



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

MAR 05 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Richard E. Glaze, Jr.
Balch & Bingham LLP
30 Ivan Allen, Jr. Boulevard, Northwest
Suite 700
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-3036

Re: PowerSouth Energy Cooperative
Consent Agreement and Final Order
Docket No. CERCLA-04-2012-2067(b)

Dear Mr. Glaze:

Enclosed please find an executed copy of the Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) that resolves the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act matter (Docket No. CERCLA-04-2012-2067(b)) involving your client, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative. The CAFO was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, as required by 40 C.F.R. Part 22 and became effective on the date of the filing.

Also enclosed, please find a copy of the "Notice of Securities and Exchange Commission Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings." This document puts your client on notice of its potential duty to disclose to the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) any environmental enforcement actions taken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you or your client have any questions with regards to the SEC's environmental disclosure requirements, please refer to the contact phone number at the bottom of the SEC Notice.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Karl Wilson at (404) 562-9295.

Sincerely,

Caron B. Falconer
Chief
EPCRA Enforcement Section

Enclosures

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
PowerSouth Energy Cooperative)
)
Respondent.)
_____)

Docket Number: CERCLA-04-2012-2067(b)

RECEIVED
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HEARING CLERK

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

I. Nature of the Action

1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9609 and pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22. Complainant is the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Region 4, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Respondent is PowerSouth Energy Cooperative.

2. The authority to take action under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609 is vested in the Administrator of EPA. The Administrator of EPA has delegated this authority under CERCLA to the Regional Administrators by EPA Delegation 14-31 dated May 11, 1994. The Regional Administrator, Region 4, has redelegated to the Director, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, the authority under CERCLA by EPA Region 4 Delegation 14-31 dated March 8, 1999, and updated August 6, 2004. Pursuant to these delegations, the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division has the authority to commence an enforcement action as the Complainant in this matter.

3. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b) and desire to resolve this matter and settle the allegations described herein without a formal hearing. Therefore, without the taking of any evidence or testimony, the making of any argument, or the adjudication of any issue in this matter, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b) and 22.18(b), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

II. Preliminary Statements

4. Respondent, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative, is doing business in the State of Alabama.

5. Respondent is a "person" as defined in Section 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(21).

6. Respondent has a "facility" as that term is defined by Section 101(9) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9).

7. Respondent's facility is located at 28570 U.S. Highway 29 North, Gantt, Alabama.

8. Respondent is an "owner or operator" of the facility as that term is defined by Section 101 (20)(A) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(20)(A).

III. EPA's Allegation of Violation

9. Section 102(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9602(a), required the Administrator of EPA to publish a list of substances designated as hazardous substances which, when released into the environment, may present substantial danger to public health or welfare or the environment and to promulgate regulations establishing the quantity of any hazardous substance the release of which was required to be reported under Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a). EPA has published and amended such a list, including the corresponding reportable quantities (RQ) for those substances. This list which is codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 302, was initially published on April 4, 1985 (50 Fed. Reg. 13474) and is periodically amended.

10. Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), and the regulations found at 40 C.F.R. § 302.6, require a person in charge of a facility or vessel to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC), as soon as he or she has knowledge of a release of a hazardous substance from such facility or vessel in an amount equal to, or greater than the RQ.

11. Respondent was in charge of the facility during the relevant period described below.

12. Aqueous ammonia is a "hazardous substance" as that term is defined by Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), with an RQ of 1,000 pounds, as specified in 40 C.F.R. § 302.4.

13. On November 3, 2011, Respondent had a release of aqueous ammonia above the RQ at the facility.

14. EPA alleges that Respondent violated the notification requirements of Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), and the applicable CERCLA regulations, 40 C.F.R. § 302.6, by failing to immediately notify the NRC as soon as Respondent had knowledge of the release of aqueous ammonia in an amount equal to or greater than its RQ at Respondent's facility and is therefore subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609.

15. Pursuant to Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, and 40 C.F.R. Part 19, EPA may assess a penalty not to exceed \$37,500 for each violation of Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), that occurred after January 12, 2009. Each day a violation of

Section 103 continues constitutes a separate violation. Civil penalties under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, may be assessed by an Administrative Order.

IV. Consent Agreement

16. For the purposes of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set out above but neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set out above.

