



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2  
2890 WOODBRIDGE AVE  
EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08837

JUN - 1 2010

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Maria Rosado, President  
MHR Management, Inc.  
1191 Broadway, First Floor  
Brooklyn, New York 11221

Re: In the Matter of MHR Management, Inc.  
Docket No. TSCA-02-2010-9272

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY-REG. 2  
2010 JUN -9 PM 2:39  
REGIONAL HEARING  
NEW YORK

Dear Ms. Rosado:

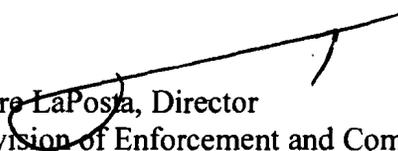
Enclosed is the Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing and supporting documents in the above-referenced proceeding. This Complaint alleges violations of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), Section 409, and regulations promulgated pursuant to TSCA set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F.

It is the intention of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to seek resolution of this Complaint in an equitable and mutually agreeable manner. As outlined in the Complaint, the Agency encourages the use of an informal conference to provide an opportunity for settlement discussions. You have been given ninety (90) days rather than the customary thirty (30) days to file an Answer to this Complaint. If you wish to attempt informal settlement, please do not file your Answer before a representative of the Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance (DECA) has contacted you to discuss the scheduling of an informal conference. Filing an Answer before discussions are held or at any point within these ninety (90) days will result in referral of your case to the Office of Regional Counsel.

I have enclosed copies of the Consolidated Rules of Practice (40 C.F.R. Part 22), as well as a copy of the appropriate Penalty Policy(s) referenced in the Complaint. Also enclosed is a Notice of Securities and Exchange Commission Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings, and a copy of the EPA Supplemental Environmental Projects Policy (SEP Policy) for your consideration. The Agency encourages the use of SEPs, where appropriate, as part of the settlement.

A DECA representative will contact you shortly to discuss the possibility of scheduling an informal conference. If you have any questions regarding the Complaint or the settlement process, you or your staff should feel free to contact James Crossmon at (732) 452-6409.

Sincerely,

  
Dora LaPosta, Director  
Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance

Enclosures

cc: Karen Maples, Regional Hearing Clerk

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**Region 2**

----- x  
In the Matter of :  
 :  
**MHR Management, Inc.,** :  
 :  
 :  
 Respondent. :  
 :  
 Proceeding under Section 16(a) of :  
 the Toxic Substances Control Act. :  
----- x

**COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF  
OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING**

Docket No.  
TSCA-02-2010-9272

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 2  
2010 JUN -9 PM 2:59  
REGIONAL HEARING  
CLEVER

**COMPLAINT**

This is a civil administrative action instituted pursuant to § 16(a), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA"), 15 U.S.C. § 2601 *et seq.* This Complaint serves notice of Complainant's preliminary determination that Respondent has violated Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, by failing to comply with the regulatory requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 745 Subpart F, which were promulgated pursuant to § 1018 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 4851 *et seq.* (hereinafter "§ 1018").

Complainant in this proceeding, the Director, Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance, United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), Region 2, has been duly delegated the authority to institute this action. Complainant, as and for her Complaint against Respondent, hereby alleges upon information and belief:

1. Respondent is MHR Management, Inc. (hereinafter "Respondent").
2. Respondent's primary place of business is located at 1191 Broadway, First Floor, Brooklyn, New York 11221.
3. Respondent is subject to the regulations and requirements pertaining to Lead-Based Paint Disclosure promulgated pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 4852d, and set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F.
4. On or about June 3, 2008, duly designated representatives of EPA attempted to conduct a consensual inspection of lease agreement files and Lead-Based Paint Disclosure forms at 1191 Broadway, First Floor, Brooklyn, New York 11221, pursuant to § 11 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2610. EPA was not able to conduct an on-site inspection of your records at that time, so we sent an Information Request Letter to obtain the information.
5. The information was collected for the purpose of determining Respondent's compliance with the EPA regulations and requirements pertaining to Lead-Based Paint Disclosure, 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart F.

