



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

FILED

Mar 18, 2024

2:20 pm

U.S. EPA REGION 5
HEARING CLERK

EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

DOCKET NO: EPCRA-05-2024-0007

PAYMENT DOCKET NO: EPCRA-24-ESA-003

This Expedited Settlement Agreement is issued to:

Associated Finishing, Inc.

320 Mallard Lane

Mankato, Minnesota 56001-1817

for alleged violations of Section 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, and Associated Finishing, Inc. ("Respondent") have agreed to the settlement of this action before the filing of a complaint. EPA and Respondent (jointly "the Parties") have agreed that settling this action without the filing of a complaint, or the adjudication of any issue of fact or law, is in their interest and in the public interest. This action is thus simultaneously commenced and concluded by this Expedited Settlement Agreement ("ESA") and Final Order. *See* 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2)-(3).

This ESA is an administrative action for the assessment of civil penalties instituted pursuant to EPA's authority under Sections 325 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 11045. The Director of the Superfund Division, Region 5, EPA has been delegated the authority to issue an Administrative Complaint seeking the assessment of civil penalties for violations of Section 312 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022. The Regional Administrator for Region 5 of EPA is authorized to issue a Final Order, which concludes this matter pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18.

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

EPA alleges that Respondent, owner and/or operator of the facility at 320 Mallard Lane, Mankato, Minnesota, failed to include sulfuric acid on the timely submitted emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form (Tier I or Tier II form as described in 40 C.F.R. § 370.25 and 40 C.F.R. Part 370, Subpart D) for calendar years 2019-2022, as required by Section 312 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022, and the regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 370. Under Section 312 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11022, and the regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 370, Respondent was required to submit its Tier I or Tier II form for calendar years 2019-2022 on or before March 1, 2020, March 1, 2021, March 1, 2022, and March 1, 2023, respectively.

SETTLEMENT

In consideration of factors including the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violations; Respondent's prior history of violations; and any other matters as justice may require, EPA and Respondent agree that an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action is \$5,000.00. In signing this ESA, Respondent: (1) admits that Respondent is subject to the requirements of Section 312 of EPCRA; (2) admits that EPA has jurisdiction over Respondent's conduct as alleged herein; (3) neither admits nor denies the factual allegation(s) contained herein; (4) consents to the assessment of this penalty; and (5) waives any right to request a hearing to contest any fact or allegation or appeal the final order contained herein. Respondent consents to, and is bound by, the terms and conditions of this ESA.

By its signature below Respondent certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false submission to the United States Government, that: (1) the alleged violation has been corrected; and (2) Respondent is submitting payment of the civil penalty as described below.

Respondent must send a cashier's check or certified check (payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America") in the amount of \$5,000.00 in payment of the full penalty amount to the following address:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 979078
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

The payment docket number of this ESA **must be included on the check.** (The payment docket number is located at the top left corner of this ESA.)

This original ESA and **a copy of the check must be sent electronically via email to:**

James Entzminger
entzminger.james@epa.gov

Upon the issuance of the Final Order, Respondent's correction of the alleged violation, and confirmation of receipt of Respondent's payment of the civil penalty, Respondent's liability is resolved only for any federal civil penalties due as a result of the facts and violations alleged in this ESA. This ESA, the Final Order, and Respondent's full payment of the civil penalty set forth herein, do not affect the right of EPA to pursue appropriate injunctive, other equitable relief, or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. EPA also does not waive any enforcement authority for any other violation of EPCRA or any other statute. The issuance of the Final Order does not waive, extinguish, or otherwise affect Respondent's duty to comply with EPCRA, the regulations promulgated thereunder, or any other applicable law or requirement.

If the signed original ESA **with an attached copy of the check** is not returned to the **EPA Region 5 office** at the above address in correct form by Respondent within 45 days of the date of Respondent's receipt of this ESA (90 days if an extension has been granted), the

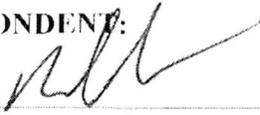
proposed ESA is withdrawn, without prejudice to EPA's ability to file an enforcement action for the violations identified in this ESA.

This ESA is binding on the Parties signing below.

Each Party to this action shall bear its own costs and fees, if any.

Each Person signing this ESA and Final Order certifies that he or she has the authority to sign for the party whom he or she represents and to bind that party to its terms.

FOR RESPONDENT:

Signature: 

Date: 3/10/2024

Name (print): MIK RYKHUS

Title (print): VP ENGINEERING

Name of facility: ASSOCIATED FINISHING INC

FOR COMPLAINANT:

DOUGLAS
BALLOTTI

Digitally signed by
DOUGLAS BALLOTTI
Date: 2024.03.15
12:49:08 -05'00'

Date: March 15, 2024

Douglas Ballotti, Director
Superfund & Emergency Management Division

Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order
In the Matter of: Associated Finishing, Inc.
Docket No. EPCRA-05-2024-0007

FINAL ORDER

This Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order, as agreed to by the parties, shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk. This Final Order concludes this proceeding pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18 and 22.31.

It is so ORDERED.

ANN COYLE
Digitally signed by ANN
COYLE
Date: 2024.03.18
14:00:39 -05'00'

Ann Coyle
Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5

Date: _____