UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



REGION 2 290 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007-1866



CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

SEP 28 2007

Birds Eye Foods, Inc. 90 Linden Oaks Rochester, New York 14625

Attn: Neil Harrison, President and Chief Executive Officer

RE:

In the Matter of Birds Eye Foods, Inc. Docket No. CERCLA-02-2007-2025

Dear Mr. Harrison,

Enclosed is the Complaint and Notice of Opportunity For Hearing, and supporting documents in the above-referenced proceeding. This Complaint alleges violations of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

You have the right to a formal hearing to contest any of the allegations in the Complaint and/or to contest the penalty proposed in the Complaint.

If you wish to contest the allegations or the penalty proposed in the Complaint, you must file an Answer within *thirty (30)* days of your receipt of the enclosed Complaint to the Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") Regional Hearing Clerk at the following address:

Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 290 Broadway, 16th Floor New York, New York 10007-1866

If you do not file an Answer within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Complaint and have not obtained a formal extension for filing an Answer from the Regional Judicial Officer, a default order may be entered against you and the entire proposed penalty may be assessed without further proceedings.

Whether or not you request a formal hearing, you may request an informal conference with EPA to discuss any issue relating to the alleged violations and the amount of the proposed penalty. EPA encourages all parties against whom it files a Complaint to pursue the possibility of settlement and to have an informal conference with EPA. However, a request for an informal

conference *does not* substitute for a written Answer, affect what you may choose to say in an Answer, or extend the thirty (30) days by which you must file an Answer requesting a hearing.

The proposed civil penalties in this matter have been determined in accordance with EPA's "Enforcement Response Policy for Sections 304, 311 and 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act and Section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act," dated September 30, 1999 as modified pursuant to the June 5, 2006 memorandum from Stephanie Brown, Acting Director, Toxics and Pesticides Enforcement Division, Office of Civil Enforcement. A copy of this policy is enclosed.

Furthermore, enclosed is a copy of the "Consolidated Rules of Practice," which govern this proceeding. For your general information and use, I have also enclosed a "Notice of SEC Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings," which may or may not apply to you.

If you have any questions or wish to schedule an informal settlement conference, please contact the attorney for this case, Jocelyn Scott, at (212) 637-3179 or at her address, as listed in the Complaint.

Sincerely yours,

George Pavlou, Director

William Mc Cabe

Emergency and Remedial Response Division

Enclosures

cc: Karen Maples, Regional Hearing Clerk

UNITED ST	ATES ENVIRON RI	MENT EGIO	TAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGIONAL MEARING CLERIA CHECK A 22 2007 2007
		X N	CLERICARING
In the Matter of:))	Docket No. CERCLA-02-2007-2025
)	
Birds Eye Foods, Inc.)	Administrative Complaint under
90 Linden Oaks)	Section 109 of the Comprehensive
Rochester, New York,)	Environmental Response,
)	Compensation and Liability Act, 42
)	U.S.C. § 9609, and Section 325 of the
)	Emergency Planning, and Community
	Respondent.)	Right to Know Act, 42 U.S.C.
	-)	§ 11045.
		X	

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

I. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- 1. This Complaint ("Complaint") initiates an administrative action for the assessment of civil penalties pursuant to Section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. § 9609, and Section 325 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act ("EPCRA"), 42 U.S.C. § 11045. The Complainant in this action is the Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), Region 2, who has been delegated the authority to institute this action.
- 2. Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, provides for the assessment of penalties for violations of Section 103 of CERCLA. Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045, provides for the assessment of penalties for violations of Section 304 of EPCRA.
- 3. Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), requires any person in charge of a vessel or an offshore or onshore facility, as soon as he or she has knowledge of a release (other than a federally permitted release) of a hazardous substance from such vessel or facility in a quantity equal to or greater than the reportable quantity, as designated pursuant to Section 102 of CERCLA, to immediately notify the National Response Center ("NRC") of such release.
- 4. Section 304 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004, requires immediate notice by the owner or operator of a facility, to the local emergency planning committees ("LEPCs") and the state emergency response commissions ("SERCs") for any area and state likely to be affected by the release, if a release of an extremely hazardous substance, referred to in Section 302 of EPCRA, occurs from a

facility at which a hazardous chemical is produced, used, or stored, and such release requires a notification under Section 103(a) of CERCLA.