6. Upon information and belief, Respondent is, and at all times relevant to this Complaint was, the “lessor” as those terms are defined in 40 C.F.R § 745.103, for the property located at 1369 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11216. (Jefferson Cluster, L.P.)
7. The property located at 1369 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11216 (hereinafter “Jefferson Cluster”) is “residential real property” within the meaning of § 1004(24) of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4851b(24). Date of construction was not provided by the Respondent as requested by the Information Request Letter.
8. The Jefferson Cluster property consists of approximately 160 “residential dwelling” units, within the meaning of § 1004(23) of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4851b(23), and 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.
9. The Jefferson Cluster property is “target housing” within the meaning of § 1004(27) of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4851b(27), and 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.
10. On or about April 14, 2008, James Kelliehan entered into a renewal of a contract to lease 1369 Atlantic Avenue, Apartment 1D, Brooklyn, New York 11216, from Respondent.
11. Upon information and belief, Respondent is, and at all times relevant to this Complaint was, the “lessor” as those terms are defined in 40 C.F.R § 745.103, for the property located at 697 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11238. (Franklin Avenue Cluster, L.P.)
12. The property located at 697 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11238 (hereinafter “Franklin Cluster”) is “residential real property” within the meaning of § 1004(24) of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4851b(24). Date of construction was not provided by the Respondent as requested by the Information Request Letter.
13. The Franklin Cluster property consists of approximately 97 “residential dwelling” units, within the meaning of § 1004(23) of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4851b(23), and 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.
14. The Franklin Cluster property is “target housing” within the meaning of § 1004(27) of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4851b(27), and 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.
15. The property located at 697 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11238 (hereinafter “Franklin Cluster”) is “residential real property” within the meaning of § 1004(24) of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4851b(24). Date of construction was not provided by the Respondent as requested by the Information Request Letter.
16. On or about November 26, 2007, Danyell Myers entered into a renewal of a contract to lease 697 Franklin Avenue, Apartment 3R, Brooklyn, New York 11238, from Respondent.
17. Upon information and belief, Respondent is, and at all times relevant to this Complaint was, the “lessor” as those terms are defined in 40 C.F.R § 745.103, for the property located at 160 South Second Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211. (160 South Second Street Cluster, L.P.)

18. The property located at 160 South Second Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211 (hereinafter "160 South Second Street Cluster") is "residential real property" within the meaning of § 1004(24) of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4851b(24). Date of construction was not provided by the Respondent as requested by the Information Request Letter.
19. The 160 South Second Street Cluster property consists of approximately 25 "residential dwelling" units, within the meaning of § 1004(23) of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4851b(23), and 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.
20. The 160 South Second Street Cluster property is "target housing" within the meaning of § 1004(27) of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4851b(27), and 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.
21. On or about May 17, 2007, Delfina Gamboa and Jose Gamboa entered into a renewal of a contract to lease 160 South Second Street, Apartment 1D, Brooklyn, New York 11211, from Respondent.
22. On or about May 17, 2007, Iris Crespo entered into a renewal of a contract to lease 160 South Second Street, Apartment 4F, Brooklyn, New York 11211, from Respondent. A minor under 18 years of age would reside at this address.
23. Upon information and belief, Respondent is, and at all times relevant to this Complaint was, the "lessor" as those terms are defined in 40 C.F.R. § 745.103, for the properties located at 219 Bainbridge Street, Brooklyn, New York 11233, and 254 Malcolm X Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York 11233. (1659 Hancock, L.P.)
24. The properties located at 219 Bainbridge Street, Brooklyn, New York 11233, and 254 Malcolm X Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York 11233 (hereinafter "1659 Hancock") are "residential real property" within the meaning of § 1004(24) of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4851b(24). Dates of construction were not provided by the Respondent as requested by the Information Request Letter.
25. The 1659 Hancock properties consist of approximately 50 "residential dwelling" units, within the meaning of § 1004(23) of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4851b(23), and 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.
26. The 1659 Hancock properties are "target housing" within the meaning of § 1004(27) of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. § 4851b(27), and 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.
27. On or about February 19, 2008, Charles D. Hedgepath entered into a renewal of a contract to lease 219 Bainbridge Street, Apartment 1A, Brooklyn, New York 11233, from Respondent.
28. On or about December 26, 2007, Shaquana Aikens entered into a renewal of a contract to lease 254 Malcolm X Boulevard, Apartment 2A, Brooklyn, New York 11233, from Respondent. A child under 6 years of age would reside at this address.
29. Each of the persons leasing the apartments in paragraphs 10, 16, 21, 22, 27, and 28, above, is a "lessee" of target housing as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.103.
30. None of the real estate transactions listed in paragraph 29, above, constitute an exempt transaction pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.101.

