



**UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR**

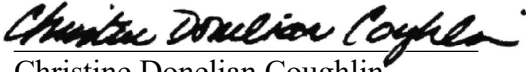
**In the Matter of:** )  
 )  
**Thomas Petroleum, LLC, and** )  
**Pilot Thomas Logistics, LLC** ) **Docket No. EPCRA-06-2019-0501**  
 )  
**Respondents.** )

**ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION  
FOR APPOINTMENT OF NEUTRAL**

On November 8, 2019, I issued a Prehearing Order in this matter, setting forth certain prehearing filing deadlines, including filing deadlines for motions for appointment of a neutral and dispositive motions. Subsequently, upon joint motion from the parties, I extended these filing deadlines by order issued on December 13, 2019. Consistent with such filing deadlines, the parties filed a Joint Motion for Appointment of Neutral and Tolling of Time to File Dispositive Motions (“Joint Motion for Appointment of Neutral”) on March 30, 2020. In the Joint Motion for Appointment of Neutral, the parties request appointment of a neutral to facilitate possible settlement of this matter, and further request tolling of the filing deadline for dispositive motions.

The rules that govern this proceeding, set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 22, provide that the parties may engage in alternative dispute resolution and may move for the appointment of a neutral for this purpose. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(d). As the parties have timely requested the appointment of a neutral for alternative dispute resolution, granting this request is appropriate. Additionally, consistent with the parties’ request to toll the filing deadline for dispositive motions, it is appropriate to stay all filing deadlines previously established in this matter, given the parties’ participation in the alternative dispute resolution process. Accordingly, the Joint Motion for Appointment of Neutral is **GRANTED**, and all filing deadlines set in this matter are hereby stayed until further order issued upon assignment of this matter to the litigation docket following termination of the alternative dispute resolution process. In accordance with the provisions of 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(d)(3), this matter is referred to Chief Administrative Law Judge Susan L. Biro for designation of a qualified neutral.

**SO ORDERED.**

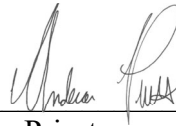
  
Christine Donelian Coughlin  
Administrative Law Judge

Dated: March 30, 2020  
Washington, D.C.

In the Matter of *Thomas Petroleum, LLC and Pilot Thomas Logistics, LLC*, Respondents.  
Docket No. EPCRA-06-2019-0501

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing **Order Granting Joint Motion for Appointment of Neutral**, dated March 30, 2020, and issued by Administrative Law Judge Christine Donelian Coughlin, was sent this day to the following parties in the manner indicated below.



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Andrea Priest  
Attorney-Advisor

Original and One Copy by Personal Delivery to:

Mary Angeles, Headquarters Hearing Clerk  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Administrative Law Judges  
Ronald Reagan Building, Room M1200  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Copy by Electronic Mail to:

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*For Respondents*

Dated: March 30, 2020  
Washington, D.C.