



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

APR 02 2014

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Michael Thrasher
Corporate Environmental Health
& Safety Manager
Gardner-Gibson, Inc.
4161 East 7th Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33605

Re: Gardner-Gibson, Inc.
Ratified Consent Agreement and Final Order
Docket No. FIFRA-04-2014-3001(b)

Dear Mr. Thrasher:

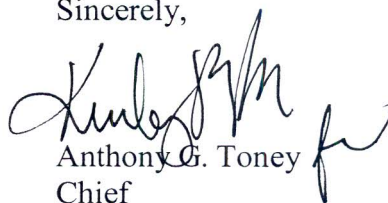
Enclosed is a copy of the ratified Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) in the above-referenced matter. The original CAFO has been filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk and served on the parties as directed in Section 22.6 of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

Please refer to Section V of the CAFO for penalty information and payment requirements. To ensure proper processing, the respondent name and docket number for this case, identified above and in the CAFO, should be noted on any cashier's or certified check submitted in payment of the penalty.

Also enclosed is a copy of a document entitled "Notice of Securities and Exchange Commission Registrants' Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings." This document puts you on notice of your potential duty to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission any environmental enforcement actions taken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Where used in the document "SEC" refers to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Should you have any questions about this matter or your compliance status in the future, please contact Ms. Patricia Livingston of the EPA Region 4 staff at (404) 562-9171.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony G. Toney", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Anthony G. Toney
Chief
Pesticides and Toxic
Substances Branch

Enclosures

cc: Florida Department of Agriculture &
Consumer Services
File No.110-038-3107

**UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

In the Matter of:)
)
Gardner-Gibson, Inc.)
)
)
Respondent.)
_____)

Docket No.: FIFRA-04-2014-3001(b)

RECEIVED
EPA REGION IV
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HEARING CLERK

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

I. Nature of the Action

1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a) (FIFRA), and pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), 40 C.F.R. Part 22. Complainant is the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4. Respondent is Gardner-Gibson, Inc.
2. The authority to take action under Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a), is vested in the Administrator of EPA. The Administrator of EPA has delegated this authority under FIFRA to EPA Region 4 by EPA Delegation 5-14, dated May 11, 1994. The Regional Administrator, Region 4, has redelegated this authority to the Director, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, by EPA Region 4 Delegation 5-14, dated September 7, 2005. Pursuant to that Delegation, the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division has the authority to commence an enforcement action as

the Complainant in this matter, and has the authority to sign Consent Agreements memorializing settlements between EPA and Respondents.

3. Complainant and Respondent have conferred for the purpose of settlement pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18 and desire to resolve this matter and settle the allegations described herein without a formal hearing. Therefore, without the taking of any evidence or testimony, the making of any argument, or the adjudication of any issue in this matter, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b), this Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) will simultaneously commence and conclude this matter.

II. Preliminary Statements

4. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.5(c)(4) the following individual is authorized to receive service for the EPA in this proceeding:

Patricia Livingston
Pesticides Section
U.S. EPA - Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960
(404) 562-9171.

5. Respondent is Gardner-Gibson, Inc., a manufacturer and distributor of paint and coatings products with a facility located at 4161 East 7th Avenue, Tampa, Florida.
6. Respondent is a "person" as defined by Section 2(s) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(s), and as such is subject to FIFRA and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

III. Specific Allegations

7. On or about March 4, 2010, an authorized representative of the EPA conducted an inspection at Respondent's facility located at 4161 East 7th Avenue, Tampa, Florida.
8. The inspection revealed that Respondent manufactures and sells the product Fence-Post Black Beauty Asphalt Fence Paint.

9. At the time of the inspection the label on the Fence-Post Black Beauty Asphalt Fence Paint product observed by the inspector bore the claims “Termite Repellent” and “Black Beauty helps prevent rot, decay, and termite infestation on wooden surfaces.”
10. Because the label on the Fence-Post Black Beauty Asphalt Fence Paint made pesticidal claims, this product was a pesticide as defined in Section 2(u) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(u), which includes any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
11. A pest is defined in Section 2(t) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(t), as any insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, weed, or any other form of terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life or virus, bacteria, or other micro-organism (except viruses, bacteria, or other microorganisms on or in living man or other living animals) which the Administrator declares to be a pest under Section 25(c)(1) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136w(c)(1).
12. 40 C.F.R § 152.15(c) states that a substance is intended for a pesticidal purpose, and therefore is a pesticide subject to registration, if the person who distributes or sells the substance claims, states or implies (by labeling or otherwise) that the substance can or should be used as a pesticide.
13. Because the label for Fence-Post Black Beauty Asphalt Fence Paint stated that the product was intended to be used as a termiticide, it made pesticidal claims, and therefore, it is considered to be a pesticide.
14. At all times relevant, Respondent “distributed or sold” pesticides. The term “to distribute or sell” as defined by Section 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg), includes to distribute, sell, offer for sale, hold for distribution, hold for sale, hold for shipment, ship, deliver for shipment, or release for shipment.