COUNT 1

**Lead Warning Statement**

31. Paragraphs 1 through 30 are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth herein.
32. Under 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(1), the lessor shall include in each contract to lease target housing, as an attachment or within the contract, a "Lead Warning Statement" which is set forth in the regulation.
33. On or about the dates listed in paragraphs 10, 16, 21, 22, 27, and 28, above, Respondent leased target housing units at the above cited locations.
34. For each real estate transaction for the rental of the apartments described in paragraph 33, above, the contract to lease did not contain a Lead Warning Statement as specified in 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(1) nor was the statement attached to the contract for lease at the time of the leasing.
35. Failure to include or attach to the contract to lease a Lead Warning Statement as specified in 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(1) is a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(1).
36. Respondent's failures to perform all activities required under 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(1) constitute failures or refusals to comply with 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(1), which are violations of 42 U.S.C. § 4852d(b)(5) and of § 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

COUNT 2

**Statement by the Lessor Disclosing Known Lead-Based Paint**

37. Paragraphs 1 through 30 are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth herein.
38. Under 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(2), the lessor shall include in each contract to lease target housing, as an attachment or within the contract, a statement by the lessor disclosing the presence of known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards or indicating no knowledge of such presence.
39. Upon information and belief, Respondent leased the target housing apartments listed in paragraphs 10, 16, 21, 22, 27, and 28, above.
40. For the real estate transactions for the rental of the apartments described in paragraph 39, above, a statement by the lessor disclosing the presence of known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards or indicating no knowledge of such presence was not included within, nor attached to the contract to lease, at the time of leasing.
41. Failure to include or attach a statement by the lessor disclosing the presence of known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards or indicating no knowledge of such presence to the contract to lease is a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(2).
42. Respondent's failures to perform all activities required under 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(2) constitute failures or refusals to comply with 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(2), which are violations of 42 U.S.C. § 4852d(b)(5) and of § 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

### COUNT 3

#### **List of Records or Reports Pertaining to Lead-Based Paint**

43. Paragraphs 1 through 30 are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth herein.
44. Under 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(3), the lessor shall include in each contract to lease target housing, as an attachment or within the contract, a list of any records or reports available to the lessor pertaining to lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards that have been provided to the lessee, or an indication that no such records or reports are available.
45. Upon information and belief, Respondent leased the target housing apartments listed in paragraphs 10, 16, 21, 22, 27, and 28, above.
46. For each real estate transaction for the rental of the apartments described in paragraph 45, above, a list of any records or reports available to the lessor pertaining to lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards that have been provided to the lessee, or an indication that no such records or reports are available, was not attached to, or included in, the contract to lease at the time of leasing.
47. Failure to include or attach to the contract to lease a list of any records or reports available to the lessor pertaining to lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards that have been provided to the lessee, or to indicate if no such records or reports are available, is a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(3).
48. Respondent's failures to perform all activities required under 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(3) constitute failures or refusals to comply with 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(3), which are violations of 42 U.S.C. § 4852d(b)(5) and of § 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

### COUNT 4

#### **Lessee's Receipt of Information**

49. Paragraphs 1 through 30 are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth herein.
50. Under 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(4), each contract to lease target housing shall include, as an attachment or within the contract, a statement by the lessee affirming the receipt of: (1) the lessor's statement disclosing the presence of known lead-based paint (or indicating no knowledge); (2) the list of any records or reports available to the lessor pertaining to lead-based paint; and (3) the lead hazard information pamphlet required by 15 U.S.C. § 2686.
51. Upon information and belief, Respondent leased the target housing apartments listed in paragraphs 10, 16, 21, 22, 27, and 28, above.
52. For each real estate transaction for the rental of the apartments described in paragraph 51, above, the contract did not contain within the contract, or as an attachment, the statement described in paragraph 50, above.
53. Failure of the contract to contain the statement described in paragraph 52, above, is a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(4).
54. Respondent's failures to perform all activities required under 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(4) constitute failures or refusals to comply with 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(4), which are

violations of 42 U.S.C. § 4852d(b)(5) and of § 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