17. Respondent waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed final order accompanying the Consent Agreement.

18. Respondent consents to the assessment of and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.

19. Respondent agrees to complete the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) set forth in this CAFO.

20. Respondent certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of CERCLA.

21. Compliance with the CAFO shall resolve the allegations of violations contained herein. This CAFO shall not otherwise affect any liability of Respondent to the United States other than as expressed herein. Complainant does not waive any right to bring an enforcement action against Respondent for violation of any federal or state statute, regulation or permit, to initiate an action for imminent and substantial endangerment, or to pursue criminal enforcement.

22. Complainant and Respondent agree to settle this matter by their execution of this CAFO. The parties agree that the settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that this CAFO is consistent with the applicable requirements of CERCLA.

V. Final Order

23. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE DOLLARS (\$4,323) for the CERCLA violation which shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CAFO.

24. Respondent shall pay the CERCLA civil penalty by forwarding a cashier's or certified check, payable to "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund" to one of the following addresses:

BY MAIL

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Superfund Payments
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979076
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

BY OVERNIGHT

U.S. Bank
Government Lockbox 979076
U.S. EPA Superfund Payments
1005 Convention Plaza
SL-MO-C2-GL
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 418-1028

The check shall reference on its face the name and the Docket Number of the CAFO.

25. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of the check, and a written statement that payment has been made in accordance with this CAFO, to the following persons at the following addresses:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Karl Wilson
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Air, Pesticides & Toxics Management Division
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Saundi Wilson
Office of Environmental Accountability
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

26. For the purposes of state and federal income taxes, Respondent shall not be entitled, and agrees not to attempt, to claim a deduction for any civil penalty payment made pursuant to this CAFO. Any attempt by Respondent to deduct any such payments shall constitute a violation of this CAFO.

VI. Supplemental Environmental Project

27. Respondent shall undertake and complete the following Emergency Planning and Preparedness SEP within 45 days of the effective date of this CAFO. Cash donations shall not be used to satisfy the terms and conditions of this CAFO. PowerSouth Energy Cooperative shall

expend not less than SIXTEEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINE DOLLARS (\$16,209) to purchase the following for the Gantt Area Fire and Rescue, Inc.:

- 6 Brimmed hard hats with chin straps
- 24 Pro Leather work gloves
- 8 Pro fire rated goggles
- 2 First Air/Trauma Kits
- 6 Reflective vests
- 2 Stop-go traffic signs
- 36 Safety Flares
- 1 Helicopter landing lights
- 1 Grill/Brush Guard and Winch Mount Kit
- 3 5-watt portables with charger
- 4 Replacement 45-minute tanks
- 1 Foam mixing system (truck #5)
- 1 Foam generator (portable)
- 1 Variable stream foam nozzle
- 1 Portable 500 GPM monitor
- 2 2 ½ inch hydrant valve
- 1 20 LB CO2 Extinguisher
- 1 20 LB Dry Chemical Extinguisher
- 1 Water Foam Extinguisher (2 ½ gallons)
- 6 Rechargeable 90 degree lights and chargers
- 2 500-watt scene lights
- 1 Bunker Gear (Coat – XL)
- 1 Bunker Gear (Pants – XL)
- 1 Bunker Gear (Coat – L)
- 1 Bunker Gear (Pants – L)
- 1 Fabric hose washer
- 1 Hose Coiler
- 1 Galvanized pipe for hose drying rack

This CAFO shall not be construed to constitute EPA endorsement of the equipment or technology to be purchased by Respondent in connection with the SEP undertaken pursuant to this Agreement.

28. Respondent certifies that neither it, nor to the best of its knowledge, the recipient of the Emergency Planning and Preparedness SEP, is a party to any open federal financial assistance transaction that is funding or could be used to fund the same activity as the SEP. Respondent further certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and belief after reasonable inquiry, there is no such open federal financial assistance transaction that is funding or could be used to fund the same activity as the SEP, nor has the same activity been described in an unsuccessful federal financial assistance transaction proposal submitted to EPA within two years of the date of this settlement (unless the project was barred from funding as statutorily ineligible). For the purposes of this certification, the term “open federal financial assistance transaction” refers to a

grant, cooperative agreement, loan, federally-guaranteed loan guarantee, or other mechanism for providing federal financial assistance whose financial performance period has not yet expired.

29. Respondent has obtained and presented to EPA a separate written certification from the recipient of the SEP, the Gantt Area Fire and Rescue, Inc., certifying that it is not a party to any open federal financial assistance transaction as stated in Paragraph 28.