II. FINDINGS OF VIOLATIONS

- 5. Respondent is and, at all times referred to herein, was a "person," within the meaning of Section 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(21), and Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7).
- 6. Respondent was the owner and/or operator of a facility, located at 40 Stevens Street, Oakfield, New York (the "Facility"), which is a "facility," as defined in Section 101(9) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9) and Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4), at the time of the release described below.
- 7. The Facility is a frozen vegetable processing facility. It is located adjacent to both residential and commercial areas.
 - 8. Anhydrous ammonia is used in the refrigeration system at the Facility.
- 9. On or about May 30, 2006 at approximately 19:45, or 7:45 p.m., a "release," as defined in Section 101(22) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(22), and Section 329(8) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(8), of anhydrous ammonia began at Respondent's Facility, and anhydrous ammonia was released from Respondent's Facility to the air. The release reportedly continued for approximately 1 hour and 35 minutes.
- 10. Anhydrous ammonia is a "hazardous substance," as defined in Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), and is an "extremely hazardous substance," as defined in Section 329(3) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(3).
- 11. The reportable quantity for anhydrous ammonia is 100 pounds, as specified in 40 C.F.R. Sections 302.4 and 355.
- 12. Respondent's notification to the NRC specified that 2,461 pounds of anhydrous ammonia were released from Respondent's Facility to the air during the May 30, 2006 release. A release of anhydrous ammonia greater than 2,000 pounds is greater than twenty times the reportable quantity for anhydrous ammonia.

COUNT 1

13. Findings contained in Paragraphs "1" through "12" are incorporated herein by reference.

- 14. At approximately 2:18 p.m. on May 31, 2006, approximately seventeen hours after the release, Respondent notified the NRC of the May 30, 2006 release of anhydrous ammonia from the Facility.
- 15. Respondent failed to immediately notify the NRC of the May 30, 2006 release of anhydrous ammonia from the Facility.
- 16. The May 30, 2006 release of anhydrous ammonia from the Facility was not a federally permitted release, as defined in Section 101(10) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(10).
- 17. Respondent violated the notification requirements of Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), and is therefore subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609.

COUNT II

- 18. Findings contained in Paragraphs "1" through "17" are incorporated herein by reference.
- 19. In New York, the SERC is the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("NYSDEC").
- 20. At approximately 2:10 p.m. on May 31, 2006, approximately seventeen hours after the release, Respondent notified the NYSDEC of the May 30, 2006 release of anhydrous ammonia from the Facility.
- 21. Respondent failed to immediately notify the NYSDEC of the May 30, 2006 release of anhydrous ammonia from the Facility pursuant to Section 304 of EPCRA.
- 22. Respondent violated the notification requirements of Section 304 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004, and is therefore subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045.

III. NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDER ASSESSING A CIVIL PENALTY

Pursuant to Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045, as modified pursuant to the Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule, as mandated by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 and as codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 19, EPA is authorized to assess civil penalties not to exceed \$32,500 per day for each violation of Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), and Section 304 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004, that occurred after March 15, 2004.

On the basis of the violations of CERCLA § 103 and EPCRA § 304 described above, Complainant has determined that Respondent is subject to penalties under CERCLA Section 109, 42 U.S.C. § 9609 and EPCRA Section 325, 42 U.S.C. § 11045. Accordingly, Complainant proposes a civil penalty of \$51,000 for the CERCLA and EPCRA violations described above, pursuant to the authority of Section 109 of CERCLA and Section 325 of EPCRA, as set forth below.

Count I Failure of Respondent to immediately notify the

NRC of the May 30, 2006 release of anhydrous ammonia: \$25,500

Count II Failure of Respondent to immediately notify the

SERC for the state likely to be affected by the

May 30, 2006 release of anhydrous ammonia: \$25,500

TOTAL PENALTY PROPOSED

\$ 51,000.

In calculating the CERCLA and EPCRA penalties, Complainant considered the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violations, and with respect to the Respondent, ability to pay, prior history of violations, degree of culpability, economic benefit or savings resulting from the violations, and such other matters as justice may require.

The proposed civil penalties in this matter have been determined in accordance with EPA's "Enforcement Response Policy for Sections 304, 311 and 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act and Section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act" (September 30, 1999) as modified pursuant to the June 5, 2006 memorandum from Stephanie Brown, Acting Director, Toxics and Pesticides Enforcement Division, Office of Civil Enforcement. Attached to this Complaint as Attachment 1 are Penalty Calculation Worksheets which show how the proposed penalty for each count was calculated.

IV. PROCEDURES GOVERNING THIS ADMINISTRATIVE LITIGATION

The rules of procedure governing this civil administrative litigation are entitled, "CONSOLIDATED RULES OF PRACTICE GOVERNING THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENT OF CIVIL PENALTIES AND THE REVOCATION/TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF PERMITS" (hereinafter, the "Consolidated Rules"), and are codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22. A copy of the Consolidated Rules accompanies this Complaint.

