

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY****REGION 4**

In the Matter of:

**Socar Chemical Company, Inc.**

Respondent.

Docket No. FIFRA-04-2023-0712(b)

**CONSENT AGREEMENT****I. NATURE OF ACTION**

1. This is an administrative penalty assessment proceeding brought under Section 14(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA or the Act), as amended, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a), and Sections 22.13(b) and 22.18 of the *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits* (Consolidated Rules), as codified at Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 22.
2. This Consent Agreement and the attached Final Order shall collectively be referred to as the CAFO.
3. Having found that settlement is consistent with the provisions of FIFRA and applicable regulations, the Parties have agreed to settle this action pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18 and consent to the entry of this CAFO without adjudication of any issues of law or fact herein.

**II. PARTIES**

4. Complainant is the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, who has been delegated the authority on behalf of the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to enter into this CAFO pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 22 and Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a).
5. Respondent is Socar Chemical Company, Inc. (Socar), a corporation doing business in the State of South Carolina. This proceeding pertains to a facility formerly operated by Socar, located at 2609 Rutherford Road, Greenville, South Carolina 29609.

### III. GOVERNING LAW

6. Pursuant to 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.
7. The term “pest” is defined in Section 2(t) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(t), to mean 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 micro-organisms 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).
8. The term “pesticide” is defined in Section 2(u) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(u), to mean, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
9. The term “to distribute or sell” is defined in Section 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg), to mean to distribute, sell, offer for sale, hold for distribution, hold for sale, hold for shipment, ship, deliver for shipment, or to release for shipment, or receive and (having so received) deliver or offer to deliver.
10. Pursuant to Section 3 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136a, pesticides that are sold or distributed in the United States are required to be registered with the EPA.
11. The term “label” is defined in Section 2(p) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(p), to mean the written, printed, or graphic matter on, or attached to, the pesticide or device or any of its containers or wrappers.
12. The term “labeling” is defined in Section 2(p) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(p), to mean all labels and all other written, printed, or graphic matter (a) accompanying the pesticide or device at any time; or (b) to which reference is made on the label or in literature accompanying the pesticide or device.
13. The term “person” is defined in Section 2(s) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(s), to mean any individual, partnership, association, corporation, or any organized group of persons whether incorporated or not.
14. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 152.15, no person may distribute or sell any pesticide product that is not registered under the Act, except as provided in 40 C.F.R. §§ 152.20, 152.25, and 152.30. A pesticide is any substance (or mixture of substances) intended for a pesticidal purpose, i.e., use for the purpose of preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest or use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant. A substance is considered to be intended for a pesticidal purpose, and thus to be a pesticide requiring registration, if:
  - (a) 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;
    1. that the substance (either by itself or in combination with any other substance) can or should be used as a pesticide; or
    2. that the substance consists of or contains an active ingredient and that it can be used to manufacture a pesticide; or

- (b) the substance consists of or contains one or more active ingredients and has no significant commercially valuable use as distributed or sold other than
    - 1. use for pesticidal purpose (by itself or in combination with any other substance);
    - 2. use for manufacture of a pesticide; or
  - (c) the person who distributes or sells the substance has actual or constructive knowledge that the substance will be used, or is intended to be used, for a pesticidal purpose.
15. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 152.132(a)-(d), the registrant may distribute or sell his registered product under another person's name and address instead of (or in addition to) his own. Such distribution and sale is termed "supplemental distribution" and the product is referred to as a "distributor product." The distributor is considered an agent of the registrant for all intents and purposes under the Act and both the registrant and the distributor may be held liable for violations pertaining to the distributor product. Supplemental distribution is permitted upon notification to the Agency if all the following conditions are met:
- (a) The registrant has submitted to the Agency for each distributor product a statement signed by both the registrant and the distributor listing the names and addresses of the registrant and the distributor, the distributor's company number, the additional brand name(s) to be used, and the registration number of the registered product.
  - (b) The distributor product is produced, packaged, and labeled in a registered establishment operated by the same producer (or under contract in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 152.30) who produces, packages, and labels the registered product.
  - (c) The distributor product is not repackaged (remains in the producer's unopened container).
  - (d) The label of the distributor product is the same as that of the registered product, except that:
    - 1. The product name of the distributor product may be different (but may not be misleading);
    - 2. The name and address of the distributor may appear instead of that of the registrant;
    - 3. The registration number of the registered product must be followed by a dash, followed by the distributor's company number (obtainable from the Agency upon request);
    - 4. The establishment number must be that of the final establishment at which the product was produced; and
    - 5. Specific claims may be deleted, provided that no other changes are necessary.
16. Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a), in conjunction with 40 C.F.R. Part 19, Adjustments of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation, authorizes the assessment of a civil penalty for violations of the Act.

