

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6

FILED
2012 MAY 17 PM 2:22
REGIONAL HEARING CLERK
EPA REGION VI

In the Matter of

NuCo Energy, LLC

Respondent

Facility No. OKU000712

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DOCKET NO. CWA-06-2010-1900

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This Consent Agreement and Final Order (“CAFO”) is issued under the authority vested in the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) pursuant to Section 309(g) of the Clean Water Act (“the Act”), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g). This CAFO is issued in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18, as described in the “Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits.”

2. On October 13, 2010, EPA Region 6 issued to NuCo Energy, LLC (“Respondent”) an Administrative Complaint (“Complaint”) under Section 309(g) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g), which proposed to assess a civil penalty against Respondent, and gave notice of the Respondent’s opportunity to request a hearing on the proposed administrative penalty assessment.

3. The Respondent and EPA (collectively, “Parties”) agree that settlement of the relevant matters without litigation will save time and resources, that it is in the public’s interest, and that the entry of this CAFO is the most appropriate means of resolving such matters. Compliance with all the terms and conditions of this CAFO resolves only those violations alleged in the Complaint.

4. The Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations of the Complaint; however, the Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations and conclusions of law contained in the Complaint or the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this CAFO.

5. Respondent expressly waives any right to contest the factual allegations or conclusions of law contained in the Complaint and this CAFO and waives its right to appeal the Final Order set forth herein.

6. Before the taking of any testimony, and without adjudication of any issue of law or fact, the Parties agree to the terms of this CAFO and to its issuance. Respondent consents to the assessment and payment of a civil penalty in the amount and by the method stated below.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

7. Respondent is a corporation, which was incorporated under the laws of the State of Oklahoma, and as such, Respondent is a "person," as that term is defined at Section 502(5) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5), and 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.

8. At all times relevant to this action, Respondent owned or operated an oil field production facility, located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 29, Township 15 North, Range 12 East, in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma ("facility"), and was therefore an "owner or operator" within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.

9. The Complaint specified Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law that are hereby incorporated by reference and alleged, among other things, that at the relevant times: Respondent was a "person" that "owned or operated" a facility that was a "point source" subject to a "discharge" of "pollutants" to identified "waters of the United States" within the meaning

of Section 502 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362, and 40 C.F.R. § 122.2; Respondent and the facility were subject to the provisions of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq.*, and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") program; and Respondent violated Section 301 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311, by discharging pollutants, specifically oil field brine and produced wastewater, to waters of the United States, as specified in the Complaint.

10. With the issuance of the Complaint, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission was notified and given an opportunity to consult with EPA regarding the proposed assessment of an administrative penalty against Respondent.

11. EPA notified the public of the Complaint via the internet at www.epa.gov/region6/publicnotice, and afforded the public thirty (30) days to comment on the Complaint and proposed penalty. At the expiration of the notice period, EPA received no comments from the public.

III. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

A. PENALTY PROVISIONS

12. Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, EPA Region 6, considering the relevant criteria pursuant to Section 309(g)(3) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(3), and acting pursuant to the authority of Section 309(g) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g), hereby orders that Respondent shall pay to the United States a civil penalty in the amount of four thousand three hundred and twenty-two dollars (\$4,322.00) to settle the violations as alleged in the Complaint, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c). The following table displays the monthly installment plan for payment of the penalty:

Payment	Payment Amount	Payment Due
1	\$362.12	Within 30 days after effective date of CAFO
2	\$362.12	Within 60 days after effective date of CAFO
3	\$362.12	Within 90 days after effective date of CAFO
4	\$362.12	Within 120 days after effective date of CAFO
5	\$362.12	Within 150 days after effective date of CAFO
6	\$362.12	Within 180 days after effective date of CAFO
7	\$362.12	Within 210 days after effective date of CAFO
8	\$362.12	Within 240 days after effective date of CAFO
9	\$362.12	Within 270 days after effective date of CAFO
10	\$362.12	Within 300 days after effective date of CAFO
11	\$362.12	Within 330 days after effective date of CAFO
12	\$362.12	Within 360 days after effective date of CAFO

13. Payments shall be made in accordance with the above schedule with the first payment being made within thirty (30) days after the effective date of this CAFO by one of the following methods:

- a. By mailing a bank check, cashier's check or certified check, payable to "Treasurer of the United States," to the following address:

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

b. By wire transfer to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA: 021030004
Account Number: 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"

c. By overnight mail (Express, FedEx, DHL, etc.):

U.S. Bank
Government Lockbox 979077
U.S. EPA Fines & Penalties
1005 Convention Plaza
SL-MO-C2-GL
St. Louis, MO 63101
Phone: 314-418-1028

d. By credit card payments to <https://www.pay.gov/paygov/>

(Enter sfo1.1 in the search field)

"In the Matter of NuCo Energy, LLC, Docket No. CWA-06-2010-1900" should be clearly marked on each check to ensure credit for payment.

