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HEARINGS CLERK
EPA REGION 10

BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

In the Matter of:)	
)	DOCKET NO. TSCA-10-2017-0118
The Glass Nook, Inc.)	
)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
Richland, Washington)	
)	
)	
Respondent.)	

I. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

1.1. This Consent Agreement is issued under the authority vested in the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) by Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (“TSCA”), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a).

1.2. Pursuant to Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), and in accordance with the “Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties,” 40 C.F.R. Part 22, EPA issues, and The Glass Nook, Inc. (“Respondent”) agrees to issuance of the Final Order attached to this Consent Agreement (“Final Order”).

II. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

2.1. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b), issuance of this Consent Agreement commences this proceeding, which will conclude when the Final Order becomes effective.

2.2. The Director of the Office of Compliance and Enforcement, EPA Region 10 ("Complainant") has been delegated the authority pursuant to Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), to sign consent agreements between EPA and the party against whom an administrative penalty for violations of TSCA is proposed to be assessed.

2.3. Part III of this Consent Agreement contains a concise statement of the factual and legal basis for the alleged violations of TSCA together with the specific provisions of TSCA and the implementing regulations that Respondent is alleged to have violated.

III. ALLEGATIONS

3.1. Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, makes it unlawful for any person to fail to comply with, among other things, any rule promulgated pursuant to Section 402 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2682. Pursuant to Section 402 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2682, EPA has promulgated rules governing lead-based paint activities, including certification of individuals and firms for renovation and work practice standards for renovations. These rules are codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E, Residential Property Renovation.

3.2. The State of Washington is authorized under Section 404(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2684(a), and 40 C.F.R. § 745.324(d) to administer and enforce requirements for a renovation, repair and painting (RRP) program in accordance with Section 402(c)(3) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C.

§ 2682(c)(3), and a lead-based paint pre-renovation education program in accordance with Section 406(b) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2686(b).

3.3. Title 365 Washington Administrative Code (“WAC”) applies to renovations performed for compensation in target housing as specified in Chapter 365-230 WAC.

3.4. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.324(e)(3) upon authorization of a State program it shall be an unlawful act under Sections 15 and 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2614 and 2689, for any person to fail or refuse to comply with any requirement of such program.

3.5. “Target housing” is defined under WAC 365-230-020(78) to mean “any housing constructed prior to 1978, except housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities...”

3.6. “Person” is defined at WAC 365-230-020(61) to mean “any natural or judicial person including any individual, corporation, partnership, or association...”

3.7. “Firm” is defined at WAC 365-230-020(38) to mean “a sole proprietorship, corporation, association, firm, partnership, or joint stock company legally registered with the Washington department of licensing to conduct business in the state of Washington.”

3.8. “Renovation” is defined at WAC 365-230-310 to mean “the modification of any existing structure, or portion thereof that results in the disturbance of painted surfaces...”

3.9. “Renovator” is defined at WAC 365-230-310 as “individual who either performs or directs workers who perform renovations. A certified renovator is a renovator who has successfully completed a renovator course accredited by EPA or an EPA-authorized state or tribal program.”

3.10. Respondent is a corporation organized in the State of Washington.

3.11. Respondent is therefore a “firm” within the meaning of WAC 365-230-020(38).

3.12. On August 10, 2016, Respondent performed work for compensation at Cedar North Apartments located at 1621 George Washington Way, Richland, Washington, which was built in 1975 (The Glass Nook, Inc. Renovation).

3.13. The work Respondent conducted was window replacement, which resulted in the disturbance of painted surfaces.

3.14. Therefore, Respondent performed a “renovation” on “target housing,” as these terms are defined at WAC 365-230-310 and WAC 365-230-020(78).

3.15. Respondent became RRP firm certified on September 1, 2016, and Renovator certified on August 12, 2016.

3.16. Pursuant to WAC 365-230-360(1) [40 C.F.R. § 745.81(a)(2)(ii)], no firm may perform, offer or claim to perform renovations without RRP firm certification from the State of Washington Department of Commerce.

3.17. Pursuant to WAC 365-230-370(1)(a) [40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(1)] each firm performing renovations must ensure that all individuals performing renovation activities on behalf of the firm are either certified renovators or have been trained by a certified renovator.