### COUNT 5

#### **Lessor, Agent, and Lessee Certification Statement**

55. Paragraphs 1 through 30 are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth herein.
56. Under 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(6), each contract to lease target housing shall include, as an attachment or within the contract, the signatures of the lessors, agents, and lessees certifying to the accuracy of their statements, to the best of their knowledge, along with the dates of signature.
57. Upon information and belief, Respondent leased the target housing apartments listed in paragraphs 10, 16, 21, 22, 27, and 28, above.
58. For each real estate transaction for the rental of the apartments described in paragraph 57, above, the contract did not contain signatures of the lessor, agents, or lessees certifying to the accuracy of their statements, to the best of their knowledge, along with the dates of signature.
59. Failure of the contract to include, as an attachment or within the contract, the signatures of the lessors, agents, and lessees, certifying to the accuracy of their statements, to the best of their knowledge, along with the dates of the signature, is a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(6).
60. Respondent's failures to perform all activities required under 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(6) constitute failures or refusals to comply with 40 C.F.R. § 745.113(b)(6), which are violations of 42 U.S.C. § 4852d(b)(5) and of § 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

### PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY

The proposed civil penalty has been determined in accordance with § 1018 and 40 C.F.R. § 745.118(f), which authorize the assessment of a civil penalty under TSCA § 16 in the maximum amount of \$10,000 for each violation of TSCA § 409. This maximum amount has been adjusted to \$11,000 per violation under the Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule. 61 Fed. Reg. 69361 (1996) for violations occurring after July 28, 1997. See 62 Fed. Reg. 35038 (1997). Penalties for violations occurring after March 15, 2004 were further adjusted for inflation by the Agency effective October 1, 2004.

For purposes of determining the amount of any penalty to be assessed, TSCA § 16 requires EPA to take into account the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation or violations alleged. As to the violator, TSCA § 16 requires EPA to take into account its ability to pay, the effect of the penalty on its ability to continue to do business, its history of prior such violations, its degree of culpability, as well as such other matters as justice may require.

To develop the proposed penalty in this Complaint, Complainant has taken into account the particular facts and circumstances of this case, to the extent known at the time, with specific reference to EPA's "Guidelines for Assessment of Civil Penalties Under § 16 of the Toxic Substances Control Act," which was published on September 10, 1980 in the Federal Register (45 Fed. Reg. 59,770), and EPA's December 2007 "§ 1018 Disclosure Rule Enforcement Response and Penalty Policy." These policies provide rational, consistent and equitable

calculation methodologies for applying the statutory penalty factors, enumerated above, to particular cases. Copies of these documents are available on request, or can be found on the web at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/civil/tsca/>.

Given the facts alleged in this Complaint and the statutory factors enumerated above, as known to Complainant at this time, Complainant proposes, subject to receipt and evaluation of further relevant information, that Respondent be assessed the following civil penalties for the violations alleged in the Complaint:

COUNT 1: Lead Warning Statement

Circumstance Level: 2

Total number of violations: 6

Extent Category: Major (child under 6) 1  
Significant (minor under 18) 1  
Minor (occupants over 18) 4

Penalty Per Violation:	Major	\$ 10,320
	Significant	\$ 6,450
	Minor	\$ 1,550

1 Major violation X \$10,320 =	\$ 10,320
1 Significant violation X \$6,450 =	\$ 6,450
4 Minor violations X \$1,550 =	\$ 6,200

Total Proposed Assessment for this Count: \$22,970

COUNT 2: Statement by Lessor Disclosing Known Lead-Based Paint

Circumstance Level: 3

Total number of violations: 6

Extent Category: Major (child under 6) 1  
Significant (minor under 18) 1  
Minor (occupants over 18) 4

Penalty Per Violation:	Major	\$ 7,740
	Significant	\$ 5,160
	Minor	\$ 770

1 Major violation X \$7,740 =	\$ 7,740
1 Significant violation X \$5,160 =	\$ 5,160
4 Minor violations X \$770 =	\$ 3,080

