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**UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
DALLAS, TEXAS**

FILED
2017 NOV -1 10:11:11
REGIONAL HEARD SERVICES
EPA REGION VI

IN THE MATTER OF:

**GASTROENTEROLOGY
CONSULTANTS OF SAN ANTONIO,
P.A.**

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS,

RESPONDENT

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**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND
FINAL ORDER**

DOCKET NO. RCRA-06-2017-0948

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This Consent Agreement and Final Order ("CAFO") is entered into by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 ("EPA") and Gastroenterology Consultants of San Antonio, P.A. ("GCSA" or "Respondent"), headquartered at 8415 Datapoint Drive, Suite 700, San Antonio, Texas, 78229.
2. Notice of this action has been given to the State of Texas, under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) § 3008(a)(2), 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(2).
3. For the purpose of these proceedings, Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations herein; however, the Respondent neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations and conclusions of law contained in this CAFO. This CAFO states a claim upon which relief may be granted.
4. Respondent explicitly waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed final order contained in this CAFO, and waives all defenses that have been raised or could have been raised to the claims set forth in this CAFO.
5. This CAFO resolves only those violations alleged in this document.

6. Respondent consents to the issuance of the CAFO hereinafter recited, consents to the assessment and payment of the stated civil penalty in the amount and by the method set out in this CAFO, and consents to the specific stated compliance order.

II. JURISDICTION

7. This CAFO is issued by EPA pursuant to RCRA § 3008(a), 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 and is simultaneously commenced and concluded through the issuance of this CAFO under 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b), 22.18(b)(2)-(3).

8. Respondent agrees to undertake and complete all actions required by the terms and conditions of this CAFO. In any action by the EPA or the United States to enforce the terms of this CAFO, Respondent agrees not to contest the authority or jurisdiction of the EPA to issue or enforce this CAFO, and agrees not to contest the validity of this CAFO or its terms or conditions.

III. FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

9. Respondent is a professional association formed under the laws of the State of Texas and owns and operates a medical facility located at 12850 Toepperwein Road, Live Oak, Texas, 78233, which was located at 855 Proton Road, San Antonio, Texas, 78258 until July 2014 (collectively, “the Facility” or “Facility”).

10. Respondent is a “person” within the meaning of RCRA § 1004(15), 42 U.S.C. § 6903(15); and 30 T.A.C § 3.2(25) [40 C.F.R. § 260.10]. The Facility is a “facility” within the meaning of 30 T.A.C § 335.1(61) [40 C.F.R. § 260.10].

11. Respondent is a “generator” of “hazardous waste” at the Facility, as those terms are defined in RCRA §§ 1004(5), 42 U.S.C. §§ 6903(5), and 30 T.A.C

§ 335.1(67), (73) [40 C.F.R. § 260.10].

12. As a generator of hazardous waste, Respondent is subject to RCRA §§ 3002 and 3010, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6922 and 6930, and the regulations set forth at 30 T.A.C § 335(C), (F) [40 C.F.R. §§ 262 and/or 270].

13. The primary business at Respondent's Facility is healthcare and medical-related services.

14. From June 2017 to September 2017, EPA conducted an investigation and records review of Respondent's performance as a generator of hazardous waste.

15. The investigation showed that Respondent, from 2013 to 2016, at minimum, generated and offered for transport hazardous waste with the hazardous characteristics for D001 (Ignitability).

16. EPA's investigation revealed evidence that Respondent violated the requirements of RCRA and the regulations promulgated at 40 C.F.R. §§ 261, 262, and 270 by failing to comply with the RCRA notification requirements, managing waste without an EPA ID number, and failing to operate within its stated generator status.

Claim 1: Failure to File Initial or Subsequent 3010 Notification and Failure to Obtain an EPA ID Number

17. The allegations in Paragraphs 1-16 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.

18. Pursuant to Section 3010(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6930(a), any person generating a characteristic or listed waste shall file with the Administrator or authorized State a notification stating that the location and general description of such activity and the identified or listed hazardous wastes handled by such person ("Section 3010

Notification”) unless it is a conditionally exempt small quantity generator (“CESQG”).

A CESQG is any generator of hazardous waste that generates less than 100 kg of hazardous waste in a calendar month.

19. From 2013 to 2016, Respondent’s Facility produced hazardous waste in excess of 100 kg per month, making the Facility a small quantity generator (“SQG”).

20. During those years, Respondent failed to file a Section 3010 Notification for the Facility.

21. Respondent’s failure to file a Section 3010 Notification(s) constitutes a violation of 30 T.A.C. § 335.6(c) [42 U.S.C. § 6930(a)].

22. 30 T.A.C. § 335.63(a) [40 C.F.R. § 262.12(a)] prohibits generators from treating, storing, disposing of, transporting, or offering for transport hazardous waste without having received an EPA identification number from the Administrator.

23. During the years 2013 to 2016, Respondent offered hazardous waste for transport and disposal at the Facility.

24. Respondent failed to obtain an EPA ID number during those years at the Facility.

25. Respondent’s failure to obtain an EPA ID number before offering hazardous waste for transport and disposal constitutes a violation of 30 T.A.C. § 335.63(a) [40 C.F.R. § 262.12(a)].

