

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 2

U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency-Reg 2
2014 JUN -2 PM 12: 01
REGIONAL HEARING
CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:

Metzgermeister & Research, Corp.

RESPONDENT

CONSENT AGREEMENT
AND
FINAL ORDER

DOCKET NUMBER CWA-02-2013-3453

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

Complainant, the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), having issued the Complaint referenced herein on June 20, 2013 against Metzgermeister & Research, Corp. ("Respondent"), and

Complainant and Respondent having agreed that settlement of this matter is in the public interest, and that entry of this Consent Agreement and Final Order ("CA/FO") without further litigation is the most appropriate means of resolving this matter;

NOW, THEREFORE, before the taking of any testimony, upon the pleadings, without adjudication of any issue of fact or law, and upon consent and agreement of the Parties, it is hereby agreed, and ordered as follows:

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. EPA initiated this proceeding for the assessment of a civil penalty pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319.
2. In the Complaint, EPA alleges that Respondent violated Sections 301 and 402 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311 and 1342, for its failure to apply for and obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit coverage for its discharges of pollutants, consisting of storm water discharges associated with industrial activities from its facility located in Ciales, Puerto Rico (the "Facility") as well as for its discharges of said pollutants into waters of the United States without NPDES permit coverage.
3. EPA notified the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico regarding this action and offered an opportunity for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to confer with EPA on the proposed penalty assessment, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

4. This action was public noticed on January 24, 2014. No public comment was received.
5. On August 30, 2013, Respondent appeared *pro se*, and filed an Answer to the Administrative Complaint, Findings of Violation, Notice of Proposed Assessment of an Administrative Penalty, and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing admitting all allegations made by Complainant in the complaint, and requesting a hearing. The Parties subsequently commenced settlement negotiations to address the violations alleged in the complaint.
6. This CA/FO shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent, its officers, directors, employees, successors and assigns, including, but not limited to, subsequent purchasers.
7. Respondent stipulates that EPA has jurisdiction over the subject matter alleged in the Complaint and that the Complaint states a claim upon which relief can be granted against Respondent. Respondent waives any defenses it might have as to jurisdiction and venue, and, without admitting or denying the factual or legal allegations contained in the Complaint, consents to the terms of this CA/FO.
8. Respondent hereby waives its right to a judicial or administrative hearing or appeal on any issue of law or fact set forth in the Complaint.

II. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

9. Pursuant to Section 309(g) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g), the nature of the violations and other relevant factors, EPA has determined that an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action is in the amount of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00).
10. For purposes of settlement, Respondent consents to the issuance of this Consent Agreement and consents to the payment of the civil penalty cited in the foregoing Paragraph.

II. A. Penalty

11. Respondent shall pay the penalty of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00), plus interest in four installment payments, as follows:
 - a. a first payment of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$2,525.00) shall be made no later than ninety (90) calendar days from the Effective Date of this Order, as defined in the Final Order (see Section III at the end of this document);

- b. a second payment of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE DOLLARS AND TWENTY-FIVE CENTS (\$2,531.25) shall be made no later than two hundred and forty (240) calendar days from the Effective Date;
 - c. a third payment of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY DOLLARS AND EIGHTY-THREE CENTS (\$2,520.83) shall be made no later than three hundred and ninety (390) calendar days from the Effective Date; and
 - d. a fourth payment of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND TEN DOLLARS AND FORTY-TWO CENTS (\$2,510.42) shall be made no later than five hundred and forty (540) calendar days from the Effective Date.
12. Respondent shall pay each installment, as cited in the foregoing Paragraph, by cashiers' or certified checks, payable to the "**Treasurer of the United States of America**" or by wire transfers.
13. Respondent shall clearly identify, regardless of the form of payment, the name and docket number of the case, set forth in the caption on the first page of this document. Payment methods are described below:
- a. If Respondent chooses to pay by cashiers' or certified check, the checks shall be mailed mail to:

BY U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

US Environmental Protection Agency
 Fines and Penalties
 Cincinnati Finance Center
 PO Box 979077
 St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

BY OVERNIGHT MAIL

U.S. Bank
 1005 Convention Plaza
 Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL
 ATTN Box 979077
 St. Louis, MO 63101
 Contact: Natalie Pearson
 314-418-4087

- b. If Respondent chooses to pay electronically, the transfers shall be made to:

BY WIRE TRANSFER

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
 ABA = 021030004
 Account = 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."

**BY AUTOMATED CLEARINGHOUSE (ACH) (also known as REX or
remittance express)**

ACH for receiving US currency
PNC Bank
808 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20074
ABA = 051036706
Transaction Code 22 - checking
Environmental Protection Agency
Account 310006—CTX Format
Contact: Jesse White 301-887-6548.

- c. On Line Payment Option is available through the Department of Treasury. This payment option can be accessed through WWW.PAY.GOV. Enter sfo 1.1 in the search field. Open form and complete required fields.

