# NAME OF THE PROTECTION AGENCY PROTECTION

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

FEB 28 2013

Nicolas Porter, Esq. De la Parte & Gilbert, P.A. 101 East Kennedy Boulevard Tampa, Florida 33602

> Re: Increte Systems, Inc. Consent Agreement and Final Order Docket No. TSCA-04-2011-2535(b)

Dear Mr. Porter:

Enclosed is a copy of the ratified Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) in the above-referenced matter. The original CAFO has been filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk and served on the parties as directed in Section 22.6 of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

Please refer to Section V of the CAFO for penalty information and payment requirements. To ensure proper processing, the Respondent's name and Docket Number for this case, identified above and in the CAFO, should be noted on any cashier's or certified check submitted in payment of the penalty.

Also enclosed is a copy of a document entitled "Notice of Securities and Exchange Commission Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings." This document puts your client on notice of its potential duty to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission any environmental enforcement actions taken by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. Where used in the document "SEC" refers to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Should you or your client have any questions about this matter or your client's compliance status in the future, please contact Mr. Mark Bean of the EPA Region 4 staff at (404) 562-9000.

Sincerely,

Anthony G. Toney

Chief

Pesticides and Toxic Substances Branch

**Enclosures** 

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 4 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

HEAR	2013 FEB	EPA R
=	28	mm
5		07
5	三	28
[41	à	7
2	-	

In the Matter of:	)		
Ingrata Systems Ing	)	Docket No. TSCA-04-2011-2535(b)	
Increte Systems, Inc.	)	Docket No. 13CA-04-2011-2333(0)	
Respondent.	)		
	)		

#### CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

#### I. Nature of the Action

- 1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances

  Control Act (TSCA), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), and pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of

  Practice Governing Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the

  Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), 40 C.F.R.

  Part 22. Complainant is the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management

  Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4. Respondent is Increte

  Systems, Inc., an inactive Florida corporation.
- 2. The authority to take action under Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), is vested in the Administrator of the EPA. The Administrator of the EPA has delegated this authority under TSCA to the EPA Region 4 Regional Administrator by EPA Delegation 12-2-A, dated May 11, 1994. The Region 4 Regional Administrator has redelegated this authority to the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division by EPA Region 4 Delegation 12-2-A, dated January 14, 2009. Pursuant to that Delegation, the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division has the authority to

commence an enforcement action as the Complainant in this matter and has the authority to sign Consent Agreements memorializing settlements between the EPA and Respondent.

3. 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 (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

#### II. Preliminary Statements

- 4. Pursuant to Section 15 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2614, it is unlawful for any person to:

  (1) fail or refuse to comply with any rule or order promulgated pursuant to Sections 4, 5,

  8, 12 or 13 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2603, § 2604, § 2607, § 2611 or § 2612); (2) use for
  commercial purposes a chemical substance or mixture that the person knew or had reason
  to know was manufactured, imported, processed, or distributed in commerce in violation
  of TSCA Section 5, 15 U.S.C. § 2604; (3) fail to maintain records, submit reports or
  information, or permit access to or allow copying of records as required by TSCA; and
  (4) refuse to permit entry or inspection as authorized by Section 11 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C.
  § 2610.
- 5. Any person who violates a provision of Section 15 of TSCA shall be liable for a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for each such violation, in accordance with Section 16(a) of TSCA. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 requires the EPA to review and adjust penalties, as necessary, for inflation at least once every four years.

Increte Systems, Inc. CAFO: TSCA-04-2011-2535(b)

As such, pursuant to the Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation Rule, 40 C.F.R. Part 19, the revised maximum penalty for each violation occurring after January 30, 1997, through March 15, 2004, is \$27,500; for each violation occurring after March 15, 2004, through January 12, 2009, the maximum penalty for each violation is \$32,500; and for each violation occurring after January 12, 2009, the maximum penalty for each violation is \$37,500. Each day a violation continues may constitute a separate violation.

#### III. Specific Allegations

- 6. As defined at 40 C.F.R. § 710.3, Respondent is a "person."
- 7. As defined at 40 C.F.R. § 710.3, Respondent owned and operated a "site" located at 1611 Gunn Highway in Odessa, Florida (the Facility).
- 8. On January 6, 2009, EPA submitted an information request letter to the Facility. In the information received from Respondent as a result of the information request letter, EPA learned that during calendar year 2005, Respondent imported reportable quantities of iron oxide pigment (Fe3O4), Chemical Abstract Registry Number 1317-61-9, iron oxide pigment (Fe2O3), Chemical Abstract Registry Number 1309-37-1, and iron hydroxyl oxide pigment (Fe(OH)O), Chemical Abstract Registry Number 20344-49-4 at the Facility.
- 9. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 710.48(a), any person who manufactured for commercial purposes, including imported, 25,000 pounds or more of a chemical substance listed in the Master Inventory File described at 40 C.F.R. § 710.45, at a site owned or controlled by that person at any time during calendar year 2005 was subject to Inventory Update Reporting (IUR) requirements as described at 40 C.F.R. § 710.52.

