



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:
L-8J

Certified Mail
Receipt No. 7001 0320 0006 0293 3224

Mr. Cameron S. DeLong
Registered Agent for:
Paragon Firstronic
111 Lyon Street NW, Suite 900
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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Re: In the Matter of Paragon Firstronic, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Docket No: **EPCRA-05-2008-0022**

Dear Mr. DeLong:

I have enclosed a Complaint filed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Region 5, against Paragon Firstronic under Section 325(c) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c). The Complaint alleges violations of Section 313(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(a), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.30.

As provided in the Complaint, if you wish to request a hearing, you must do so in your answer to the Complaint. Please note that if you do not file an answer with the Regional Hearing Clerk (E-13J), U.S. EPA, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604 within 30 days of your receipt of this Complaint, the Presiding Officer may issue a default order and the proposed civil penalty will become due 30 days later.

In addition, whether or not you request a hearing, you may request an informal settlement conference by contacting Maynard Shaw at (312)353-5867. If you have any legal questions, please contact Harriet Croke, Assistant Regional Counsel at (312) 353-4789.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Guerriero
Director
Land and Chemicals Division

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Ruth Borgelt
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

In the Matter of:) **Docket No. EPCRA-05-2008-0022**
)
Paragon Firstronic) **Proceeding to Assess a Civil Penalty**
Grand Rapids, Michigan) **Under Section 325(c) of the**
) **Emergency Planning Right-to-Know Act**
Respondent.) **of 1986, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c)**

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Complaint

1. This is an administrative action to assess a civil penalty under Section 325(c) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c).
2. Complainant is, by lawful delegation, the Director of the Land and Chemicals Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Region 5.
3. Respondent is Paragon Firstronic a corporation doing business in the State of Michigan.

Statutory and Regulatory Background

4. The U.S. EPA promulgated the Toxic Chemical Release Reporting Community Right-to-Know Rule at 40 C.F.R. Part 372 pursuant to Sections 313 and 328 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11023 and 11048.
5. Section 313(b) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(b), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.22 provide that the requirements of Section 313 and Part 372 apply to owners and operators of any facility that has 10 or more full-time employees, that is in a Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes 20 through 39 and that manufactures, imports, processes, or otherwise uses a toxic chemical identified at Section 313(c) and listed at 40 C.F.R. § 372.65 in an amount that exceeds

the threshold for reporting, as set forth in Section 313(f) and in 40 C.F.R. §§ 372.25, 372.27 and 372.28.

6. Section 313(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(a), and 40 C.F.R. § 372.30 require the owner or operator of a facility subject to the requirements of Section 313 and Part 372 to complete and submit to the Administrator of U.S. EPA and to the state in which the facility is located, no later than July 1, 1988 and each July 1 thereafter, a chemical release form published pursuant to Section 313(g) for each toxic chemical listed under Section 313(c) that was manufactured, processed, or otherwise used at the facility during the preceding calendar year in a quantity exceeding the threshold established by Section 313(f).

7. The U.S. EPA published the Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Reporting Form, U.S. EPA Form 9350-1 (1-88) (Form R) at 40 C.F.R. § 372.85 pursuant to Section 313(g) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(g).

8. All persons required to report pursuant to Section 313(b) must use Form R according to Section 313(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(a).

9. The Administrator of U.S. EPA may prescribe regulations as may be necessary to carry out EPCRA. 42 U.S.C. § 11048.

10. Section 325(c)(1) and (3) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c)(1) and (3), authorizes the Administrator of U.S. EPA to assess a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day for each violation of Section 313 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023. The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. § 2461 note (1990), as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701 note (1996), requires federal agencies to issue regulations adjusting for inflation the maximum civil penalties that can be imposed pursuant to each agency's statutes. The U.S. EPA may assess a civil penalty of up to \$27,500 per day for

each violation of Section 313 that occurred from January 31, 1997 through March 15, 2004, and may assess a civil penalty of up to \$32,500 per day for each violation of Section 313 that occurred after March 15, 2004, pursuant to Section 325(c)(1) and (3) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c)(1) and (3), and 40 C.F.R. Part 19.