A. Notice of Opportunity to Request a Hearing and Answering The Complaint

To request a hearing, Respondent must file an Answer to the Complaint, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.15(a) - (c). Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(a), such Answer must be filed within 30 days after service of the Complaint.

An Answer is also to be filed, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(a), if Respondent contests any material fact upon which the Complaint is based, contends that the proposed penalty is inappropriate, or contends that Respondent is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. If filing an Answer, Respondent must file with the Regional Hearing Clerk of EPA, Region 2, both an original and one copy of a written Answer to the Complaint. The address of the Regional Hearing Clerk of EPA, Region 2, is:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 16th floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Respondent shall also serve one copy of the Answer to the Complaint upon Complainant and any other party to the action. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(a). Complainant's copy of Respondent's Answer, as well as a copy of all other documents that Respondent files in this action, shall be sent to:

Jocelyn Scott
Assistant Regional Counsel
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA Region II
290 Broadway, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866
(212) 637-3179

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(b), Respondent's Answer to the Complaint must clearly and directly admit, deny, or explain each of the factual allegations contained in the Complaint with regard to which Respondent has any knowledge. Where Respondent lacks knowledge of a particular factual allegation and so states in its Answer, the allegation is deemed denied, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(b). The Answer shall also set forth: (1) the circumstances or arguments that are alleged to constitute the grounds of defense; (2) the facts which Respondent disputes; (3) the basis for opposing any proposed relief; and (4) whether Respondent requests a hearing.

If Respondent fails in its Answer to admit, deny, or explain any material factual allegation contained in the Complaint, such failure constitutes an admission of the allegation, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(d).

Respondent's failure affirmatively to raise in the Answer facts that constitute or that might constitute the grounds of its defense may preclude Respondent, at a subsequent stage in this proceeding, from raising such facts and/or from having such facts admitted into evidence at a hearing.

Any hearing in this proceeding will be held at a location determined in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.21(d). A hearing of this matter will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the

Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 551-59, and the procedures set forth in Subpart D of 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

B. Failure To Answer

If Respondent fails to file a timely answer to the Complaint, EPA may file a Motion for Default pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.17(a) and (b), which may result in the issuance of a default order assessing the proposed penalty pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.17(c). If a default order is issued, any penalty assessed in the default order shall become due and payable by Respondent without further proceedings 30 days after the default order becomes final. If necessary, EPA may then seek to enforce such final order of default against Respondent, and to collect the assessed penalty amount, in federal court.

V. INFORMAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

Whether or not Respondent requests a formal hearing, EPA encourages settlement of this proceeding consistent with the provisions and objectives of CERCLA and EPCRA and the applicable regulations. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b). At an informal conference with a representative(s) of Complainant, Respondent may comment on the charges made in this Complaint, and Respondent may also provide whatever additional information that it believes is relevant to the disposition of this matter, including: (1) actions Respondent has taken to correct any or all of the violations herein alleged; (2) any information relevant to Complainant's calculation of the proposed penalty; (3) the effect the proposed penalty would have on Respondent's ability to continue in business; and/or (4) any other special facts or circumstances Respondent wishes to raise. Complainant has the authority to modify the amount of the proposed penalty, where appropriate, to reflect any settlement agreement reached with Respondent, to reflect any relevant information previously not known to Complainant or to dismiss any or all of the charges, if Respondent can demonstrate that the relevant allegations are without merit and that no cause of action as herein alleged exists.

Any request for an informal conference or any questions that Respondent may have regarding this Complaint should be directed to the EPA Assistant Regional Counsel identified in Section IV.A., above.

Respondent's request for a formal hearing does not prevent it from also requesting an informal settlement conference; the informal conference procedure may be pursued simultaneously with the formal adjudicatory hearing procedure. A request for an informal settlement conference constitutes neither an admission nor a denial of any of the matters alleged in the Complaint. Complainant does not deem a request for an informal settlement conference as a request for a hearing pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c).

A request for an informal settlement conference does not affect Respondent's obligation to file a timely Answer to the Complaint pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.15. No penalty reduction will be made simply because an informal settlement conference is held.

In the event settlement is reached, its terms shall be recorded in a written Consent Agreement signed by the parties and incorporated into a Final Order, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18(b)(2) and (3).

