



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

In the Matter of:)	Docket Number:
)	
The GEO Group, Inc.,)	FIFRA-09-2024-0066
)	
Respondent.)	

**ORDER INITIATING ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS
AND APPOINTING NEUTRAL**

Pursuant to the request of the parties, Administrative Law Judge Christine D. Coughlin is hereby designated as a neutral to initiate and conduct such processes as may facilitate a settlement of this proceeding.

The following procedures shall apply:

1. The Alternative Dispute Resolution (“ADR”) process will be conducted in a confidential manner. The neutral will not disclose to anyone the contents of any of the parties’ ADR communications.
2. For the ADR process to be effective, the persons communicating with the neutral must either have authority to commit his or her side to a settlement or have ready access to someone with such authority.
3. Unless terminated earlier at the request of either party, the ADR process shall automatically terminate on **January 13, 2025**. An extension of up to 60 days may be granted by the undersigned, but in no event shall ADR continue for longer than four months. At that time, if a settlement has not been reached, the case will be assigned to a litigation Judge to proceed with the litigation process.

4. A party requesting termination of this process shall so advise the neutral either orally or in writing. The ADR process initiated by this Order shall terminate upon order of the undersigned.

5. At the termination of the ADR process, the parties will be sent a questionnaire to elicit their views and the experience with the process. The contents of individual questionnaires will be kept confidential and made available to the neutral and others only in a composite format.

SO ORDERED.



Susan L. Biro
Chief Administrative Law Judge
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency¹

Dated: November 13, 2024
Washington, D.C.

¹ The Administrative Law Judges of EPA are authorized to adjudicate cases brought by NOAA pursuant to an interagency agreement effective for a period beginning September 8, 2011. This agreement was entered into under a statutory loan program that allows administrative law judges at one federal agency to perform the duties of administrative law judges at another federal agency. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 3344.

In the NOAA Matter of *The GEO Group, Inc.*, Respondent.
Docket No. FIFRA-09-2024-0066

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing **Order Initiating Alternative Dispute Resolution Process and Appointing Neutral**, dated November 13, 2024, and issued by Chief Administrative Law Judge Susan L. Biro, was sent this day to the following parties in the manner indicated below.



Mary Angeles
Paralegal Specialist

Original by OALJ E-Filing System to:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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https://yosemite.epa.gov/OA/EAB/EAB-ALJ_Upload.nsf

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For Respondent

Dated: November 13, 2024
Washington, D.C.