3.18. Pursuant to WAC 365-230-330(1)(a) [40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(1)] each firm must post signs clearly defining the work area and warning occupants and other persons not involved in renovation activities to remain outside of the work area.

3.19. Pursuant to WAC 365-230-330(1)(b)(ii)(C) [40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(2)(ii)(C)] a firm conducting exterior renovations must “cover the ground with plastic sheeting or other disposable impermeable material extending ten feet beyond the perimeter of surfaces undergoing renovation or a sufficient distance to collect falling paint debris, whichever is greater.”

3.20. Pursuant to WAC 365-230-330 (1)(d)(i) [40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(4)(i)] the renovation firm conducting the exterior renovation must contain waste from renovation activities

to prevent releases of dust and debris before the waste is removed from the work area for storage or disposal.

Violations at The Glass Nook, Inc. Renovation

3.21. Respondent failed to obtain RRP firm certification from the State of Washington Department of Commerce prior to beginning the renovation in violation of WAC 365-230-360(1) [40 C.F.R. §745.81(a)(2)(ii)].

3.22. Respondent failed to ensure all individuals performing renovation activities on behalf of Respondent were either certified renovators or had been trained by a certified renovator in violation of WAC 365-230-370(1)(a) [40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(1)].

3.18. Respondent failed to post signs clearly defining the work area and warning occupants and other persons not involved in renovation activities to remain outside of the work area, in violation of WAC 365-230-330(1)(a) [40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(1)].

3.19. Respondent failed to cover the ground with plastic sheeting or other disposable impermeable material extending ten feet beyond the perimeter of surfaces undergoing renovation or a sufficient distance to collect falling paint debris in violation of WAC 365-230-330(1)(b)(ii)(C) [40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(2)(ii)(C)].

3.20. Respondent failed to contain waste from renovation activities to prevent releases of dust and debris before the waste is removed from the work area for storage or disposal in violation of WAC 365-230-330(1)(d)(i) [40 C.F.R. §7 45.85(a)(4)(i)].

IV. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

4.1. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations of this Consent Agreement.

4.2. Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations contained in this Consent Agreement.

4.3. As required by Section 16(a)(2)(B) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a)(2)(B), EPA has taken into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violations, and with respect to Respondent, ability to pay, effect on ability to continue to do business, any history of prior such violations, the degree of culpability, and such other matters as justice may require. After considering these factors, EPA has determined and Respondent agrees that an appropriate penalty to settle this action is **\$3,760**, (the "Assessed Penalty").

4.4. Respondent agrees to pay the Assessed Penalty within 30 days of the effective date of the Final Order.

4.5. Payments under this Consent Agreement and Final Order may be paid by check (mail or overnight delivery), wire transfer, ACH, or online payment. Payment instructions are available at: <http://www2.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>. Payments made by a cashier's check or certified check must be payable to the order of "Treasurer, United States of America" and delivered to the following address:

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

Respondent must note on the check the title and docket number of this action.

4.6. Concurrently with payment, Respondent must serve photocopies of the check, or proof of other payment method, described in Paragraph 4.5 on the Regional Hearing Clerk and EPA Region 10 at the following addresses:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10, Mail Stop ORC-113
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101
Young.Teresa@epa.gov

Kim Farnham
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10, Mail Stop OCE-101
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101
Farnham.Kim@epa.gov

4.7. If Respondent fails to pay any portion of the Assessed Penalty by this Consent Agreement and the Final Order in full by its due date, the entire unpaid balance of penalty and accrued interest shall become immediately due and owing. If such a failure to pay occurs, Respondent may be subject to a civil action to collect the Assessed Penalty under Section 16(a)(4) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a)(4). In any collection action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of the Assessed Penalty are not subject to review.

4.8. If Respondent fails to pay any portion of the Assessed Penalty in full by its due date, Respondent shall be responsible for payment of interest on any unpaid portion of the Assessed Penalty at the rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717(a)(1) from the effective date of the Final Order contained herein, provided, however, that no interest shall be payable on any portion of the Assessed Penalty that is paid within 30 days of the effective date of the Final Order contained herein.