Respondent shall send prove of payments as specified in paragraph 11 above to each of the following:

Jaime López
Environmental Scientist
Multimedia, Permits and Compliance Branch
Caribbean Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2
City View Plaza II, Suite 7000
#48 RD. 165 km 1.2
Guaynabo, PR 00968-8069
Fax number: (787) 289-7104;

Evelyn Rivera-Ocasio, Esq.
Assistant Regional Counsel
Office of Regional Counsel, Caribbean Team
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
City View Plaza II, Suite 7000
#48 RD. 165 km 1.2
Guaynabo, PR 00968-8069
Fax number: (787) 289-7104;

and

Karen Maples
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Regional Counsel
290 Broadway, 16th Floor
New York, NY 10007
Fax number: (212) 637-3115.

14. Failure to pay the penalty in full according to the above provisions will result in a referral of this matter to the United States Department of Justice or the United States Department of the Treasury for collection.
15. Further, if the payment is not received on or before the due date, interest will be assessed at the annual rate established by the Secretary of Treasury pursuant to the Debt Collection Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3717, on the overdue amount from the due date through the date of payment. In addition, a late payment handling charge of \$15.00 will be assessed for each 30 day period (or any portion thereof) following the due date in which the balance remains unpaid. A 6% per annum penalty also will be applied on any principal amount not paid within 90 days of the due date.
16. In addition, pursuant to Section 309(g)(9) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(9), if payment is not received by the due date, a quarterly nonpayment penalty will be imposed for each calendar quarter during which such nonpayment persists. The quarterly nonpayment penalty is 20% of the aggregate amount of penalties and quarterly nonpayment penalties which are unpaid as of the beginning of such quarter.
17. Respondent also may be required to pay attorney's fees and costs for collection proceedings in connection with nonpayment.
18. The penalty to be paid is a civil penalty assessed by the EPA and shall not be deductible from the Respondent's federal or Commonwealth of Puerto Rico taxes.


II. B. General Provisions

19. The Respondent waives any right it may have pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.8 to be present during discussions with or to be served with and to reply to any memorandum or communication addressed to the Director or the Regional Administrator where the purpose of such discussion, memorandum, or communication is to discuss a proposed settlement of this matter or to recommend that such official accept this Consent Agreement and issue the accompanying Final Order.
20. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as prohibiting, altering or in any way limiting the ability of EPA to seek any other remedies or sanctions available by

virtue of Respondent's violation of this agreement or of the statutes and regulations upon which this agreement is based, or for Respondent's violation of any applicable provision of law.

21. This CA/FO shall not relieve Respondent 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.
22. This CA/FO constitutes a settlement by EPA of all claims for civil penalties pursuant to the Clean Water Act for the violations alleged in the Complaint. Nothing in this CA/FO is intended to nor shall be construed to operate in any way to resolve any criminal liability of the Respondent. Compliance with this CA/FO shall not be a defense to any actions subsequently commenced pursuant to Federal laws and regulations administered by EPA, and it is the responsibility of Respondent to comply with such laws and regulations.
23. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this Consent Agreement certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and to execute and legally bind that party to it.
24. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees in connection with the action resolved by this CA/FO.

RESPONDENT METZGERMEISTER & RESEARCH, CORP.:

BY: 

Raúl Rivera, President
Metzgermeister & Research, Corp.

DATE: 5-23-2014

COMPLAINANT:

BY: 

José C. Font, Director
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 2
City View Plaza II, Suite 7000
#48 RD. 165 km 1.2
Guaynabo, PR 00968-8069

DATE: 6/19/2014

III. FINAL ORDER

The Regional Judicial Officer for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, ratifies the foregoing Consent Agreement. The Agreement entered into by the parties is hereby approved, incorporated herein, and issued as an Order. The effective date of this Order shall be the date of filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA Region 2, New York, NY.

July 1, 2014
Date

Helen Ferrara
Helen Ferrara
Regional Judicial Officer
United States Environmental Protection
Agency
Region 2
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II

IN THE MATTER OF:

Metzgermeister & Research, Corp.

RESPONDENT

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
AND FINAL ORDER**

DOCKET NUMBER CWA-02-2013-3453

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this day caused to be sent the foregoing **Consent Agreement and Final Order**, dated June 2, 2014, and bearing the above-referenced docket number, in the following manner to the respective addressees below:

ORIGINAL AND COPY HAND DELIVERED TO:

Karen Maples, Regional Hearing Clerk
Region 2
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
290 Broadway, 16th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866
maples.karen@epa.gov

COPY BY ELECTRONIC MAIL TO:

Honorable Christine D. Coughlin
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Law Judges
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1099 14th Street, N.W., Suite 350
Washington, D.C. 20005
OALJfiling@epa.gov

COPY SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL AND USPS CERTIFIED MAIL WITH RETURN RECEIPT TO:

Mr. José Raúl Rivera-Ayala
President
Metzgermeister & Research Corporation
P.O. Box 1338
Ciales, PR 00638
rrivera@metzgermeister.com

Mrs. Maritza Vélez-Rossner, PE
Representative
Metzgermeister & Research Corp.
P.O. Box 2541
Vega Baja, PR 00694
Phone (787) 226-4674
maritzavelez461@gmail.com

July 2, 2014
Date

Lynn Chaury
Name