

FILED

Feb 11, 2025

10:23 am

**U.S. EPA REGION 4
HEARING CLERK**

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4**

EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

DOCKET NO: CAA-04-2024-0015(b)

This Expedited Settlement Agreement is issued to:

**Humphries and Company, LLC
4581 South Cobb Drive, Southeast, Suite 200
Smyrna, Georgia 30080**

For alleged violations of monitoring, reporting, and/or recordkeeping requirements in 40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart M (National Emission Standard for Asbestos) and Section 112 of the Clean Air Act.

This Expedited Settlement Agreement (ESA) is being entered into by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (Complainant), and by Humphries and Company, LLC (Respondent), (collectively, the Parties), pursuant to Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act (the "Act"), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), and pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18.

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

Based on information obtained from permits issued to the Respondent by the City of Atlanta, an EPA inspection of the Facility conducted on June 12, 2024, and e-mail correspondence with the Respondent regarding the renovation of Keller Williams Realty located at 1420 Peachtree Street, Northeast, in Atlanta, Georgia 30309 (the Facility), the EPA alleges that Respondent violated Section 112 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7412, and 40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart M. Specifically, the EPA alleges the Respondent failed to conduct a thorough inspection for asbestos-containing materials prior to beginning renovation activity, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 61.145(a), at the Facility. Renovations included the removal of some interior walls, drywall removal to install lighting, and alterations to the ceiling. Doors, frames, and hardware were relocated. Renovation activity occurred at the Facility from March 29, 2024, through May 29, 2024.

SETTLEMENT

In consideration of such factors as Respondent's size, its full compliance history, its good faith efforts to comply, the duration and seriousness of the violation, and other factors as justice may require, the Parties enter into this ESA to settle the violation cited above, for the total penalty amount of **\$5,425**.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving a copy of the fully executed ESA, Respondent shall:
(1) pay the penalty and (2) send proof of payment as described below.

1. Pay Penalty

Pay using any method, or combination of appropriate methods, as provided on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>. For additional instructions see: <https://www.epa.gov/financial/additional-instructions-making-payments-epa>.

When making a payment, Respondent shall identify every payment with Respondent's name and the docket number of this ESA, CAA-04-2024-0015(b).

2. Send Proof of Payment

Concurrently with any payment or within 24 hours of any payment, Respondent shall **send proof of such payment** to the following persons:

Regional Hearing Clerk
R4_Regional_Hearing_Clerk@epa.gov

and

Pamela Storm
Case Development Officer
Storm.Pamela@epa.gov

and

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati Finance Center
CINWD_AcctsReceivable@epa.gov

"Proof of payment" means, as applicable, a copy of the check, confirmation of credit card or debit card payment, or 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 appropriate docket number and Respondent's name.

The penalty specified in this ESA shall represent civil penalties assessed by the EPA and shall not be deductible for purposes of state or federal taxes.

This settlement is subject to the following terms and conditions: the Respondent by signing below admits that EPA has jurisdiction over the subject matter alleged in this ESA, neither

admits nor denies the specific factual allegations contained herein, and consents to the assessment of the penalty as stated above; Respondent waives its rights to a hearing afforded by Section 113(d)(2)(A) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(2)(A), and to appeal this ESA and Final Order or otherwise contest the allegations contained in this ESA; Respondent waives any rights or defenses that Respondent has or may have for this matter to be resolved in federal court, including but not limited to any right to a jury trial, and waives any right to challenge the lawfulness of the Final Order accompanying this ESA; and each party to this action shall bear its own costs and fees, if any.

Respondent certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false submission to the United States Government, that as of the date of its execution of this ESA, it is in compliance with all relevant requirements of the National Emission Standard for Asbestos regulations promulgated at 40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart M.

Respondent's full compliance with this ESA shall only resolve Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violation(s) alleged in this ESA. This ESA, the Final Order, and Respondent's full payment of the civil penalty set forth herein, do not affect the right of EPA to pursue appropriate injunctive, other equitable relief, or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. The EPA also does not waive any other enforcement action for any other violations of the Act or any other statute.

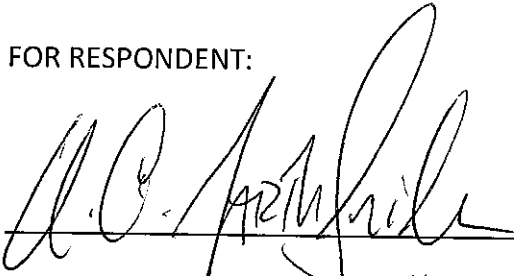
Late payment of the penalty may subject Respondent to interest, administrative costs, and late payment penalties in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.11.

This ESA is binding on the Parties signing below. This ESA is effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

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.

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FOR RESPONDENT:



Date: 1/21/25

Name (print): W.C. Garth Swider

Title (print): Chief Financial Officer

FOR COMPLAINANT:

KERIEMA NEWMAN Digitally signed by KERIEMA
NEWMAN
Date: 2025.02.06 15:06:19 -05'00'

Keriema S. Newman
Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

FINAL ORDER

I hereby ratify the ESA and incorporate it herein by reference. It is so ORDERED.

**TANYA
FLOYD** Digitally signed by
TANYA FLOYD
Date: 2025.02.10
09:10:08 -05'00'

Regional Judicial Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order in the matter of Humphries and Company, LLC, Docket No. CAA-04-2024-0015(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: W.C. Garth Snider, Esquire
Humphries and Company, LLC
GSnider@humpandcomp.com
4581 South Cobb Drive, Southeast, Suite 200
Smyrna, Georgia 30080
404-210-6906

To EPA: Pamela Storm, Case Development Officer
Storm.Pamela@epa.gov
404-562-9197

Marirose Pratt, Associate Regional Counsel
Pratt.Marirose@epa.gov
404-562-9023

SHANNON
RICHARDS
ON

Digitally signed
by SHANNON
RICHARDSON
Date: 2025.02.11
10:24:22 -05'00'

Shannon L. Richardson, Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA Region 4
r4_regional_hearing_clerk@epa.gov