#### IV. FINDINGS OF FACTS

17. Respondent is a “person” as defined in Section 2(s) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(s), and as such is subject to FIFRA and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
18. On or about January 18, 2022, an authorized representative of the EPA conducted a routine pesticide establishment inspection at Socar’s facility in Greenville, South Carolina (EPA Est. No. 48539-SC-1). During the inspection, records documenting the sale and distribution of a product called “Hand Sanitizer 10” were collected along with a copy of the label for “Hand Sanitizer 10.”
19. The label for “Hand Sanitizer 10” included a purported EPA Registration Number 1839-86-48539, indicating the product was being sold as a distributor product. However, a review of the EPA’s internal databases revealed that the EPA has no record of having received a supplemental distributor statement from the registrant, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 152.132, signed by the registrant and Socar indicating that the registrant agreed to allow Socar to distribute the registered product “BTC 2125M 10% Solution” (EPA Registration No. 1839-86) under another product name, and using the EPA registration number followed by a dash and Socar’s company number.
20. A comparison of a copy of the label affixed to “Hand Sanitizer 10” to the EPA-approved master label for the primary registrant’s product “BTC 2125M 10% Solution” revealed that the “Hand Sanitizer 10” label contained multiple differences from the “BTC 2125 M 10% Solution” label including, but not limited to: (1) adding the claims “Can be sprayed on hard surfaces to disinfect” and “The active ingredients of this product will help prevent bacterial growth after it dries;” (2) changing the ingredient statement; (3) removing the First Aid, Precautionary Statements, Environmental Hazards, and Storage and Disposal sections; (4) changing the signal word from DANGER to CAUTION; and (5) including different directions for use which allow for use of the products on hands, which was not an approved use for the registered pesticide.
21. Since no supplemental distribution statement signed by both the registrant of “BTC 2125M 10% Solution” and Socar was submitted to the EPA, and the label for “Hand Sanitizer 10” did not include all required label information, the product did not meet the requirements set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 152.132(a)-(d) for the product to qualify as a valid distributor product. Therefore, “Hand Sanitizer 10” was sold and distributed by Socar as an unregistered pesticide.
22. On or around December 5, 2022, the EPA conducted a review of the website [www.socarchemical.com](http://www.socarchemical.com), which revealed a product called “Eliminator” under the website’s “Disinfectants and Sanitizers” section. “Eliminator” was being marketed and labeled with the following claims:
  - (a) *“Eliminator is an industrial organic odor eliminator and deodorant. State-of-the-art chemical technology gives this product the ability to eliminate odors from decomposition, mold, mildew, fire & smoke.”*
  - (b) *“Effective in Eliminating Organic Odors produced from: Influenze A2-Asian, Virus Herpes Simplex, Type 2 Virus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa PRD-10, Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Salmonella schottmuelleri, Salmonella choleraesuis, Streptococcus salivarius, Brevibacterium ammoniagenes, Streptococcus faecalis, Shigella dysenteriae, Enterobacter aerogenes, Staphylococcus aureus, Mold, Mildew, Pathogenic fungus.”*

23. Through communications with the company following a Show Cause Letter issued February 21, 2023, the EPA determined that Socar sold and distributed the “Eliminator” product on at least one occasion.
24. Based on claims made for the “Eliminator” product under the website’s “Disinfectants and Sanitizers” section, and on the product label, the EPA alleges that the product was intended for use as a pesticide thereby requiring registration under Section 3 of FIFRA pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 152.15(a). At the time that Respondent sold the “Eliminator” product, it was not registered as a pesticide.
25. The alleged sale, distribution, and offer for sale of the unregistered pesticides “Hand Sanitizer 10” and “Eliminator” by Socar are unlawful acts in violation of Section 3 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136a, and Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A).