14. Respondent shall send simultaneous notices of payments, including a copy of each check, or other remittance, to each of the following:

- (a) Regional Hearing Clerk (6RC-D)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
- (b) Chief, NPDES Compliance Section (6EN-WC)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

(c) Chief, Water Legal Branch (6RC-EW)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Respondent's adherence to these procedures will ensure proper credit when payment is received by EPA.

15. Respondent agrees not to claim or attempt to claim a federal income tax deduction or credit covering all or any part of the civil penalty paid to the United States Treasurer.

16. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, unless otherwise prohibited by law, EPA will assess interest and late payment penalties on outstanding debts owed to the United States that are not paid by the due dates and a charge to cover the costs of processing and handling a delinquent claim. Interest on the civil penalty assessed in this CAFO will begin to accrue thirty (30) days after the effective date of the CAFO and will be recovered by EPA on any amount of the civil penalty that is not paid by the respective due dates. 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). Moreover, the costs of the Agency's administrative handling of overdue debts will be charged and assessed monthly throughout the period the debt is overdue. See 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b).

17. EPA will also assess a fifteen dollar (\$15.00) administrative handling charge for administrative costs on unpaid penalties for the first thirty (30)-day period after the payment is due and an additional fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for each subsequent thirty (30)-day period that the penalty remains unpaid. In addition, a penalty charge of up to six percent (6%) per year will be assessed monthly on any portion of the debt which remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days. See 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(c). Should a penalty charge on the debt be required, it shall accrue

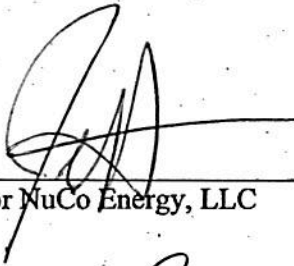
from the first day payment is delinquent. See 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d). Other penalties for failure to make a payment may also apply.

18. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(9) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(9), any person who fails to pay on a timely basis a civil penalty ordered or assessed under this section shall be required to pay, in addition to such penalty and interest, the United States' enforcement expenses including, but not limited to, attorneys' fees and costs incurred by the United States for collection proceedings, and a quarterly non-payment penalty for each quarter during which such failure to pay persists. Such non-payment penalty shall be twenty percent (20%) of the aggregate amount of such person's outstanding penalties and non-payment penalties accrued as of the beginning of each quarter.

19. Failure by Respondent to pay the penalty assessed according to the terms of this CAFO, in full, by its due date, may subject Respondent to a civil action to collect the assessed penalty and any accrued interest and penalties.

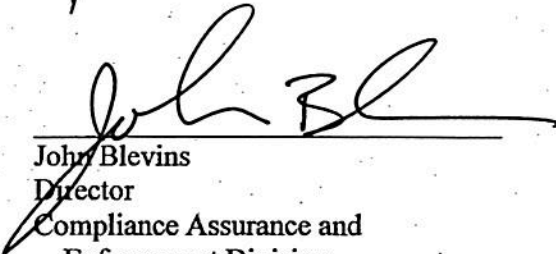
20. In the event a collection action is necessary, Respondent shall pay—in addition to any applicable penalty, fees, and interest described herein—all reasonable costs and expenses, including legal expenses and court costs, incurred by the United States for enforcement and collection proceedings for non-payment of the amounts agreed hereunder, pursuant to Section 309(g)(9) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(9). In any such collection action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of the penalty, and the terms of this CAFO shall not be subject to review.

26. In recognition and acceptance of the foregoing:



For NuCo Energy, LLC

5-8-2012
Date



John Blevins
Director
Compliance Assurance and
Enforcement Division

5-16-2012
Date

FINAL ORDER

Pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, the foregoing Consent Agreement is hereby ratified.

This Final Order shall not in any case affect the right of EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law.


This Final Order shall resolve only those causes of action alleged in the Complaint. Nothing in this Final Order shall be construed to waive, extinguish, or otherwise affect Respondent's

(or its officers', agents', servants', employees', successors', or assigns') obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations, including the regulations

that were the subject of this action. The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of settlement and the civil penalty payment instructions as set forth in the Consent Agreement.

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b), this Final Order shall become effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

Issuance Date: 5-17-12



Regional Judicial Officer
EPA, Region 6

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 17 day of May, 2012, the original of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was hand-delivered to the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA, Region 6 (6RC-D), 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733, and that a true and correct copy was placed in the United States mail, by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the following:

Mr. Jerry Griggs, Owner
NuCo Energy, LLC
235 NE Loop 820, Suite 205
Hurst, TX 76053

with a copy, first class postage prepaid, to:

Mr. Terry Grooms
Oklahoma Corporation Commission
115 W. 6th Street
Bristow, OK 74010

Dated: _____

Jackie Allen