

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

In the Matter of:)
)
Potomac Housing Realtors, LLC) Docket No. TSCA-03-2012-0072
)
Respondent) Dated: March 13, 2012

ORDER ON JOINT MOTION FOR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Letters were issued from the undersigned's office offering the parties an opportunity to engage in this Tribunal's Alternative Dispute Resolution process, but no response was received from the parties within the time allotted. Consequently, this case was assigned to the undersigned to preside in a hearing in this proceeding, bypassing the ADR process. A Prehearing Order was issued on March 8, 2012, directing the parties to file prehearing exchanges. On March 13, 2012, the parties filed a Joint Motion for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), requesting that ADR be initiated and all deadlines be stayed until after the termination of the ADR process. The Motion states that the parties strongly believe that this matter may be resolved amicably through ADR, and points out that Respondent had indicated its willingness to participate in a settlement conference in its Answer to the Complaint, believing that constituted a request for ADR.

While a request for a settlement conference in an answer to a complaint does not equate to a request for ADR, in the circumstances of this case, there is no reason not to grant the request for initiation of ADR. It is in the interest of the parties and judicial economy for the parties to amicably and efficiently resolve this matter through settlement.

Accordingly, the Joint Motion for Alternative Dispute Resolution is **GRANTED**. This case will be transferred for appointment of an Administrative Law Judge to serve as a neutral in an ADR process.

Therefore, all deadlines established in the Prehearing Order issued on March 8, 2012 are hereby STAYED.

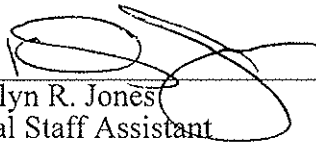


M. Lisa Buschmann
Administrative Law Judge

In the matter of *Potomac Housing Realtors.*, Respondent.
Docket No. TSCA-03-2012-0072

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing **Order on Joint Motion for Alternative Dispute Resolution**, dated March 13, 2012 was sent this in the following manner to the addressees listed below.


Knolyn R. Jones
Legal Staff Assistant

One Original & Copy by Mail:

Lydia Guy
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA / Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Fx: 215.814.2603

One Copy by Mail to:

Donzetta W. Thomas, Esq.
Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA / Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Fx: 215.814.2603

One Copy Regular Mail to:

William D. Wilmoth, Esq.
Steptoe & Johnson
1233 Main Street, Suite 3000
P.O. Box 751
Wheeling, WV 26003-0751

Date mailed: March 14, 2012
Washington, D.C.