

RE:

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Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. EPA. Region III (3RC00) 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Of Counsel: Mary T. Cardier Paterson

Kimberly Kost Scanlon

Daniel J. Houlihan (1923-2006) In the matter of Scranton Products, Inc., et al.

Docket No. CAA-3-2008-0004:

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find the Answer of Respondent, Hoffman and Kozlansky Realty Co., LLC, to the Administrative Complaint filed in the above matter. Please file the same in accordance with your usual procedures and return a time-stamped copy to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

January 4, 2008

OLIVER, PRICE & RHODES

Karoline Mehalchick

KM/dpf/Encs.

Donna L. Mastro (w/enc.) Bruce Postupak (w/enc.) Christopher Hoffman (w/enc.)

# BEFORE THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION III

1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

In the Matter of: Scranton Products, Inc. 801 Corey Street Scranton, PA 18505,

Hoffman and Kozlansky Realty Co., LLC 300 – A Brook Street Scranton, PA 18505,

and

Wyoming S & P, Inc. 2143 White Haven Road White Haven, PA 18661

RESPONDENTS

ADMINITRATIVE COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

DOCKET NO. CAA-3-2008-0004

## ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES OF RESPONDENT, HOFFMAN AND KOZLANSKY REALTY CO., LLC

And now comes Respondent, HOFFMAN AND KOZLANSKY REALTY CO., LLC., by and through its counsel, Oliver, Price & Rhodes, and files the following ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES to the Administrative Complaint in this matter:

- 1. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 2. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.

- 3. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 4. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 5. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 6. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 7. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 8. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 9. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 10. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 11. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 12. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 13. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.

- 14. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 15. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 16. Admitted.
- 17. Admitted.
- 18. Admitted.
- 19. Admitted.
- 20. Denied. Respondent, Hoffman and Kozlansky Realty Co., LLC ("H&K"), lacks the knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations of this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial.
- 21. Admitted in part; denied in part. It is admitted that since May 15, 2007, H&K has been the owner of the Facility. It is specifically denied that H&K controlled and supervised the Facility at all times.
- 22. Admitted in part, denied in part. It is admitted that prior to May 15, 2007, Scranton Products, Inc., was the owner of the facility. However, it is specifically denied that subsequent to May 15, 2007, Scranton Products, Inc., still controlled and supervised the facility, as it was no longer the owner of the facility.
- 23. Admitted.
- 24. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.

- 25. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 26. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 27. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied. Furthermore, the allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 28. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 29. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 30. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.

- 31. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial, therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 32. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 33. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 34. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 35. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 36. Denied Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this

- paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 37. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial, therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 38. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 39. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 40. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 41. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.

- 42. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 43. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 44. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 45. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, acks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 46. Denied. Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.
- 47. Denied Respondent, H&K, after reasonable investigation, lacks the knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in this

paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial; therefore, said allegations are denied.

#### **COUNT I**

## FAILURE TO WET ADEQUATELY RACM DURING REMOVAL

- 48. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 47 of this Answer are realleged and incorporated herein by reference thereto.
- 49. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 50. Denied. Respondent, H&K, lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations of this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial
- Denied Respondent, H&K, lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations of this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial.
- 52. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.

#### COUNT II

# FAILURE TO KEEP STRIPPED RACM ADEQUATELY WET UNTIL COLLECTED FOR DISPOSAL

53. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 52 of this Answer are realleged and incorporated herein by reference thereto.

- 54. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.
- 55. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied. Furthermore, H&K, Respondent lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations of this paragraph and demands strict proof thereof at the time of trial.
- 56. Denied. The allegations of this paragraph constitute conclusions of law and are therefore deemed denied.

WHEREFORE, Respondent, H&K, respectfully submits that it is entitled to judgment in its favor in this matter. Respondent, H&K, further submits that the proposed penalty as set forth in the Administrative Complaint in this matter should not be assessed against H&K.

### VI. PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY

Respondent, H&K, denies it should be responsible for any of the penalty proposed to be assessed against it by EPA. Additionally, Respondent, H&K, denies that the proposed penalty is proper and accurate

## VII. NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A HEARING

Respondent, H&K, requests a hearing on the issues set forth in the Complaint and the appropriateness of the proposed penalty.

### VIII. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

Respondent, H&K, desires and hereby requests that an informal settlement conference b arranged in this matter.

#### **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

#### FIRST DEFENSE

The Complaint fails to state a claim against Respondent, H&K.

#### SECOND DEFENSE

H&K was not in control of the demolition or renovation activity.

#### THIRD DEFENSE

H&K is entitled to indemnity by Wyoming S & P, Inc., since it did not control or oversee the renovation at the Facility.

#### FOURTH DEFENSE

H&K is entitled to contribution by Wyoming S & P, Inc., since it did not control or oversee the renovation at the Facility.

#### FIFTH DEFENSE

At all times relevant to this matter, Respondent, H&K, acted in good faith and with the reasonable belief that its conduct was authorized and lawful.

#### SIXTH DEFENSE

Penalties cannot be assessed against Respondent, H&K, due to the actions or inactions of Wyoming S & P, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

OLIVER, PRICE & RHODES

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Clarks Summit, PA 18411

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#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, KAROLINE MEHALCHICK, ESQUIRE, of Oliver, Price & Rhodes, hereby certify that on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Answer and Affirmative Defenses by placing the same in the United States Mail, First Class Postage Prepaid, at Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, addressed as follows

Donna L. Mastro
Sr. Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Christopher Hoffman Hoffman & Kozlansky Realty Co., LLP 300 – A Brook Street Scranton, PA 18505-1504 President
Wyoming S & P, Inc.
2143 White Haven Road
White Haven, PA 18661

Karoline Mehalchick, Esquire