Total Proposed Assessment for this Count: \$15,980

COUNT 3: List of Records or Reports Pertaining to Lead-Based Paint

Circumstance Level: 5

Total number of violations: 6

Extent Category: Major (child under 6) 1  
Significant (minor under 18) 1  
Minor (occupants over 18) 4

Penalty Per Violation: Major \$ 2,580  
Significant \$ 1,680  
Minor \$ 260

1 Major violation X \$2,580 = \$ 2,580  
1 Significant violation X \$1,680 = \$ 1,680  
4 Minor violations X \$260 = \$ 1,040

Total Proposed Assessment for this Count: \$5,300

COUNT 4: Lessees' Receipt of Information

Circumstance Level: 4

Total number of violations: 6

Extent Category: Major (child under 6) 1  
Significant (minor under 18) 1  
Minor (occupants over 18) 4

Penalty Per Violation: Major \$ 5,160  
Significant \$ 3,220  
Minor \$ 520

1 Major violation X \$5,160 = \$ 5,160  
1 Significant violation X \$3,220 = \$ 3,220  
4 Minor violations X \$520 = \$ 2,080

Total Proposed Assessment for this Count: \$10,460

COUNT 5: Lessor, Agent and Lessee Certification Statement

Circumstance Level: **6**

Total number of violations: **6**

Extent Category: Major (child under 6) **1**  
Significant (minor under 18) **1**  
Minor (occupants over 18) **4**

Penalty Per Violation: Major \$ 1,290  
Significant \$ 640  
Minor \$ 130

1 Major violation X \$1,290 = \$ 1,290  
1 Significant violation X \$640 = \$ 640  
4 Minor violations X \$130 = \$ 520

Total Proposed Assessment for this Count: \$2,450

TOTAL PROPOSED PENALTY \$57,160

PROCEDURES GOVERNING THIS ADMINISTRATIVE LITIGATION

The rules of procedure governing this civil administrative litigation have been set forth in 64 Fed. Reg. 40138 (July 23, 1999), entitled, "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits," and are codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22. A copy of these rules accompanies this "Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing" (hereinafter referred to as the "Complaint").

A. Answering the Complaint

Where Respondent intends to contest any material fact upon which the Complaint is based, to contend that the proposed penalty is inappropriate or to contend that Respondent is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, 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, and such Answer must be filed within 30 days after service of the Complaint. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(a). 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 then 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).

Respondent's Answer to the Complaint must clearly and directly admit, deny, or explain each of the factual allegations that are contained in the Complaint and with regard to which

Respondent has any knowledge. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(b). Where Respondent lacks knowledge of a particular factual allegation, and so states in its Answer, the allegation is deemed denied. 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 that Respondent disputes (and thus intends to place at issue in the proceeding) and (3) whether Respondent requests a hearing. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(b).

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.

#### B. Opportunity to Request a Hearing

If requested by Respondent in its Answer, a hearing upon the issues raised by the Complaint and Answer may be held. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c). See generally Section 16(a)(2)(A) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a)(2)(A). If, however, Respondent does not request a hearing, the Presiding Officer (as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 22.3) may hold a hearing if the Answer raises issues appropriate for adjudication. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c).

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 applicable 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. See Section 16(a)(2)(A) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a)(2)(A), which states, in part: "A civil penalty for a violation of section 2614...of this title [15 U.S.C. § 2614] shall be assessed by the Administrator by an order made on the record after opportunity...for a hearing in accordance with section 554 of Title 5 [5 U.S.C. §554]."

If Respondent fails to request a hearing, such failure may operate to preclude Respondent from obtaining judicial review of an adverse EPA order. See 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a)(3), which states, in part: "Any person who requested in accordance with paragraph (2)(A) [15 U.S.C. § 2615(a)(2)(A)] a hearing respecting the assessment of a civil penalty and who is aggrieved by an order assessing a civil penalty may file a petition for judicial review with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit or for any other circuit in which such person resides or transacts business."

#### C. Failure to Answer

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. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(d). If Respondent fails to file a timely [i.e. in accordance with the 30-day period set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(a)] Answer to the Complaint, Respondent may be found in default upon motion. 40 C.F.R. § 22.17(a). Default by Respondent constitutes, for purposes of the pending proceeding only, an admission of all facts alleged in the Complaint and a waiver of Respondent's right to contest such factual allegations. 40 C.F.R. § 22.17(a). Following a default by Respondent for failure to timely file an Answer to the Complaint, any order issued therefor shall be issued pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.17(c).