Respondent's entering into a settlement through the signing of such Consent Agreement and its complying with the terms and conditions set forth in such Consent Agreement terminates this administrative litigation and the civil proceedings arising out of the allegations made in this Complaint. Respondent's entering into a settlement does not extinguish, waive, satisfy or otherwise affect its obligation and responsibility to comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and to maintain such compliance.

VI. RESOLUTION OF THIS PROCEEDING WITHOUT HEARING OR CONFERENCE

Instead of filing an Answer, Respondent may choose to pay the total amount of the proposed penalty within 30 days after receipt of the Complaint, provided that Respondent files with the Regional Hearing Clerk, Region 2 (at the address provided in Section IV.A., above), a copy of the check or other instrument of payment, as provided in 40 C.F.R.§ 22.18(a). A copy of the check or other instrument of payment should be provided to the EPA Assistant Regional Counsel identified in Section IV.A., above.

Payment of the CERCLA portion of the penalty assessed (Count I, \$25,500) should be made by sending a cashier's or certified check payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America," in the full amount of the penalty assessed in this Complaint to the following addressee:

US Environmental Protection Agency Superfund Payments Cincinnati Finance Center PO Box 979076 St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

Payment of the EPCRA portion of the penalty assessed (Count II, \$25,500) should be made by sending a cashier's or certified check payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America," in the full amount of the penalty assessed in this Complaint to the following addressee:

US Environmental Protection Agency Fines and Penalties Cincinnati Finance Center PO Box 979077

St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

The check must be identified with a notation of the name and docket number of this case, set forth in the caption on the first page of this Complaint. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R.§ 22.18(a)(3), upon EPA's receipt of such payment, a Final Order shall be issued. Furthermore, as provided in 40 C.F.R.§ 22.18(a)(3), the making of such payment by Respondent shall constitute a waiver of Respondent's rights to contest the allegations made in the Complaint and to appeal the Final Order. Such payment does not extinguish, waive, satisfy or otherwise affect Respondent's obligation and responsibility to comply with all applicable regulations and requirements, and to maintain such compliance.

VII. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

EPA reserves all rights against Respondent, including but not limited to, the right to expend and recover funds under CERCLA; to bring enforcement actions seeking injunctive relief under Section 106 of CERCLA and/or other statutes; to address releases including those identified in this Complaint; and to require further action as necessary to respond to the release addressed in this notice. EPA also reserves all of its rights to obtain access to the Facility and require Respondent's submission of information to EPA.

Dated: SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

George Pavlou, Director

Emergency and Remedial Response Division

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 2

290 Broadway

New York, NY 10007-1866

TO: Birds Eye Foods, Inc.