4.9. The Assessed Penalty, including any additional costs incurred under Paragraph 4.8, represents an administrative civil penalty assessed by EPA and shall not be deductible for purposes of federal taxes.

4.10. The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that he or she is authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and to bind Respondent to this document.

4.11. The undersigned representative of Respondent also certifies that, as of the date of Respondent's signature of this Consent Agreement, Respondent has corrected the violation(s) alleged in Part III.

4.12. Except as described in Paragraph 4.8, each party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees in bringing or defending this action.

4.13. For the purposes of this proceeding, Respondent expressly waives any right to contest the allegations contained in this Consent Agreement and to appeal the Final Order. Respondent expressly waives the notice requirement and its opportunity to request a hearing on the Final Order pursuant to Section 16(a)(2) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a)(2).

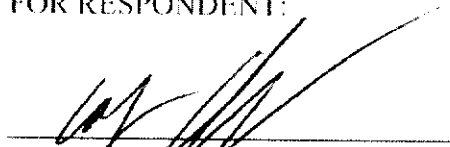
4.14. The provisions of this Consent Agreement and the Final Order shall bind Respondent and its agents, servants, employees, successors, and assigns.

4.15. The above provisions in Part IV are STIPULATED AND AGREED upon by Respondent and EPA Region 10.

DATED:

15 May 2017

FOR RESPONDENT:

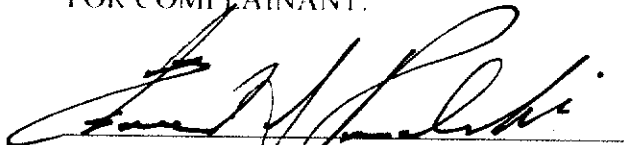


Cody Clapper, Owner
The Glass Nook, Inc.

DATED:

5/16/2017

FOR COMPLAINANT:



EDWARD J. KOWALSKI, Director
Office of Compliance and Enforcement
EPA Region 10

BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

In the Matter of:)	
)	DOCKET NO. TSCA-10-2017-0118
The Glass Nook, Inc.)	
)	FINAL ORDER
Richland, Washington)	
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Respondent.)	

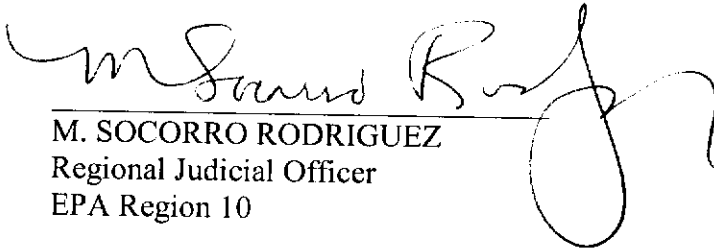
1.1. The Administrator has delegated the authority to issue this Final Order to the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 10, who has redelegated this authority to the Regional Judicial Officer in EPA Region 10.

1.2. The terms of the foregoing Consent Agreement are ratified and incorporated by reference into this Final Order. Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of settlement.

1.3. The Consent Agreement and this Final Order constitute a settlement by EPA of all claims for civil penalties under TSCA for the violations alleged in Part III of the Consent Agreement. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(a), nothing in this Final Order shall 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 does not waive, extinguish, or otherwise affect Respondent's obligations to comply with all applicable provisions of TSCA and regulations promulgated or permits issued thereunder.

1.4. This Final Order shall become effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

SO ORDERED this 22nd day of May, 2017.


M. SOCORRO RODRIGUEZ
Regional Judicial Officer
EPA Region 10

Certificate of Service

The undersigned certifies that the original of the attached **CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER, In the Matter of: The Glass Nook, Inc., Docket No.: TSCA-10-2017-0118** was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk and served on the addressees in the following manner on the date specified below:


The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the document was delivered to:

Robert Hartman
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10, Mail Stop OCE-113
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101

Further, the undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the aforementioned document was placed in the United States mail certified/return receipt to:

Cody Clapper
The Glass Nook, Inc.
409 Wellsian Way125 Cottonwood Drive
Richland, Washington 99352

DATED this 24 day of May, 2017.



TERESA YOUNG
Regional Hearing Clerk
EPA Region 10