



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3912

URGENT LEGAL MATTER – PROMPT REPLY NECESSARY
CERTIFIED MAIL: RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Date: *See signature stamp below*

Charles Bridge, LLC
c/o Nolan H. Tanous, Esq.
Law Offices of Tanous & Snow, LLC
143 Penobscot Ave
Millinocket, ME 04462

RE In the Matter of Charles Bridge, LLC
Docket No. TSCA-01-2022-0027

Dear Attorney Tanous:

Enclosed is an administrative Complaint that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") is issuing to Charles Bridge, LLC ("Respondent" or "Charles Bridge") as a result of our determination that Respondent has violated the lead-based paint disclosure requirements set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F. Pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA"), 15 U.S.C. Section 2615(a), EPA is seeking a total proposed civil penalty against Respondent in the amount of fifty-six thousand one hundred nine dollars (\$56,109).

This enforcement action is based upon information collected from Charles Bridge's September 30, 2020 response to EPA's September 16, 2020 Information Request Letter. On August 24, 2021, EPA emailed Brian Lowry, principal owner of Charles Bridge, an offer to negotiate a Consent Agreement to attempt to resolve this matter. In August and early September 2021, EPA had several telephone calls with Mr. Lowry. During these calls, Mr. Lowry agreed to submit certain financial information. From late September through November 2021, EPA sent emails to and left voicemails with Mr. Lowry. To date, EPA has not received a response from Mr. Lowry or requests to continue negotiations.

The attached Complaint discusses the statutory authorities for EPA's enforcement action, the nature of the alleged violations, and the proposed penalties. A copy of EPA's Section 1018 Disclosure Rule Enforcement Response and Penalty Policy is enclosed for your information.

Please be advised that Respondent has the right to request a hearing regarding the violations alleged in the Complaint and the appropriateness of the proposed penalties. If Respondent wishes to request a hearing, Respondent must submit, within thirty days of receiving this letter, a written request to the EPA Regional Hearing Clerk at the address set forth in the enclosed Complaint. The written request, which must be submitted with an Answer to the Complaint, must follow the requirements of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Penalties, set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 22. A copy of 40 C.F.R. Part 22 is enclosed. If Respondent does not submit an

Answer within the thirty-day period, Respondent may be found in default. Once in default, Respondent will have waived its right to a hearing and each allegation of violation will be deemed to be admitted. As a result, the full amount of the proposed penalty may be assessed against Respondent.

The proposed civil penalties have been determined in accordance with TSCA Section 16, 15 U.S.C. § 2615, which requires the Complainant to consider, amongst other factors, ability to pay. If Respondent has an inability to pay the proposed penalty, Respondent may submit financial information to support its claim.

In addition, please note that it is this office's policy to issue a press release upon filing or resolving an administrative enforcement action.

To avoid protracted and potentially expensive litigation, EPA is willing to engage in settlement negotiations. If Respondent wishes to explore the possibility of settlement or if Respondent has any questions, please contact Peter DeCambre, Senior Enforcement Counsel, EPA Region 1 at (617) 918-1890.

Sincerely yours,

Karen McGuire, Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 1

Enclosures

1. Complaint
2. Proposed Penalty Summary
3. Section 1018 Disclosure Rule Enforcement Response and Penalty Policy
4. Consolidated Rules of Practice (40 C.F.R. Part 22)
5. Copy of letter to Hearing Clerk
6. Copy of Certificate of Service
7. EPA's Information Sheet for Small Business Resources