance with the CWA, the regulations promulgated thereunder at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (“C.F.R.”) § 122.26, and the Permit.

17. As a result of the CSWEI, EPA determined that storm water associated with industrial activity was discharged from the Development within the meaning of Section 402(p) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p), and its implementing regulations.

18. During the CSWEI, EPA inspectors observed the following:

A. The area around the box culvert had concrete masonry blocks and construction debris disposed of within the tributary to White Oak Creek, in violation of Part I.A.6. of the Permit.

B. Control measures were missing (perimeter silt fencing along the access roads, outlet protection at all of the outfalls), in violation of Part I.C.1 and Part II.C.1 of the Permit.

C. Storm water controls were not maintained and operated at optimal efficiency, in violation of Parts I.C.2 and II.C.1 of the Permit. The Development was not stabilized, including slopes along the outfalls and the banks of creek crossings. The silt fencing along the utility easement as well as other areas was breached, allowing sediment discharges to enter the tributary to White Oak Creek. Several outfalls did not have riprap protection at the point of discharge.

D. Sediment discharges were observed in the tributary to White Oak Creek and no corrective action was taken, as required by Parts II.B.1 and II.B.2 of the Permit.

19. Therefore, Respondent violated Sections 301 and 402(p) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311 and 1342(p), by failing to comply with the Permit and also for discharges not authorized by the Permit.

III. Stipulations and Findings

20. 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 (“CA/FO”) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

21. For the purposes of this CA/FO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set out above and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set out above.

22. Respondent hereby waives its right to contest the allegations set out above and its right to appeal the Final Order accompanying this Consent Agreement.

23. Respondent consents to the assessment of and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CA/FO and consents to the other conditions set forth in this CA/FO.

24. By signing this CA/FO, Respondent certifies that the information it has supplied concerning this matter was at the time of submission, and is, truthful, accurate, and complete for each such submission, response and statement. Respondent realizes that there are significant penalties for submitting false or misleading information, including the possibility of fines and/or imprisonment for knowing submission of such information.

25. EPA reserves the right to assess and collect any and all civil penalties for any violation described herein to the extent that any information or certification provided by Respondent was materially false or inaccurate at the time such information or certification was provided to EPA.

26. Complainant and Respondent agree to settle this matter by their execution of this CA/FO. The parties agree that the settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that this CA/FO is consistent with the applicable requirements of the CWA.

IV. Payment

27. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(2)(B) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(B), and 40 C.F.R Part 19, and considering the nature of the violations and other relevant factors, EPA has determined that Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) is an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action.

28. Respondent shall submit payment of the penalty specified in the preceding paragraph within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CA/FO via a cashier's or certified check, payable to the order of "Treasurer, United States of America." The check shall reference on its face the name of Respondent and the Docket Number of this CA/FO. Such payment shall be tendered to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979007
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000.

29. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of the check, and a written statement that payment has been made in accordance with this CA/FO, to the following persons at the following addresses:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

and

Ms. Mary Mattox
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
Water Management Division
Water Programs Enforcement Branch
Gulf Enforcement Section
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960.

30. The penalty amount specified above shall represent civil penalties assessed by EPA and shall not be deductible for purposes of federal taxes.

31. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 13 and 31 U.S.C. § 3717 et seq., if EPA does not receive payment of the penalty assessed by this CA/FO in full by its due date, interest shall accrue on the unpaid balance from the due date through the date of payment at an annual rate equal to the rate of the current value of funds to the United States Treasury as prescribed and published by the Secretary of the Treasury. If all or part of the payment is overdue, EPA will assess a late-payment handling charge of \$15.00, with an additional delinquent notice charge of \$15.00 for each subsequent thirty (30) day period. EPA will also assess on a monthly basis an up to six percent (6%) per annum penalty on any principal amount not paid within ninety (90) days of the due date.

32. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(9) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(9), failure by Respondent to pay the penalty assessed by the CA/FO in full by its due date may subject Respondent to a civil action to collect the assessed penalty plus interest (at currently prevailing rates from the effective date of this CA/FO), attorney's fees, costs for collection proceedings and a quarterly nonpayment penalty for each quarter during which such failure to pay persists. Such nonpayment penalty shall be in an amount equal to twenty percent (20%) of the aggregate amount of such penalty and nonpayment penalty which are unpaid as of the beginning of such quarter. In any such collection action, the validity, amount and appropriateness of the penalty and of this CA/FO shall not be subject to review.

V. General Provisions

33. This CA/FO shall not relieve Respondent of its obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of federal, state, or local law, nor shall it be construed to be a ruling on, or determination of, any issue related to any federal, state, or local permit. Other than as expressed herein, compliance with this CA/FO shall not be a defense to any actions subsequently commenced pursuant to federal laws and regulations administered by EPA.

34. Nothing in this CA/FO shall be construed as prohibiting, altering, or in any way limiting the ability of the United States to seek any other remedies or sanctions available by virtue of Respondent's violation of this CA/FO or of the statutes and regulations upon which this CA/FO is based, or for Respondent's violation of any federal or state statute, regulation or permit.

35. Except as otherwise set forth herein, this CA/FO constitutes a settlement by Complainant and Respondent of all claims for civil penalties pursuant to the CWA with respect to only those violations alleged in this CA/FO. Except as otherwise set forth herein, compliance with this CA/FO shall resolve the allegations of violations contained herein. Nothing in this CA/FO is intended to nor shall be construed to operate in any way to resolve any criminal liability of Respondent, or other liability resulting from violations that were not alleged in this CA/FO. Other than as expressed herein, Complainant does not waive 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 endangerment, or to pursue criminal enforcement.

36. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this CA/FO certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this CA/FO and to execute and legally bind that party to it.

37. This CA/FO applies to and is binding upon Respondent and its officers, directors, employees, agents, successors and assigns.

38. Any change in the legal status of Respondent, including but not limited to any transfer of assets of real or personal property, shall not alter Respondent's responsibilities under this CA/FO.

39. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorneys fees in connection with the action resolved by this CA/FO.

40. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.5, the individuals below are authorized to receive service relating to this proceeding.

For Complainant:

Judy K. Marshall
Associate Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960
(404) 562-9533

For Respondent:

Phillip R. Feagan
Feagan Law Firm, PLLC
P.O. Box 309
Columbus, NC 28722
(828) 894-3541.

41. The parties acknowledge and agree that this CA/FO is subject to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 22.45(c)(4), which provides a right to petition to set aside a consent agreement and proposed final order based on comments received during the public comment period.

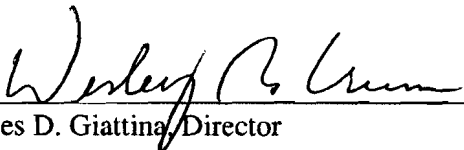
42. Pursuant to Section 309(g) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g), and 40 C.F.R. § 22.38(b), Complainant represents that the State of North Carolina was provided a prior opportunity to consult with Complainant regarding this matter.

VI. Effective Date

43. The effective date of this CA/FO shall be the date on which the CA/FO is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

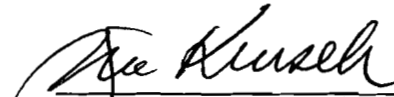
AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

For COMPLAINANT, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:

for 
James D. Giattina, Director
Water Management Division

Date: 12-10-07

For RESPONDENT WHITE OAK DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, LLC:


NAME: EUGENE KINSELLA
TITLE: Member Manager

Date: Nov. 21, 2007

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4

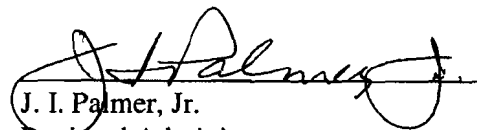
IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
White Oak Development Partners, LLC) CONSENT AGREEMENT AND
White Oak Plantation) FINAL ORDER
Tryon, North Carolina)
RESPONDENT.) DOCKET NO. CWA-04-2008-4503(b)
_____)

FINAL ORDER

In accordance with the *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits*, including Subpart I, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, and authorities delegated to me, the foregoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(2)(B) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(B), Respondent is hereby ordered to comply with the terms of the foregoing Consent Agreement.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Date: JAN 11 2008


J. I. Palmer, Jr.
Regional Administrator

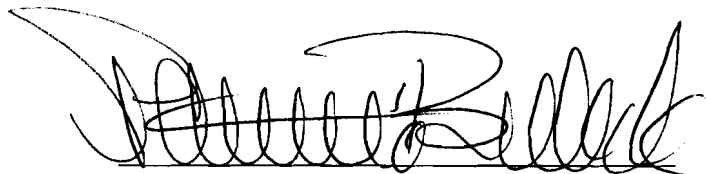
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the attached **CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER** in the matter of **White Oak Development Partners, LLC, Tryon, North Carolina**, Docket No. **CWA-04-2008-4503(b)** (filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk on **JAN 17 2008**, 2008) was served on **JAN 17 2008**, 2008, in the manner specified to each of the persons listed below.

By hand-delivery: Judy K. Marshall
Associate Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**By certified mail,
return receipt requested:** Phillip R. Feagan
Feagan Law Firm, PLLC
P.O. Box 309
Columbus, North Carolina 28722

Ms. Coleen Sullins, Director
Division of Water Quality
North Carolina Department of Environment
and Natural Resources
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1617



Patricia A. Bullock, Regional Hearing Clerk
United States Environmental
Protection Agency, Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 562-9511

EPA ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CONTROL NUMBER FORM

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ORIGINATING OFFICE:

(Attach a copy of the final order and transmittal letter to Defendant/Respondent)

This form was originated by: Mary Mattox on 11/29/07
(Name) (Date)

in the WMD/WPEB/GES at (404) 562- 9733
(Office) (Telephone Number)

Non-SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree
USAO COLLECTS

Administrative Order/Consent Agreement
FMO COLLECTS PAYMENT

SF Judicial Order/Consent Decree
DOJ COLLECTS

Oversight Billing - Cost Package required:
Sent with bill

Other Receivable

Not sent with bill

This is an original debt

Oversight Billing - Cost Package not required

This is a modification

PAYEE: White Oak Development Partners, LLC, Tryon, NC
(Name of person and/or Company/Municipality making the payment)

The Total Dollar Amount of the Receivable: \$ 40,000
(If installments, attach schedule of amounts and respective due dates. See Other side of this form.)

The Case Docket Number: CWA-04-2008-4503(b)

The Site Specific Superfund Account Number: _____

The Designated Regional/Headquarters Program Office: WMD

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE:

The IFMS Accounts Receivable Control Number is: _____ Date: _____

DISTRIBUTION:

A. **JUDICIAL ORDERS:** Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the **FINAL JUDICIAL ORDER** should be mailed to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Debt Tracking Officer
Environmental Enforcement Section
Department of Justice RM 1647
P.O. Box 7611, Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044 | 2. Originating Office (EAD)
3. Designated Program Office |
|--|---|

B. **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS:** Copies of this form with an attached copy of the front page of the Administrative Order should be to:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Originating Office | 3. Designated Program Office |
| 2. Regional Hearing Clerk | 4. Regional Counsel (EAD) |