15. Pesticides that are sold and distributed in the United States are required to be registered with the EPA, pursuant to Section 3 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136a.
16. At the time of the inspection, Fence-Post Black Beauty Asphalt Fence Paint was not registered as a pesticide with the EPA.
17. Under Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A), it is unlawful for any person to distribute or sell to any person any pesticide that is not registered under Section 3 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136a.
18. Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A), on at least fourteen occasions and is therefore subject to the assessment of civil penalties under Section 14 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l.
19. Establishments that produce pesticides are required to be registered with the Administrator of the EPA, pursuant to Section 7(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136e.
20. Pursuant to Section 2(w) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(w), a producer is defined as “the person who manufactures (sic), prepares, compounds, propagates, or processes any pesticide or device or active ingredient used in producing a pesticide.”
21. At the time of the aforementioned inspection, Respondent produced the pesticide Fence-Post Black Beauty Asphalt Fence Paint in an establishment that was not registered with the Administrator of the EPA as a pesticide-producing establishment during the relevant period between August 20, 2009, through February 9, 2010.
22. Under Section 12(a)(2)(L) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(2)(L), it is unlawful for any producer to violate the provisions of Section 7 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136e.

23. Because Respondent produced pesticides in an unregistered establishment, Respondent violated Section 12(a)(2)(L) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(2)(L) and is, therefore, subject to the assessment of a civil penalty under Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a).
24. Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a), in conjunction with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, authorizes the assessment of a civil penalty.
25. Section 14(a)(4) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a)(4), requires the EPA to consider the appropriateness of the assessed penalty to the size of business of the Respondent, the effect on Respondent's ability to continue in business, and the gravity of the violation.
26. After consideration of the factors set forth in Section 14(a)(4) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a)(4), the EPA proposes to assess a total civil penalty of **TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000)** against the Respondent for the above-described violations. Civil penalties under Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a), may be assessed by Administrative Order.

IV. Consent Agreement

27. For the purposes of this CAFO, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth above and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set forth above.
28. Respondent waives its right to a hearing on the allegations contained herein and its right to appeal the proposed Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement.
29. Respondent consents to the assessment of the penalty proposed by the EPA and agrees to pay the civil penalty as set forth in this CAFO.
30. Respondent certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of FIFRA.

31. Compliance with this CAFO shall resolve the allegations of the violations contained herein. This CAFO shall not otherwise affect any liability of Respondent to the United States. Other than as expressed herein, neither the EPA nor Complainant waives any right to bring an enforcement action against Respondent for violation of any federal or state statute, regulation or permit, to initiate an action for imminent and substantial endangerment, or to pursue criminal enforcement.
32. Complainant and Respondent agree to settle this matter by their execution of this CAFO. The parties agree that the settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that this CAFO is consistent with the applicable requirements of FIFRA.

V. Final Order

33. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of **TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000)** which shall be paid within 30 days from the effective date of this CAFO.
34. Respondent shall remit the penalty by either a cashier's or certified check made payable to the "Treasurer, United State of America," and shall send the penalty payment by one of the methods below.

Address for payment submittal using the United States Postal Service (excluding USPS overnight mail):

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

Address for payments by USPS overnight mail or other delivery service (e.g.,

Federal Express, United Parcel Service, DHL, etc.):

U.S. Bank
Government Lockbox 979077

US EPA Fines & Penalties
1005 Convention Plaza
Mail Station SL-MO-C2-GL
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
Contact Number: (314) 425-1818

The check shall reference on its face the name of the Respondent and Docket Number of this CAFO.

35. At the time of payment, Respondent shall send a separate copy of the check and a written statement that the payment is being made in accordance with this CAFO, to the following persons at the following addresses:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA – Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Patricia Livingston
Pesticides Section
U.S. EPA – Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960; and

Saundi Wilson
Office of Environmental Accountability
U.S. EPA – Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960.

36. For the purposes of state and federal income taxation, Respondent shall not be entitled, and agrees not to attempt, to claim a deduction for any civil penalty payment made pursuant to this CAFO. Any attempt by Respondent to deduct any such payments shall constitute a violation of this CAFO.
37. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, the EPA is entitled to assess interest and penalties on debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the cost of processing and handling a delinquent claim. Interest will therefore begin to accrue on the civil penalty from the

debts. In addition, a late payment penalty charge shall be applied on any principal amount not paid within 90 days of the due date.

38. Complainant and Respondent shall bear their own costs and attorney fees in this matter.
39. This CAFO shall be binding upon the Respondent, its successors and assigns. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this CAFO certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into this CAFO and hereby legally binds that party to it.

The remainder of this page intentionally left blank.

VI. Effective Date

40. The effective date of this CAFO shall be the date on which the CAFO is filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

Respondent: Gardner-Gibson, Inc.
Docket No.: FIFRA-04-2014-3001(b)

By: Michael Thrasher (Signature) Date: 3/24/14
Name: Michael Thrasher (Typed or Printed)
Title: Corp. Environmental Manager (Typed or Printed)

Complainant: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By: R. Scott Deas Date: 3-28-14
^{for} Beverly H. Banister, Director
Air, Pesticides and Toxics
Management Division

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED this 1st day of April 2014.

Susan B. Schub
Susan B. Schub
Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the date set out below, I filed the original and one copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order and served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order In the Matter Gardner-Gibson, Inc., Docket Number: FIFRA-04-2014-3001(b), to the addressees listed below:

Mr. Michael Thrasher
Corporate Environmental Health
& Safety Manager
Gardner-Gibson, Inc.
4161 East 7th Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33605

(via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested)

Patricia Livingston
Pesticides Section
U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(via EPA's internal mail)

Robert Caplan
Associate Regional Counsel
Office of Environmental Accountability
U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(via EPA's internal mail)

Date: _____

4-2-14



Patricia A. Bullock, Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 562-9511