

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION I**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE MATTER OF:** )  
 )  
 Tasman Leather Group, LLC )  
 9 Main Street )  
 Hartland, ME 04943 )  
 )  
 Respondent. )  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Order Granting Third Extension  
of Time to File Answer  
to Complaint**

EPA Docket No.  
RCRA-01-2017-0054

**RECEIVED**

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EPA ORC *US*  
Office of Regional Hearing Clerk

**ORDER**

On February 26, 2018, Respondent submitted a third request for a forty-five-day extension of time to respond to the Complaint, and indicated that Complainant agreed with this deadline extension. In support of this request, Respondent stated that the parties have a better understanding of each other's positions but have not yet reached a settlement in principle. The Respondent represented that the parties believe a settlement of this matter may still be possible, and asked for an additional extension of time to avoid unnecessary costs and the consumption of time.

The Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits as set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 22 (CROP) requires the Presiding Officer to "avoid delay" in proceedings, and take all measures necessary for the efficient adjudication of issues arising in proceedings governed by the CROP. 40 C.F.R. § 22.4(b). The Complaint for this matter was filed on September 28, 2017, over five months before the date of this Order. Since this date, the Respondent has requested, and

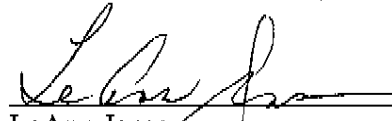
Complainant has assented to, two extensions of time. Despite the lengthy amount of time that has been granted for the negotiation and settlement of this matter, the parties have not yet reached agreement on the terms of a settlement. This third request will extend the deadline for the filing of an Answer to April 16, 2018, which is nearly seven months after the filing date of the Complaint.

On the other hand, under Section 22.7 of the CROP, the Presiding Officer may extend the time to file any document in this proceeding upon a timely motion showing that the extension would be for good cause and would not cause undue prejudice to other parties. 40 C.F.R. § 22.7(b). Good cause exists for the granting of the Motion in that it is in the interest of the parties and judicial economy for the parties to settle this matter on mutually agreeable terms rather than litigate the matter to conclusion. In addition, neither party has represented that they will be prejudiced by this delay.

Accordingly, because a settlement of this matter serves the interest of the parties and judicial economy and will not cause undue prejudice, Respondent will be granted an additional forty-five-day extension of time to file an Answer to the Complaint. 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.7(b) and 22.16(c). Note, however, that unless the parties can demonstrate significant progress towards a final settlement of this matter, the undersigned will not grant any additional extensions.

The deadline for Respondent to file an Answer to the Complaint is extended until the close of business on Monday, April 16, 2018.

Dated: March 1, 2018

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LeAnn Jensen  
Acting Regional Judicial Officer

In the Matter of City of Tasman Leather Group, LLC  
Docket No. RCRA-01-2017-0054

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2018 the original foregoing Order was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, a copy was hand-delivered to Counsel for Complainant, and a copy was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to Counsel for Respondent.

March 1, 2018

Date

Wanda I. Santiago

Wanda I. Santiago  
Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA Region I  
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