

UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
  
BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY-REG. I  
2008 SEP 25 PM 2:42  
REGIONAL HEARING  
CLERK

In the Matter of )  
)  
U.S. Department of Agriculture ) Docket No. RCRA-02-2008-7505  
Agricultural Research Service, )  
Tropical Agriculture Research Stations )  
Mayaguez and Isabela, Puerto Rico, )  
)  
Respondent )

**ORDER INITIATING ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE  
RESOLUTION PROCESS AND APPOINTING NEUTRAL**

Pursuant to the request of the parties, Judge Spencer T. Nissen, is hereby designated as a neutral to initiate and conduct such processes as may facilitate a settlement of this proceeding.

The following procedures shall apply:

1. The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process will be conducted in a confidential manner. The Judge who serves as the neutral will not disclose to anyone the contents of any of the parties' ADR communications.

2. For the ADR process to be effective, the persons communicating with the neutral must either have authority to commit his or her side to a settlement, or have ready access to someone with such authority.

3. Unless terminated earlier at the request of either party, the ADR process shall automatically terminate on **November 24, 2008**. An extension of up to 60 days may be granted by the undersigned upon request of the ADR neutral, but in no event shall ADR continue for longer than 4 months. At that time, if no settlement has been reached, the case will be remanded to the litigation Judge to proceed with the litigation process in an expedited manner.

4. A party requesting termination of this process shall so advise the assigned neutral Judge either orally or in writing. The neutral Judge shall forward the request to the Chief Administrative Law Judge. The dispute resolution process initiated by this Order shall terminate upon order of the Chief Administrative Law Judge.

5. At the termination of the ADR process, the parties will be sent a questionnaire to elicit their views and the experience with the process. The contents of individual questionnaires will be kept confidential and will be made available to the neutrals and others only in a composite format.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Biro', is written over a horizontal line.

Susan L. Biro

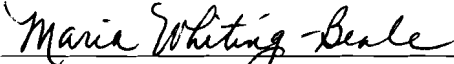
Chief Administrative Law Judge

Dated: September 24, 2008  
Washington, DC

In the Matter of Gulf Oil Limited Partnership, Respondent  
Docket No. CWA-02-2008-3401

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing **Order Initiating Alternative Dispute Resolution Process And Appointing Neutral**, dated September 24, 2008, was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees listed below.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria Whiting-Beale  
Staff Assistant

Dated: September 24, 2008

Original And One Copy By Pouch to:

Karen Maples  
Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA  
290 Broadway, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866

Copy by Pouch Mail to:

Rudolph Perez, Esquire  
Assistant Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA  
290 Broadway, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866

Copy By Regular Mail To:

Kirk Minckler, Esquire  
Office of General Counsel  
US Department of Agriculture  
Mountain Region  
740 Simms Street, Room 309  
Golden, CO 80401-4720