General Allegations

11. Respondent is a “person” as defined by Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7).

12. Respondent is a corporation “incorporated” or “doing business” in the State of Michigan.

13. Respondent owned or operated a facility located at 1655 Michigan Street NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan during calendar year 2004.

14. Respondent’s facility consists of buildings, equipment and structures and other stationary items which are located on a single site or on contiguous or adjacent sites and which are owned by the same person, entity, or corporation.

15. During calendar year 2004, Respondent employed at its facility the equivalent of at least 10 employees with total paid hours equal to or more than 20,000 hours per calendar year.

16. Respondent’s facility is covered by SIC Code 3679.

17. During calendar year 2004, Respondent “processed,” as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 372.3, toxic chemicals identified at Section 313(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(c), and listed at 40 C.F.R. § 372.65, in quantities exceeding the thresholds for reporting set forth at Section 313(f) and at 40 C.F.R. § 372.28.

18. On April 6, 2006, a representative of the U.S. EPA inspected Respondent’s facility.

Count I

19. Complainant incorporates paragraphs 1 through 18 of this Complaint as if set forth in this paragraph.

20. The reporting threshold for lead that is manufactured (including imported), processed, or otherwise used during the 2004 calendar year is 100 pounds. 42 U.S.C. § 11023(f) and 40 C.F.R. 372.28.

21. During the 2004 calendar year, Respondent's facility processed 1,110 pounds of lead, CAS No. 7439-92-1.

22. Lead is a chemical identified at Section 313(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023(c), and listed at 40 C.F.R. § 371.65.

23. Section 313 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023, required Respondent to submit to the Administrator of U.S. EPA and to Michigan a Form R for lead for the 2004 calendar year on or before July 1, 2005.

24. Respondent failed to submit to the Administrator of U.S. EPA and to Michigan a Form R for lead for the 2004 calendar year on or before July 1, 2005.

25. At the time of the inspection, Respondent had not submitted to the Administrator of U.S. EPA and to Michigan a Form R for lead for the 2004 calendar year.

26. To date, Respondent has not submitted to the Administrator of U.S. EPA and to Michigan a Form R for lead for the 2004 calendar year.

27. Respondent's failure to submit timely to the Administrator of U.S. EPA and to Michigan a Form R for lead for the 2004 calendar year violated Section 313 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11023, and 40 C.F.R. § 372.30.

Proposed Penalty

28. Complainant proposes that the Administrator assess a civil penalty against Respondent for the EPCRA violations alleged in this Complaint as follows:

Count I

Failure to submit timely a Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Reporting Form for lead for calendar year 2004:

CAS No. 7439-92-1	\$32,500
Total Proposed Civil Penalty	\$32,500

Complainant has determined the proposed civil penalty according to Section 325(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045(c). In determining the proposed penalty amount, Complainant considered the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violations, and with respect to the Respondent, its ability to pay, prior history of violations, economic benefit or savings resulting from the violations, and any other matters as justice may require. Complainant also considered U.S. EPA's *Enforcement Response Policy for Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (1986) and Section 6607 of the Pollution Prevention Act (1990) (amended)* (April 12, 2001), a copy of which is enclosed with this Complaint.

Rules Governing this Proceeding

The *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits* (the Consolidated Rules), 40 C.F.R. Part 22, govern this proceeding to assess a civil penalty. Enclosed with the Complaint served on Respondent is a copy of the Consolidated Rules.

Filing and Service of Documents

Respondent must file with the U.S. EPA Regional Hearing Clerk the original and one copy of each document Respondent intends as part of the record in this proceeding. The Regional Hearing Clerk's address is:

Regional Hearing Clerk (E-13J)
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Respondent must serve a copy of each document filed in this proceeding on each party pursuant to Section 22.5 of the Consolidated Rules. Complainant has authorized Harriet Croke, Assistant Regional Counsel, to receive any answer and subsequent legal documents that Respondent serves in this proceeding. You may telephone Ms. Croke at (312) 353-4789. Her address is:

Harriet Croke (C-14J)
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Terms of Payment

Respondent may resolve this proceeding at any time by paying the proposed penalty by sending a certified or cashier's check payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America," to:

U.S. EPA
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979077
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

Respondent must include the case name, docket number and the billing document number on the check and in the letter transmitting the check. Respondent must simultaneously send copies of

the check and transmittal letter to the Regional Hearing Clerk and Ms. Croke at the addresses given above, and to:

Maynard Shaw (LC-8J)
Pesticides and Toxics Compliance Section
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Answer and Opportunity to Request a Hearing

If Respondent contests any material fact upon which the Complaint is based or the appropriateness of any penalty amount, or contends that it is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, Respondent may request a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. To request a hearing, Respondent must file a written Answer within 30 days of receiving this Complaint and must include in that written Answer a request for a hearing. Any hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Consolidated Rules.