Increte Systems, Inc. CAFO: TSCA-04-2011-2535(b)

- 10. The chemical substances named herein are listed in EPA's TSCA Master Inventory File.
- 11. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 710.43, the reporting year applicable to this matter was calendar year 2005.
- Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 710.43, the submission period is the period in which information generated during the reporting year is submitted to EPA.
- Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 710.53, the submission period applicable to this matter was between the dates of August 25, 2006, and March 23, 2007, inclusive.
- 14. On February 2, 2009, Respondent filed a late IUR for the substances named.
- 15. Respondent failed to report its 2006 IUR as required by 40 C.F.R. § 710.52(c)(3) during the submission period.
- Pursuant to Section 15(3) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2614(3), it is unlawful for any person to fail to report the total volume in pounds of each reportable chemical substance manufactured (including imported).
- 17. Respondent violated 15(3) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2614(3) on three separate occasions.

#### IV. Consent Agreement

- 18. For the purposes of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth above and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set forth above.
- 19. Respondent waives its right to a hearing on the allegations contained herein and its right to appeal the proposed Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement.
- 20. Respondent consents to the assessment of the penalty proposed by the EPA and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.
- 21. Respondent certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with the TSCA regulations referenced in this CAFO.

- 22. Compliance with this CAFO shall resolve the allegations of the violations contained herein. This CAFO shall not otherwise affect any liability of Respondent to the United States. Other than as expressed herein, neither the EPA nor Complainant waives 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.
- 23. Complainant and Respondent agree to settle this matter by their execution of this CAFO.
  The parties agree that the settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that this
  CAFO is consistent with the applicable requirements of TSCA.
- 24. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.5(c)(4), the following individual is authorized to receive service for the EPA in this proceeding:

Mark Bean Chemical Products and Asbestos Section U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960 (404) 562-9000.

#### V. Final Order

- 25. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of EIGHT THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$8,500) which shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date.
- 26. Respondent shall remit the penalty payment by either a cashier's or certified check made payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America." The Respondent shall note on the face of the check the Respondent's name and the Docket Number associated with this CAFO. The penalty payment shall be sent by one of the following methods to the address identified for the method chosen.

Address for payment submittal using the United States Postal Service:

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

Address for payment submittal using other mail service (e.g., Federal Express, United Parcel Service (UPS), DHL, etc.):

U.S. Bank 1005 Convention Plaza Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Contact Person: Natalie Pearson (314) 418-4087

27. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of the check and a written statement that the payment is being made in accordance with this CAFO, to the following persons at the following addresses:

Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street, S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960;

Mark Bean Chemical Products and Asbestos Section U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street, S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960; and

Saundi Wilson Office of Environmental Accountability U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street, S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960.

28. For the purposes of state and federal income taxation, Respondent shall not be entitled, and agrees not to attempt, to claim a deduction for any civil penalty payment made pursuant to this CAFO. Any attempt by Respondent to deduct any such payments shall constitute a violation of this CAFO.

- 29. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, the EPA is entitled to assess interest and penalties on debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the cost of processing and handling a delinquent claim. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a), interest on any civil penalty assessed in a CAFO begins to accrue on the date that a copy of the CAFO is mailed or hand-delivered to the Respondent. However, the EPA will not seek to recover interest on any amount of such 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). A charge will also be assessed to cover the administrative costs, both direct and indirect, of overdue debts. In addition, a late payment penalty charge shall be applied on any principal amount not paid within 90 days of the due date.
- 30. Complainant and Respondent shall bear their own costs and attorney fees in this matter.
- 31. This CAFO shall be binding upon the Respondent and its successors and assigns.
- 32. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this CAFO certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into this CAFO and hereby legally binds that party to this CAFO.

The remainder of this page is intentionally blank.

## VI. Effective Date

33. The effective date of this CAFO shall be the date on which the CAFO is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:
Respondent: Increte Systemes, Inc. Docket No.: TSCA-04-2011-2535(b)
By: Meehal of Lowe Date: 12/10/12
Name: Michael L. Lowe
Title: President
Complainant: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  By:   Marana Marana Date: 12.17.12
Beverly H. Banister, Director Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division
APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this 21st day of February, 2013
By: 1822
Susan B. Schub
Regional Judicial Officer

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the date set out below, I filed the original and one copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order and served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order, In the Matter of Increte Systems, Inc., Docket Number: TSCA-04-2011-2535(b), to the addressees listed below.

Nicolas Porter, Esq. De la Parte & Gilbert, P.A. 101 East Kennedy Boulevard Tampa, Florida 33602 (via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested)

Mark Bean Chemical Products and Asbestos Section U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street, S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(via EPA's internal mail)

Lucia Mendez

(via EPA's internal mail)

Office of Environmental Accountability U.S. EPA Region 4

U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street, S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30303

By:

Patricia A. Bullock Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth St., S.W. Atlanta, GA 30303

(404) 562-9511