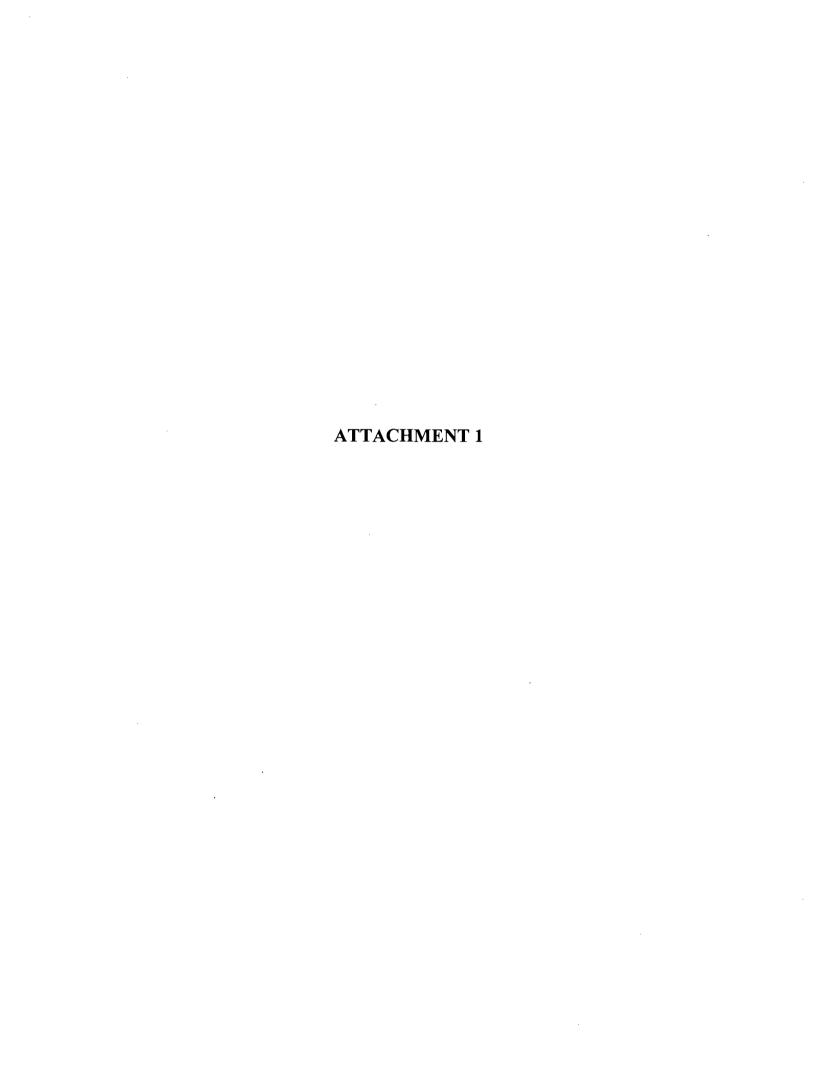
90 Linden Oaks

Rochester, New York 14625

Attn: Neil Harrison, President and Chief Executive Officer

Attachment

cc: Karen Maples, Region 2 Hearing Clerk



PENALTY CALCULATION WORKSHEET

Count		Coods _Ammonia (Anhydrous) - RQ - 100 lbs.				
NATU	J RE:	Type of Violation: CERCLA 103				
EXTENT:		Time passed from deadline to actual date of compliance (in hours or days): More than 2 hours after knowledge of the release Matrix Level:1_				
by		Divide amount of chemical involved in the violation (lbs.): 2,461 lbs. by 100 (RQ/TPQ) = 25 times the threshold Matrix Level:A				
CIRC	ed for the cell of the					
1. 2.	•	ing reportable release, multiply line 1 by inning with the second day of violation.	\$ 30,000. \$			
3.	Other per day violations, multiply line 1 by .01 = Multiply the per day penalty by days, beginning with the second day of violation.					
4.	Add lines 1-3 \$ -					
5.	Prior History: (Treble, 25%, 50%: +) (\$)					
6.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
7.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
8.	Size of business reduction (- <u>%</u>) (\$)					
9.	Attitude (-15 %) -(\$4,500)					
10.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
11. 12.	Subtract lines (5-11) from line 4					
12.	Subtract files (3-1	1) Hom thic 7				
Repea	t procedure for each	violation.	\$25,500.			
Prepar	red by: E. Banner					
Signature: Ellen Banner Date: 9/26/07						

PENALTY CALCULATION WORKSHEET

Count		oods _Ammonia (Anhydrous) - RQ - 100 lbs.				
NATU	RE:	Type of Violation: EPCRA 304				
EXTE	NT:	Time passed from deadline to actual date of days): More than 2 hours after knowledge Matrix Level:1	_ ,			
GRAVITY:		Divide amount of chemical involved in the violation (lbs.): 2,461 lbs. by 100 (RQ/TPQ) = 25 times the threshold Matrix Level:A				
CIRCUMSTANCES: Specify choice of penalty amount from range listed for the cell of matrix based on circumstance factors: \$30,000						
1. 2. 3.	Base Penalty - \$30,000. If per day, continuing reportable release, multiply line 1 by days, beginning with the second day of violation. \$ Other per day violations, multiply line 1 by .01 = Multiply the per day penalty by days, beginning with					
4. 5. 6. 7. 8.	the second day of v Add lines 1-3 Prior History: (Treb Culpability (% incr	iolation. ole, 25%, 50%: +) (\$ ease or decrease +/ %) (\$ tice may require (%) (\$	\$ \$))			
9. 10. 11. 12.	Attitude (-15 %) Supplemental Environmental Project (
Repeat	procedure for each	violation.	\$25,500.			
-	ed by: E. Banner ure: <i>Ellen Banner</i>	Date: 9/26/07				

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 2

X	
)	Docket No. CERCLA-02-2007-2025
)	Administrative Complaint under
)	Section 109 of the Comprehensive
)	Environmental Response,
)	Compensation and Liability Act, 42
)	U.S.C. § 9609, and Section 325 of the
)	Emergency Planning, and Community Right
)	to Know Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11045.
)	•
X	
_	x)))))) ,x

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I certify that on the date noted below, I sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, a copy of this "ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT," a copy of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, and a Notice of SEC Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings to the following person at the address listed below:

Birds Eye Foods, Inc. 90 Linden Oaks Rochester, New York 14625 Attn: Neil Harrison, President and Chief Executive Officer

Name: Brenda Madley

Title: Branch Secretary

Address: 290 Broadway - 17th H. NYC