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 pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.27(c). 40 C.F.R. § 22.17(d). 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.

#### D. Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies

Where Respondent fails to appeal an adverse initial decision to the Environmental Appeals Board pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.30, and that initial decision thereby becomes a final order pursuant to the terms of 40 C.F.R. § 22.27(c), Respondent waives its right to judicial review. 40 C.F.R. § 22.27(d).

In order to appeal an initial decision to the Agency's Environmental Appeals Board [EAB; see 40 C.F.R. § 1.25(e)], Respondent must do so "within thirty (30) days after the initial decision is served." 40 C.F.R. § 22.30(a). Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.7(c), where service is effected by mail, "5 days shall be added to the time allowed by these [rules] for the filing of a responsive document." Note that the 45-day period provided for in 40 C.F.R. § 22.27(c) [discussing when an initial decision becomes a final order] does not pertain to, or extend, the time period prescribed in 40 C.F.R. § 22.30(a) for a party to file an appeal to the EAB of an adverse initial decision.

#### INFORMAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

Whether or not Respondent requests a formal hearing, EPA encourages settlement of this proceeding consistent with the provisions of the Act and its 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, or 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. Respondent is referred to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18.

Any request for an informal conference or any questions that Respondent may have regarding this Complaint should be directed to:

James Crossmon  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 2, MS-225  
2890 Woodbridge Avenue  
Edison, New Jersey 08837  
(732) 452-6409

The parties may engage in settlement discussions irrespective of whether Respondent has requested a hearing. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(1). Respondent's requesting 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 as specified in 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, however, will be made simply because an informal settlement conference is held.

Any settlement that may be reached as a result of an informal settlement conference shall be embodied in a written consent agreement. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2). In accepting the Consent Agreement, Respondent waives its right to contest the allegations in the Complaint and waives its right to appeal the final order that is to accompany the Consent Agreement. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2). In order to conclude the proceeding, a final order ratifying the parties' agreement to settle will be executed. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(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 terminate this administrative litigation and the civil proceedings arising out of the allegations made in the 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.

#### RESOLUTION OF THIS PROCEEDING WITHOUT HEARING OR CONFERENCE

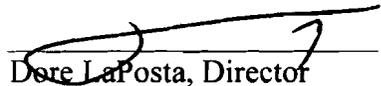
Instead of filing an Answer, Respondent may choose to pay the total amount of the proposed penalty within 30 days after receipt of the Complaint, provided that Respondent files with the Regional Hearing Clerk, Region 2 (at the New York address noted above), a copy of the check or other instrument of payment. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(a). Payment of the penalty assessed 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:

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

The check shall 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 document. A copy of the check or other instrument of payment should be provided to the EPA Enforcement Officer identified on the previous page.

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(a)(3), if Respondent elects to pay the full amount of the penalty proposed in the Complaint within 30 days of receiving the Complaint, then, upon EPA's receipt of such payment, the Regional Administrator of EPA, Region 2 (or, if designated, the Regional Judicial Officer), shall issue a final order. Issuance of this final order terminates this administrative litigation and the civil proceedings arising out of the allegations made in the Complaint. Further, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(a)(3), the making of such payment by Respondent shall constitute a waiver of Respondent's right both to contest the allegations made in the Complaint and to appeal said final order to federal court. 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.

Dated: JUNE 1, 2010

  
Dere LaPosta, Director  
Division of Enforcement and  
Compliance Assistance  
U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency - Region 2

TO: Maria Rosado, President  
MHR Management, Inc.  
1191 Broadway  
First Floor  
Brooklyn, New York 11221

**In the Matter of MHR Management, Inc.**  
**Docket No. TSCA-02-2010-9272**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this day caused to be mailed a copy of the foregoing Complaint, bearing docket number TSCA-02-2010-9272, and a copy of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Maria Rosado, President  
MHR Management, Inc.  
1191 Broadway  
First Floor  
Brooklyn, New York 11221

I transmitted the original and a copy of the foregoing Complaint via interoffice mail to the office of the Regional Hearing Clerk, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2.

Dated: 6/7/10  
Edison, New Jersey

James Crossman