#### **V. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS**

26. The EPA alleges that Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A), by selling and distributing unregistered pesticides as set forth in Section IV above.

#### **VI. STIPULATIONS**

27. The issuance of this CAFO simultaneously commences and concludes this proceeding. 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b).
28. For the purpose of this proceeding, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2), Respondent:
  - (a) admits that the EPA has jurisdiction over the subject matter alleged in this CAFO;
  - (b) neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set forth in Section IV (Findings of Facts) of this CAFO;
  - (c) consents to the assessment of a civil penalty as stated below;
  - (d) consents to the conditions specified in this CAFO;
  - (e) waives any right to contest the alleged violations of law set forth in Section V (Alleged Violations) of this CAFO; and
  - (f) waives its rights to appeal the Final Order accompanying this CAFO.
29. For the purpose of this proceeding, Respondent:
  - (a) agrees that this CAFO states a claim upon which relief may be granted against Respondent;
  - (b) acknowledges that this CAFO constitutes an enforcement action for purposes of considering Respondent’s compliance history in any subsequent enforcement actions;
  - (c) waives any right it may possess at law or in equity to challenge the authority of the EPA to bring a civil action in a United States District Court to compel compliance with the CAFO, and to seek an additional penalty for such noncompliance, and agrees that federal

law shall govern in any such civil action;

- (d) by executing this CAFO, certifies to the best of its knowledge that Respondent is currently in compliance with all relevant requirements of FIFRA and its implementing regulations, and that all violations alleged herein, which are neither admitted nor denied, have been corrected;
- (e) waives any right it may have pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.8 to be present during any discussions with, or to be served with and reply to, any memorandum or communication addressed to EPA officials where the purpose of such discussion, memorandum, or communication is to persuade such official to accept or issue this CAFO; and
- (f) agrees to comply with the terms of this CAFO.

30. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.5, the individuals named in the certificate of service are authorized to receive service related to this proceeding and the Parties agree to receive service by electronic means.

#### VII. TERMS OF PAYMENT

31. Respondent consents to the payment of a civil penalty for the violations alleged herein, which was calculated in accordance with the Act, in the amount of **THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS** (\$33,500.00), which is to be paid within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date of this CAFO.
32. Payment shall be made by cashier's check, certified check, by electronic funds transfer (EFT), or by Automated Clearing House (ACH) (also known as REX or remittance express). If paying by check, the check shall be payable to: Treasurer, United States of America, and the Respondent's name and Docket Number for this matter shall be referenced on the face of the check. If Respondent sends payment by U.S. Postal Service, the payment shall be addressed to:

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
P.O. Box 979078  
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

If Respondent sends payment by non-U.S. Postal express mail delivery, the payment shall be sent to:

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Government Lockbox 979078  
U.S. EPA Fines & Penalties  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Mail Station: SL-MO-C2-GL  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
Contact Number: (314) 425-1819

If paying by EFT, Respondent shall transfer the payment to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
ABA: 021030004  
Account Number: 68010727

SWIFT address: FRNYUS33  
33 Liberty Street  
New York, New York 10045  
Beneficiary: Environmental Protection Agency

If paying by ACH, Respondent shall remit payment to:

US Treasury REX / Cashlink ACH Receiver  
ABA: 051036706  
Account Number: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency  
CTX Format Transaction Code 22 – checking  
Physical location of US Treasury facility:  
5700 Rivertech Court  
Riverdale, Maryland 20737  
REX (Remittance Express): 1-866-234-5681

33. Respondent shall send proof of payment within twenty-four (24) hours of payment of the civil penalty, to:

Regional Hearing Clerk  
r4\_regional\_hearing\_clerk@epa.gov

and

Kanoelehua Ho  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
Chemical Safety and Land Enforcement Branch  
ho.kanoelehua@epa.gov