30. Respondent agrees that EPA may inspect the facility at any time in order to confirm that the SEP is being undertaken in conformity with the representations made herein.

31. No later than seventy five (75) calendar days after the effective date of this CAFO, Respondent shall submit to EPA a SEP Completion Report. The Report shall be sent to the EPCRA Enforcement Section, to the attention of Karl Wilson at the address provided above.

The Report shall include the following:

(a) an affidavit from an authorized company official, attesting that the SEP has been completed or explaining in detail any failure to complete it; and

(b) copies of appropriate documentation, including invoice and receipts, showing a total expenditure of SIXTEEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINE DOLLARS (\$16,209), or greater, was spent on the Emergency Planning and Preparedness SEP described in Paragraph 27.

Upon request, Respondent shall send EPA any additional documentation requested by EPA.

32. Respondent certifies that, as of the date this CAFO is signed, it is not required to perform any part of the SEP by any federal, state or local law, regulation, permit or order, or by any agreement or grant. Respondent further certifies that, as of this date, it has not received and is not negotiating to receive, credit for any part of the SEP in any other enforcement action of any kind.

33. Any public statement, oral or written, by Respondent making any reference to the SEP shall include the following language:

“This project was undertaken in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action taken by the U.S. Environmental protection Agency for violation of Section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.”

34. Respondent agrees that in order to receive credit for the SEP, it must fully and timely complete the SEP project in accordance with Paragraph 27. If Respondent fails to timely and fully complete any part of the Emergency Planning and Preparedness SEP in Paragraph 27, including failure to spend the minimum amount of SIXTEEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINE DOLLARS (\$16,209), Respondent shall be liable for a stipulated penalty in the amount of

the difference between \$16,209 and the actual amount spent. For purposes of this paragraph, whether Respondent has fully and timely completed the SEP shall be in the sole discretion of EPA.

35. If Respondent fails to timely submit a SEP Completion Report as required by this CAFO, Respondent shall pay to the United States a stipulated penalty of \$100 for each calendar day that the report is late.

36. Respondent shall pay any stipulated penalties that accrue under this CAFO within 15 calendar days of the receipt by Respondent of written demand from EPA for such penalties. Such penalties shall be paid in accordance with the procedures set forth above for the payment of the civil penalty.

37. For federal income tax purposes, Respondent agrees that it will neither capitalize into inventory or basis nor deduct any costs or expenditures incurred in performing the SEP.

38. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, EPA is entitled to assess interest and penalties on debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the cost of processing and handling a delinquent claim. Interest will therefore begin to accrue on the civil penalty from the effective date of this CAFO if the penalty is not paid by the date required. Interest will be assessed at the rate established by the Secretary of Treasury pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717. A charge will be assessed to cover the costs of debt collection, including processing and handling costs and attorney fees. In addition, a penalty charge will be assessed on any portion of the debt that remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days after payment is due.

39. Complainant and Respondent shall bear their own costs and attorney fees in this matter.

40. This CAFO shall be binding upon the Respondent, its successors, and assigns.

41. The following individual is authorized to receive service for EPA in this proceeding:

Caron B. Falconer
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Air Pesticides & Toxics Management Division
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-8451

42. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this CAFO certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into this CAFO and legally bind that party to it.

By: Gary Smith (Signature) Date: 2/18/13

Name: Gary L. Smith (Typed or Printed)

Title: President & CEO (Typed or Printed)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By: Carol G. Kemper for Date: 2/20/13

Beverly H. Banister
Director
Air, Pesticides & Toxics
Management Division

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this 4 day of March, 2013.

Susan B. Schub
Susan B. Schub
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true and correct copy of the foregoing
Consent Agreement and Final Order, In the Matter of PowerSouth Energy Cooperative, Docket
Number: CERCLA 04-2012-2067(b), on the parties listed below in the manner indicated:

Caron B. Falconer
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

(Via EPA's internal mail)

Robert Caplan
U.S. EPA Region 4
Office of Environmental Accountability
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

(Via EPA's internal mail)

Eric Triplett
U.S. EPA Region 4
Office of Environmental Accountability
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

(Via EPA's internal mail)

Mr. Richard E. Glaze, Jr.
Balch & Bingham LLP
30 Ivan Allen, Jr. Boulevard, Northwest
Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30308-3036

(Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested)

Date: 3-5-13



Patricia A. Bullock, Regional Hearing Clerk
United States Environmental
Protection Agency, Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-9511