



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

SEP 13 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Robert Hicklin  
Owner  
Robert Hicklin Grading, Inc.  
124 Ellis Road  
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214

Re: Robert Hicklin Grading, Inc.  
Consent Agreement and Final Order  
Docket No. CAA-04-2012-1523(b)

Dear Mr. Hicklin:

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 Mr. Mark Bean of the EPA Region 4 staff at (404) 562-9000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeaneanne M. Gettle".

Jeaneanne M. Gettle  
Chief  
Pesticides and Toxic  
Substances Branch

Enclosures

UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

RECEIVED  
EPA REGION IV  
2012 SEP 13 PM 1:59  
HEARING CLERK

In the Matter of: )  
 )  
Robert Hicklin Grading, Inc. )  
 )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Docket No.: CAA-04-2012-152 (b)

**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER**

**I. Nature of the Action**

1. This is a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), 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, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4. Respondent is Robert Hicklin Grading, Inc. ("Respondent"). The authority to take action under Section 113(d) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), is vested in the Administrator of the EPA. The Administrator of the EPA has delegated this authority under the CAA to the Regional Administrators by EPA Delegation 7-6-A, last updated on August 4, 1994. The Regional Administrator, Region 4, has redelegated this authority to the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, by EPA Region 4 Delegation 7-6-A. Pursuant to the aforementioned Delegations, the Director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management

Division has the authority to commence an enforcement action as the Complainant in this matter (“EPA” or “Complainant”).

2. 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**

3. In December 1977, pursuant to Section 112(l) of the CAA, the EPA delegated the Administrator’s authorities and responsibilities to implement and enforce emission standards and prevention requirements for asbestos under Section 112 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412, to the State of Georgia. Pursuant to Georgia Department of Natural Resources Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1-.02(9)(b)(7), the State has incorporated and adopted the EPA’s rules for asbestos located at 40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart M, promulgated pursuant to Section 112 of the CAA, by reference. As indicated in Section 112(l)(7) of the CAA, nothing in Section 112(l) of the CAA shall prohibit the Administrator from enforcing any applicable emission standard or requirement under Section 112 of the CAA.
4. Asbestos is a “hazardous air pollutant” as that term is defined in Section 112(a) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(a), and is the subject of regulations codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart M, “National Emission Standard for Asbestos,” promulgated pursuant to Section 112 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412.

5. A “person” is defined in Section 302 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7602 as an individual, corporation, partnership, association, state, municipality, political subdivision of a state and any agency, department or instrumentality of the United States and any officer, agent or employee thereof.
6. A “facility” is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 61.141, in part, as any institutional, commercial, public, industrial or residential structure, installation or building (including any structure, installation or building containing condominiums or individual dwelling units operated as a residential cooperative, but excluding residential buildings having four or fewer dwelling units); any ship; and any active or inactive waste disposal site.
7. “Demolition” is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 61.141 as the wrecking or taking out of any load-supporting structural member of a facility together with any related handling operations or the intentional burning of any facility.
8. “Renovation” is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 61.141 as altering a facility or one or more facility components in any way, including the stripping or removal of regulated asbestos-containing material from a facility component.
9. An “owner or operator of a demolition or renovation activity” is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 61.141 as any person who owns, leases, operates, controls or supervises the facility being demolished or renovated or any person who owns, leases, operates, controls or supervises the demolition or renovation operation or both.
10. An “installation” is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 61.141 as any building or structure or any group of buildings or structures at a single demolition or renovation site that are under the control of the same owner or operator (or owner or operator under common control).

11. Since the EPA has delegated the Administrator's authorities and responsibilities for asbestos under Section 112 of the CAA to the State of Georgia, owners or operators of demolition or renovation activity occurring in the State must notify the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Lead-based Paint and Asbestos Program (GA EPD) of any such activity applicable pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(b).
12. Any person who violates Section 112 of the CAA may be assessed a penalty of up to \$25,000 for each such violation, in accordance with Section 113(d) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d). The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 requires the EPA to review and adjust penalties, as necessary, for inflation at least once every four years. Pursuant to the Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation Rule, 40 C.F.R. Part 19, the current revised maximum penalty for each violation occurring after January 12, 2009, is \$37,500. Each day a violation continues may constitute a separate violation.
13. EPA determined Respondent's compliance through a review of a demolition notice submitted to the GA EPD.

### **III. Specific Allegations**

14. Respondent is a corporation registered to operate in the State of Georgia. Therefore, Respondent is a "person" as defined in Section 302 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7602.
15. "Demolition" occurred on or about February 1, 2012, at a "facility" located at 350 Rock Eagle Road in Eatonton, Georgia (the Facility).
16. The Facility was UGA Rock Eagle 4-H Center, a group of five rental cabins. Therefore, the Facility met the definition of a "facility" by being a commercial installation.

17. Respondent operated the demolition operation at the Facility. Therefore, Respondent is an “owner or operator of a renovation or demolition activity.”
18. Respondent submitted a written notice of the intent to demolish the Facility (the Notice), dated January 13, 2012, to the GA EPD. The Notice identified the demolition start date as January 23, 2012.
19. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(b)(3)(iv)(A), Respondent was required to submit an updated notification to the GA EPD to correctly identify February 1, 2012, as the new demolition start date.
20. Respondent violated Section 112 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412, and 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(b)(3)(iv)(A) by failing to notify GA EPD by telephone and by failing to provide written notification of the new start date as soon as possible before, and no later than the original start date when the demolition operation was to begin after the date contained in the Notice.

#### **IV. Consent Agreement**

21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. Respondent certifies that as of the date of its execution of this CAFO, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of the National Emission Standard for Asbestos, 40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart M.

25. 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.
26. 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 the CAA.
27. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.5(c)(4), the following individual is authorized to receive service for the EPA in this proceeding:

Mark Bean  
Chemical Products and Asbestos Section  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960  
(404) 562-9000.

#### **V. Final Order**

28. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of **THREE HUNDRED NINETY-SIX DOLLARS (\$396)** which shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date.
29. Respondent shall remit the penalty payment by either a cashier's or certified check made payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America." **The Respondent shall note on the face of the check the Respondent's name and the Docket Number associated with this CAFO.** The penalty payment shall be sent by one of the methods below.

United States Postal Service using the following address:

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
Cincinnati Finance Center  
P.O. Box 979077  
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000.

Other delivery service (e.g., Federal Express, United Parcel Service, DHL, etc.)  
using the following address:

U.S. Bank  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
Contact Person: Natalie Pearson - (314) 418-4087.

30. 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;

Mark Bean  
Chemical Products and Asbestos 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.

31. 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.



**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 of Robert Hicklin Grading, Inc., Docket Number: CAA-04-2012-1523(b), to the addressees listed below.

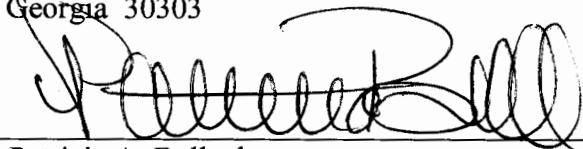
Mr. Robert Hicklin (via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested)  
Owner  
Robert Hicklin Grading, Inc.  
124 Ellis Road  
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214

Mr. Mark Bean (via EPA's internal mail)  
Chemical Products and Asbestos Section  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Ms. Marlene Tucker (via EPA's internal mail)  
Office of Environmental Accountability  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. Robert Caplan (via EPA's internal mail)  
Office of Environmental Accountability  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

By:



Patricia A. Bullock  
Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
61 Forsyth St., S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Date:

9-13-12

(404) 562-9511