34. “Proof of payment” means, as applicable, a copy of the check, confirmation of credit card or debit card payment, confirmation of wire or automated clearinghouse transfer, and any other information required to demonstrate that payment has been made according to EPA requirements, in the amount due, and identified with the Respondent’s name and Docket No. **FIFRA-04-2023-0712(b)**.
35. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, 31 C.F.R. § 901.9, and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, if Respondent fails to remit the civil penalty as agreed to herein, the EPA is entitled to assess interest and penalties on debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the costs of processing and handling the delinquent claim. Accordingly, the EPA may require Respondent to pay the following amounts on any amount overdue:
- (a) **Interest.** Interest will begin to accrue on the civil penalty from the Effective Date of this CAFO. If the civil penalty is paid within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date of this CAFO, interest is waived. However, if the civil penalty is not paid in full within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date of this CAFO, interest will continue to accrue on any unpaid portion until the unpaid portion of the penalty and accrued interest is paid. Interest will be assessed at the rate of the United States Treasury tax and loan rate, as established by the Secretary of the Treasury, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 3717(a)(1), 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(b), and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a).

- (b) Non-Payment Penalty. On any portion of a civil penalty more than ninety (90) days past due, Respondent must pay a non-payment penalty of not more than six percent (6%) per annum, which will accrue from the date the penalty payment became due and is not paid, as provided in 31 U.S.C. § 3717(e)(2) and 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d). This non-payment penalty is in addition to charges which accrue or may accrue under subparagraphs (a) and (c) and will be assessed monthly. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(c).
- (c) Monthly Handling Charge. Respondent must pay a late payment handling charge to cover the administrative costs of processing and handling the delinquent claim, based on either actual or average cost incurred. 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(c) and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). Administrative costs will be assessed monthly throughout the period the debt is overdue except as provided by 40 C.F.R. § 13.12.
36. If Respondent fails to timely pay any portion of the penalty assessed under this CAFO, pursuant to Section 14(a)(5) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a)(5), the EPA may:
- (a) refer the debt to a credit reporting agency or a collection agency pursuant to Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a) (*see* 40 C.F.R. §§ 13.13 and 13.14);
  - (b) collect the debt by administrative offset (i.e., the withholding of money payable by the United States to, or held by the United States for, a person to satisfy the debt the person owes the Government), which includes, but is not limited to, referral to the Internal Revenue Service for offset against income tax refunds (*see* 40 C.F.R. Part 13, Subparts C and H);
  - (c) suspend or revoke Respondent's licenses or other privileges, or suspend or disqualify Respondent from doing business with the EPA or engaging in programs the EPA sponsors or funds (*see* 40 C.F.R. § 13.17); and/or
  - (d) request that the Attorney General bring a civil action in the appropriate district court to recover the amount assessed pursuant to Section 14(a)(5) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a)(5).
37. Penalties paid pursuant to this CAFO shall not be deductible for purposes of federal taxes.

#### **VIII. EFFECT OF CAFO**

38. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c), Respondent's full compliance with this CAFO shall only resolve Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts specifically alleged above.
39. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c), full payment of the civil penalty, as provided in Section VII (Terms of Payment) shall satisfy the requirements of this CAFO; but shall not in any case affect the right of the EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law.
40. Any violation of this CAFO may result in a civil judicial action for civil penalties as provided in Section 14(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 136l(a), as well as criminal sanctions as provided in Section 14(b) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 136l(b). The EPA may use any information submitted under this CAFO in an administrative, civil judicial, or criminal action.



