



UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY-REG. II
2008 SEP 17 PM 4:47
REGIONAL HEARING
CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
PALMAS LAKES, INC., and) DOCKET NO. CWA-02-2007-3410
F&R CONTRACTORS CORPORATION,)
)
)
RESPONDENTS)

ORDER SCHEDULING HEARING

This proceeding arises under the authority of Section 309(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), as amended, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g). Complainant seeks a civil administrative penalty in the amount of \$157,500 against Respondents

The parties have filed their prehearing exchanges in this matter pursuant to the undersigned's Prehearing Order entered on March 14, 2008, as amended. The parties state that they reserve the right to supplement their prehearing exchanges.

The parties are reminded that this proceeding is governed by the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (the "Rules of Practice"), 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.1-22.32. Sections 22.19(a) and 22.22(a) of the Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.19(a), 22.22(a), provide that documents or exhibits that have not been exchanged and witnesses whose names have not been exchanged at least fifteen (15) days before the hearing date shall not be admitted into evidence or allowed to testify unless good cause is shown for failing to exchange the required information.

Further, the parties are advised that every motion filed in this proceeding must be served in sufficient time to permit the filing of a response by the other party and to permit the issuance

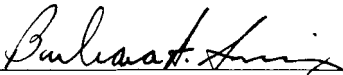
of an order on the motion before the deadlines set by this order or any subsequent order. Section 22.16(b) of the Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. § 22.16(b), allows a fifteen-day (15) period for responses to motions and Section 22.7(c), 40 C.F.R. § 22.7(c), provides for an additional five (5) days to be added thereto when the motion is served by mail. The parties are hereby notified that the undersigned will not entertain last minute motions to amend or supplement the prehearing exchange absent extraordinary circumstances.

As previously noted in the Prehearing Order, United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") policy, found in the Rules of Practice at Section 22.18(b), 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b), encourages settlement of a proceeding without the necessity of a formal hearing. The benefits of a negotiated settlement may far outweigh the uncertainty, time, and expense associated with a litigated proceeding. However, the pursuit of settlement negotiations or an averment that a settlement in principle has been reached will not constitute good cause for failure to comply with the requirements or schedule set forth in this Order.

As the parties have not reached a settlement in this matter, they shall strictly comply with the requirements of this order and prepare for a hearing. In connection therewith, on or before **January 12, 2009**, the parties shall file a joint set of stipulated facts, exhibits, and testimony. See Section 22.19(b)(2) of the Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. § 22.19(b)(2). The time allotted for the hearing is limited. Therefore, the parties must make a good faith effort to stipulate, as much as possible, to matters which cannot reasonably be contested so that the hearing can be concise and focused solely on those matters which can only be resolved after a hearing.

The Hearing in this matter will be held beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, continuing if necessary on February 4, 5, and 6, 2009. The Regional Hearing Clerk will make appropriate arrangements for a courtroom and retain a stenographic reporter. The parties will be notified of the exact location and of other procedures pertinent to the hearing when those arrangements are complete. Individuals requiring special accommodation at this hearing, including wheelchair access, should contact the Regional Hearing Clerk at least five business days prior to the hearing so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

IF ANY PARTY DOES NOT INTEND TO ATTEND THE HEARING OR HAS GOOD CAUSE FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND THE HEARING AS SCHEDULED, IT SHALL NOTIFY THE UNDERSIGNED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT.



Barbara A. Gunning
Administrative Law Judge

Dated: September 15, 2008
Washington, DC

**In the Matter of *Palmas Lakes, Inc., and F&R Contractors Corporation*, Respondent.
Docket No. CWA-02-2007-3410**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing **Order Scheduling Hearing**, dated September 15, 2008, was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees listed below.



Mary Angeles
Legal Staff Assistant

Original and One Copy by Pouch Mail to:

Karen Maples
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA / Region II
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New York, NY 10007-1866

Copy by Pouch Mail to:

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Assistant Regional Counsel
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region II, Caribbean Field Division
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Copy by Regular Mail to:

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**Dated: September 15, 2008
Washington, D.C.**