In counting the 30-day period, the date of receipt is not counted, but Saturdays, Sundays, and federal legal holidays are counted. If the 30-day time period expires on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal legal holiday, the time period extends to the next business day.

To file an Answer, Respondent must file the original written Answer and one copy with the Regional Hearing Clerk at the address specified above.

Respondent's written Answer must clearly and directly admit, deny, or explain each of the factual allegations in the Complaint; or must state clearly that Respondent has no knowledge of a particular factual allegation. Where Respondent states that it has no knowledge of a particular factual allegation, the allegation is deemed denied. Respondent's failure to admit, deny, or explain any material factual allegation in the Complaint constitutes an admission of the allegation.

Respondent's answer must also state:

- a. The circumstances or arguments which Respondent alleges constitute grounds of defense;
- b. The facts that Respondent disputes;
- c. The basis for opposing the proposed penalty; and
- d. Whether Respondent requests a hearing.

If Respondent does not file a written Answer within 30 calendar days after receiving this Complaint, the Presiding Officer may issue a default order, after motion, under Section 22.17 of the Consolidated Rules. Default by Respondent constitutes an admission of all factual allegations in the Complaint and a waiver of the right to contest the factual allegations. Respondent must pay any penalty assessed in a default order, without further proceedings, 30 days after the order becomes the final order of the Administrator of U.S. EPA under Section 22.27(c) of the Consolidated Rules.

Settlement Conference

Whether or not Respondent requests a hearing, Respondent may request an informal conference to discuss the facts alleged in the Complaint and to discuss settlement. To request an informal settlement conference, Respondent may contact Ms. Croke at (312) 353-4789.

Respondent's request for an informal settlement conference will not extend the 30-day period for filing a written Answer to this Complaint. Respondent may simultaneously pursue both an informal settlement conference and the adjudicatory hearing process. Complainant encourages all parties against whom it proposes to assess a civil penalty to pursue settlement through an informal conference. Complainant, however, will not reduce the penalty simply because the parties hold an informal settlement conference.

Continuing Obligation to Comply

Respondent's payment of the civil penalty will not satisfy Respondent's legal obligation to file a complete and accurate Form R for each year that Respondent manufactured, processed, or otherwise used a toxic chemical identified in this Complaint in a quantity exceeding the threshold for reporting. Whether Respondent chooses to pay the proposed penalty, request a hearing, or settle this case, Respondent is still legally required to submit complete and accurate Form Rs to both:

EPCRA Reporting Center
P.O. Box 1513
Lanham, MD 20703 1513
Attn: Toxic Chemical Release Inventory

Robert Jackson
State Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Environmental Science and Services Division
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Continued failure to file a Form R may subject Respondent to additional civil penalties of up to \$32,500 per day of violation.

8/4/08
Date


Margaret M. Guerriero
Director
Land and Chemicals Division

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that the original and one copy of this Complaint involving Paragon Firstronic was filed on August 6, 2008, with the Regional Hearing Clerk (E-13J), U.S. EPA, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, and that a true correct copy was sent by Certified Mail, Receipt No. 7001 0320 0006 0293 3224, along with a copy each of the "Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. Part 22," and "Section 1018 Disclosure Rule Enforcement Response Policy" to:

Mr. Cameron S. Delong
Registered Agent for:
Paragon Firstronic
111 Lyon Street NW, Suite 900
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

with intra-Agency copies to:

Marcy Toney, Regional Judicial Officer, ORC/C-14J
Harriet Croke, Counsel for Complainant/C-14J
Eric Volck, Cincinnati Finance/MWD


Frederick Brown, PTCS (LC-8J)
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

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