41. Nothing in this CAFO shall relieve Respondent of the duty to comply with all applicable provisions of FIFRA and other federal, state, or local laws or statutes, nor shall it restrict the EPA's authority to seek compliance with any applicable laws or regulations, nor shall it be construed to be a ruling on, or determination of, any issue related to any federal, state, or local permit, except as expressly provided herein.
42. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the power of the EPA to undertake any action against Respondent or any person in response to conditions that may present an imminent hazard as provided under the Act.
43. The terms, conditions, and compliance requirements of this CAFO may not be modified or amended except upon the written agreement of both Parties, and approval of the Regional Judicial Officer.
44. The provisions of this CAFO shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and its successors and assigns. Respondent shall direct its officers, directors, employees, agents, trustees, and authorized representatives to comply with the provisions of this CAFO.
45. Any change in the legal status of the Respondent, or change in ownership, partnership, corporate or legal status relating to the Respondent, will not in any way alter Respondent's obligations and responsibilities under this CAFO.
46. By signing this Consent Agreement, Respondent acknowledges that this CAFO will be available to the public and agrees that this CAFO does not contain any confidential business information or personally identifiable information.
47. By signing this Consent Agreement, the Complainant and the undersigned representative of Respondent each certify that he or she is fully authorized to execute and enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and has the legal capacity to bind the party he or she represents to this CAFO.
48. By signing this Consent Agreement, both Parties agree that each party's obligations under this CAFO constitute sufficient consideration for the other party's obligations.
49. By signing this Consent Agreement, Respondent certifies that the information it has supplied concerning this matter was at the time of submission, and continues to be, true, accurate, and complete for each such submission, response, and statement. Respondent acknowledges that there are significant penalties for submitting false or misleading information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing submission of such information, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.
50. The EPA also reserves the right to revoke this CAFO and settlement penalty if and to the extent that the EPA finds, after signing this CAFO, that any information provided by Respondent was materially false or inaccurate at the time such information was provided to the EPA. If such false or inaccurate material was provided, The EPA reserves the right to assess and collect any and all civil penalties for any violation described herein. The EPA shall give Respondent notice of its intent to revoke, which shall not be effective until received by Respondent in writing.

51. It is the intent of the Parties that the provisions of this CAFO are severable. If any provision or authority of this CAFO or the application of this CAFO to any party or circumstances is held by any judicial or administrative authority to be invalid or unenforceable, the application of such provisions to other parties or circumstances and the remainder of the CAFO shall remain in force and shall not be affected thereby.
52. Unless specifically stated otherwise in this CAFO, each party shall bear its own attorney's fees, costs, and disbursements incurred in this proceeding.

**IX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

53. This CAFO shall become effective upon execution of the Final Order by the Regional Judicial Officer on the date of filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

**[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank**

**Complainant and Respondent will Each Sign on Separate Pages]**

The foregoing Consent Agreement In the Matter of **Socar Chemical Company, Inc.**, Docket Number **FIFRA-04-2023-0712(b)**, Is Hereby Stipulated, Agreed, and Approved for Entry.

FOR RESPONDENT:

William G. Wampale                      Date 6-26-23  
Signature    Date

Printed Name: William G. Wampale.

Title: President

Address: 1005 Little Texas Rd

Travelers Rest, SC 29690

The foregoing Consent Agreement In the Matter of **Socar Chemical Company, Inc.**, Docket Number **FIFRA-04-2023-0712(b)**, Is Hereby Stipulated, Agreed, and Approved for Entry.

FOR COMPLAINANT:

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Larry L. Lamberth  
Acting Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4

In the Matter of:

**Socar Chemical Company, Inc.,**

Respondent.

Docket No. **FIFRA-04-2023-0712(b)**

FINAL ORDER

The Regional Judicial Officer is authorized to ratify this Consent Agreement which memorializes a settlement between Complainant and Respondent. 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.4(b) and 22.18(b)(3). The foregoing Consent Agreement is, therefore, hereby approved, ratified, and incorporated by reference into this Final Order in accordance with the *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits*, 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

The Respondent is hereby ORDERED to comply with all of the terms of the foregoing Consent Agreement effective immediately upon filing of this Consent Agreement and Final Order with the Regional Hearing Clerk. This Final Order disposes of this matter pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18 and 22.31.

**BEING AGREED, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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Tanya Floyd  
Regional Judicial Officer

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order, in the Matter of **Socar Chemical Company, Inc.**, Docket No. **FIFRA-04-2023-0712(b)**, were filed and copies of the same were emailed to the Parties as indicated below.

**Via email to all Parties at the following email addresses:**

To Respondent: William G. Wampole, Owner  
Socar Chemical Company, Inc.  
dawn@socarchemical.com

Rita Bolt Barker, Attorney  
Wyche, P.A.  
rbarker@wyche.com

To EPA: Kanoelehua Ho  
Life Scientist  
ho.kanoelehua@epa.gov

Robert Caplan  
Senior Attorney  
caplan.robert@epa.gov

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Shannon L. Richardson  
Regional Hearing Clerk  
r4\_regional\_hearing\_clerk@epa.gov