



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

In the Matter of:)
)
Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority,) **Docket No. CWA-06-2015-1722**
)
Respondent.)

ORDER ON MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

On March 10, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“Agency”), Region 6 (“Complainant”), initiated this proceeding by filing an Administrative Complaint against Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority (“Respondent”). Through counsel, Respondent filed an Answer to Administrative Complaint and Request for Hearing on April 9, 2015.

By Prehearing Order dated April 24, 2015, I established deadlines for a number of prehearing procedures in this matter, including the parties’ participation in a settlement conference, the filing of a Status Report regarding this conference, and if the case is settled, the filing of a fully-executed Consent Agreement and Final Order. On May 12, 2015, Complainant filed an Unopposed Status Report and Motion for Extension of Time (“Motion”), in which Complainant requests a 60-day extension of the filing deadline for a fully-executed Consent Agreement and Final Order on the grounds that the parties are engaged “in active settlement negotiations, but believe they are close to reaching a settlement.” Complainant also represents that Respondent does not oppose this request.

This proceeding is governed by the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits, 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.1–22.45 (“Rules of Practice”). Section 22.7(b) of the Rules of Practice authorizes me to grant extensions of time for filing any document “upon timely motion of a party to the proceeding, for good cause shown, and after consideration of prejudice to other parties.” 40 C.F.R. § 22.7(b).

Upon consideration, I find that Complainant has shown good cause for an extension of the deadlines established by the Prehearing Order. As noted in the Prehearing Order, Agency policy strongly supports settlement of a proceeding without the necessity of a formal hearing. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(1). Undoubtedly, the interests of the parties and judicial economy are best served by the parties resolving this matter informally and expeditiously. Moreover, Respondent does not oppose the Motion.

Thus, for good cause shown, Complainant's Motion is **GRANTED**, and the filing deadlines established by the Prehearing Order are hereby extended by 60 days. Accordingly, the filing deadline for a fully-executed Consent Agreement and Final Order is now **August 4, 2015**.

SO ORDERED.

Christine Donelian Coughlin
Administrative Law Judge

Dated: May 19, 2015
Washington, D.C.