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EPA--REGION 10

BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

In the Matter of:)	
)	
AG Link, Inc.)	Docket No. CAA-10-2010-0021
)	
Edwall, Washington)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
)	AND FINAL ORDER
Respondent.)	
)	
)	
)	

I. AUTHORITY

1.1. This Consent Agreement and Final Order (“CAFO”) is issued under the authority vested in the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) by Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act (“CAA” or “the Act”), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d). The Administrator has delegated the authority to issue the Final Order contained in Part V of this CAFO to the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 10. The Regional Administrator of EPA Region 10 has redelegated this authority to the Regional Judicial Officer.

1.2. Respondent is AG Link, Inc. (“Respondent”).

1.3. Pursuant to Section 113(d) of the CAA and in accordance with the “Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties,” 40 C.F.R. Part 22, EPA hereby issues, and Respondent hereby agrees to the issuance of, the Final Order contained in Part V of this CAFO.

1.4. The EPA Administrator and the Attorney General for the United States Department of Justice have jointly determined that this action, which includes the allegation that a CAA violation commenced more than 12 months ago, but does not seek more than \$295,000 in CAA penalties, is an appropriate administrative penalty action under Section 113(d)(1) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(1).

II. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

2.1. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b), issuance of this CAFO commences this proceeding, which will conclude when the Final Order contained in Part V of this CAFO becomes effective.

2.2. Respondent is a corporation incorporated in the State of Washington.

2.3. Respondent owns and operates facilities located at the following six locations: (1) North Railroad Ave, Almira, WA; (2) 39100 Sunset Highway Road East, Davenport, WA; (3) 16715 North Westerberg, Edwall, WA; (4) 810 West Broadway, Reardan, WA; (5) 1600 Road 6 North East, Coulee City, WA; and (6) 13978 State Route 2 East, Wilbur, WA (“facilities”).

2.4. A concise statement of the factual basis for alleging violations of the CAA, together with specific references to the provisions of the CAA and implementing regulations Respondent is alleged to have violated, appears in Part III of this CAFO.

III. ALLEGATIONS

3.1. Section 112(r) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r), and its implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 68 require the owner and operator of a stationary source at which a regulated substance is present in more than a threshold quantity to develop and implement a risk management plan (“RMP”) to detect and prevent or minimize accidental releases of such substances from the stationary source and to provide a prompt emergency response to any such releases in order to protect human health and the environment.

3.2. 40 C.F.R. § 68.150 requires that an owner or operator of a stationary source that has more than a threshold quantity of a regulated substance in a process submit an RMP to EPA no later than the latest of the following dates: (1) June 21, 1999; (2) three years after the date on which a regulated substance is first listed under § 68.130; or (3) the date on which a regulated substance is first present above a threshold quantity in a process.

3.3. 40 C.F.R. § 68.190(b) requires that the owner or operator of a stationary source to revise and update the RMP submitted under 40 C.F.R. § 68.150 at least once every five years from the date of its initial submission or most recent update.

3.4. 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “stationary source” as any buildings, structures, equipment, installations, or substance-emitting stationary activities which belong to the same industrial group, which are located on one or more contiguous properties which are under the control of the same person (or persons under common control), and from which an accidental release may occur.

3.5. 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “regulated substance” as any substance listed pursuant to Section 112(r)(3) of the CAA, and 40 C.F.R. § 68.130. Anhydrous ammonia is listed as a regulated substance in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130.

3.6. 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “threshold quantity” as the quantity specified for regulated substances pursuant to Section 112(r)(5) of the CAA. The threshold quantity of anhydrous ammonia is 10,000 pounds, as listed in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130.

3.7. 40 C.F.R. § 68.3 defines “process” as any activity involving a regulated substance including any use, storage, manufacturing, handling, or on-site movement of such substance, or combination of these activities.

3.8. Under 40 C.F.R. § 68.115, a threshold quantity of a regulated substance listed in 40 C.F.R. § 68.130 is “present at a stationary source” if the total quantity of the regulated substance contained in a process exceeds the threshold quantity.

3.9. Respondent's six facilities each has a stationery source where anhydrous ammonia has been present in a process above the 10,000-pound threshold quantity.

Therefore, Respondent was required to have an RMP for each of the facilities.

3.10. Respondent was required to have revised and updated the RMPs for each of the six facilities by June 18, 2009, five years from the most recent updates.

3.11. Respondent's failure to revise and update the RMPs for each of the six facilities by June 18, 2009, five years from the most recent updates, is a violation of Section 112(r) of the CAA and 40 C.F.R. § 68.190(b).

IV. CONSENT AGREEMENT

4.1. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations contained in Part III of this CAFO.

4.2. Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations contained in Part III of this CAFO.

4.3. Respondent expressly waives any rights to contest the allegations and to appeal the Final Order contained herein.

4.4. The provisions of this CAFO shall bind Respondent and its agents, servants, employees, successors, and assigns.

4.5. Each party shall bear its own costs in bringing or defending this action.

4.6. Pursuant to Section 113(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(e), taking into consideration the size of Respondent's business, the economic impact of the proposed penalty on Respondent's business, Respondent's full compliance history and good faith efforts to comply, Respondents's cooperation with EPA, the duration of the violation as established by any credible evidence, the economic benefit of noncompliance, and the

seriousness of the violation (in addition to such other factors as justice may require), EPA and Respondent agree that an appropriate penalty to settle this action is \$13,521.

4.7. Respondent consents to the issuance of the Final Order recited herein and to payment of the civil penalty cited in Paragraph 4.6 above.

4.8. Respondent has submitted the payment of \$13, 521 for the civil penalty cited in Paragraph 4.6 above.

4.9. Except as provided in Paragraph 4.12, below, nothing in the CAFO shall be construed as prohibiting, altering, or in any way limiting the ability of EPA to seek any other remedies or sanctions available by virtue of Respondent's violation of this agreement or of the statute and regulations upon which this agreement is based, or for Respondent's violation of any applicable provision of law.

4.10. This CAFO shall not relieve Respondent of its obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of federal, state, or local law, nor shall it be construed to be a ruling on, or determination of, any issue related to any federal, state, or local permit.

4.11. Respondent represents that it is duly authorized to execute this CAFO and that the party signing this CAFO on its behalf is duly authorized to bind Respondent to the terms of this CAFO. This CAFO may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to have the same force and effect as an original.

4.12. Compliance with all the terms and conditions of this CAFO shall result in full settlement and satisfaction of all claims for penalties alleged in Section III above.

STIPULATED AND AGREED:

FOR AG LINK, INC.

Mitch Teague
Signature

Dated: 8-25-10

Print Name: Mitch Teague

Title: GM

FOR U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

Edward J. Kowalski
Edward J. Kowalski, Director
Office of Compliance and Enforcement

Dated: 9/2/2010

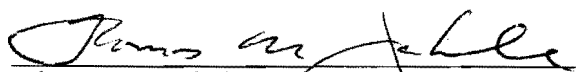
V. FINAL ORDER

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

5.2. This CAFO constitutes a settlement by EPA of all claims for civil penalties pursuant to the CAA for the violations alleged in the Consent Agreement above. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(a), nothing in this CAFO 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 CAFO does not waive, extinguish, or otherwise affect Respondent's obligations to comply with all applicable provisions of the CAA and regulations and permits issued thereunder.

5.3. This Final Order shall become effective upon filing.

SO ORDERED this 8th day of Sept., 2010



Thomas M. Jahnke
Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that the original of the attached **CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER** in **In the Matter of: AG Link, Inc., Docket No. CAA-10-2010-0021**, was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk on Sept. 8, 2010

On Sept. 8, 2010 the undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the document was served by placing it in the mailbox of:

Robert Hartman
U.S. EPA
Region 10, Suite 900
1200 Sixth Avenue, ORC-158
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 on Sept. 8, 2010, to:

Mike Dormaier
AG Link, Inc.
16715 Westerberg Street North
Edwall, Washington 99008

DATED Sept. 8 2010.

Sharon Eng
Signature
Print Name: Sharon Eng
Regional Hearing Clerk
EPA Region 10