Claim 2: Failure to Meet the Requirements of a Small Quantity Generator

26. Paragraphs 1-16 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.

27. A generator of hazardous waste is subject to multiple requirements, including the applicable parts of 30 T.A.C Chapter 335, Subchapters (C), (E), (F), (H), and (O) [40 C.F.R. Part

- b. Respondent shall certify that it has accurately and adequately complied with any RCRA Section 3010 Notification requirements that may be applicable to the Facility as of the effective date of this CAFO;
 - c. Respondent shall obtain an EPA ID number for the Facility; and
 - d. Respondent shall certify that it has met any requirements for adequate emergency procedures and proper training for managing, reporting, transporting and disposing of hazardous waste that may be applicable to the Facility as of the effective date of this CAFO.
33. In all instances in which this CAFO requires written submission to EPA, the submittal made by Respondent shall be signed by an owner or officer of Respondent and shall include the following certification:

“I certify under the penalty of law that this document and all its attachments were prepared by me or under my direct supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.”

Copies of all documents required by the CAFO shall be sent to the following:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division
Waste Enforcement Branch
Waste Compliance 1 Section (6EN-H1)
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Attn: Tripti Thapa

V. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

A. Penalty Provisions

34. Pursuant to the authority granted in Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928, and upon consideration of the entire record herein, including the above referenced Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, which are hereby adopted and made a part hereof, upon the seriousness of the alleged violations, and Respondent's good faith efforts to comply with the applicable regulations, it is ordered that Respondent be assessed a civil penalty of **One Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand Four Hundred And Seventy-eight Dollars and Zero Cents (\$134,478.00)**.

35. The penalty shall be paid in thirty-six (36) monthly installments of \$3,735.50, with the first installment due thirty (30) calendar days after the effective date of this CAFO and each subsequent installment due thirty (30) calendar days after the due date for the prior installment, with each installment made payable to Treasurer, United States of America. For purposes of this CAFO, an installment will not be considered overdue, subject to interest and late payments found at Paragraph 38, if paid within thirty (30) calendar days after the date on which that installment is due.

36. The following are Respondent's options for transmitting the penalty payments:
Checks sent via U.S. Postal Mail (including certified mail) or U.S. Postal Service Express Mail should be remitted to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979077
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

Checks sent via Overnight Mail (non-U.S. Postal Service) should be remitted to:

U.S. Bank
Government Lockbox 979077

U.S. EPA Fines and Penalties
1005 Convention Plaza
SL-MO-C2-GL
St. Louis, MO 63101
314-418-1028

Wire Transfers should be remitted to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA: 021030004
Account No. 68010727
SWIFT address = FRNYUS33
33 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10045

The case name and docket number (**In re: Gastroenterology Consultants of San Antonio, P.A., Docket No. RCRA-06-2017-0948**) shall be documented on or within your chosen method of payment to ensure proper credit.

37. The Respondent shall send a simultaneous notice of such payment to the following:

Lorena S. Vaughn
Regional Hearing Clerk (6RC-D)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Chief
Waste Compliance I Section (6EN-H1)
Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Attn: Tripti Thapa

Your adherence to this request will ensure proper credit is given when penalty payments are received by EPA.

38. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and 40 C.F.R. § 1311, unless otherwise prohibited by law, EPA will assess interest and late payment penalties on outstanding debts owed to

the United States and a charge to cover the cost of processing and handling a delinquent claim. Interest on the civil penalty assessed in this CAFO will begin to accrue on the effective date of the CAFO and will be recovered by EPA on any amount of the civil penalty installment payment that is not paid by its due date and will be assessed at the rate of the United States Treasury tax and loan rate in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a). Moreover, the costs of the Agency's administrative handling of overdue payments will be charged and assessed monthly throughout the period the payment is overdue. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). EPA will also assess a \$15.00 administrative handling charge for administrative costs on unpaid penalty installment payments for the thirty (30) day period after the payment is due and an additional \$15.00 for each subsequent thirty (30) day period the payment remains unpaid. In addition, a penalty charge of up to six percent per year will be assessed monthly on any portion of a monthly installment payment that remains delinquent more than ninety (90) days. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). Should a penalty charge on an overdue installment payment be required, it shall accrue from the first day payment is delinquent pursuant to 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d). Other penalties for failure to make an installment payment may also apply.

B. Costs

39. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees. Furthermore, Respondent specifically waives its right to seek reimbursement of its costs and attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act (5 U.S.C. § 504), as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (P.L. 04-121), and any regulations promulgated pursuant to those Acts.

C. Termination and Satisfaction

40. When Respondent believes that it has complied with all the requirements of this CAFO, including compliance with the Compliance Order and payment of the civil penalty, Respondent shall also certify this in writing and in accordance with the certification language set forth in Section IV (Compliance Order), Paragraph 33. Unless the EPA, Region 6 objects in writing within sixty (60) days of EPA's receipt of Respondent's certification, then this CAFO is terminated on the basis of Respondent's certification.

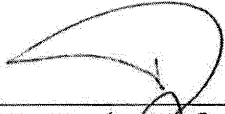
D. Effective Date of Settlement

41. This CAFO shall become effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES CONSENT TO THE ENTRY OF THIS
CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER:

FOR THE RESPONDENT:

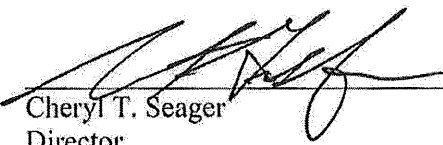
Date: 10-16-17



Gastroenterology Consultants of San
Antonio, P.A.

FOR EPA REGION 6:

Date: 01 OCT 2017

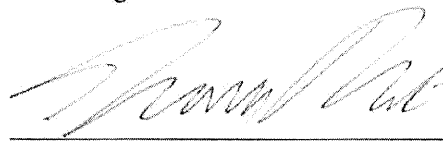


Cheryl T. Seager
Director
Compliance Assurance and
Enforcement Division
U.S. EPA Region 6

FINAL ORDER

Pursuant to the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, 40 C.F.R. Part 22, the foregoing CAFO is hereby ratified. This Final Order shall not in any case affect the right of EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. This Final Order shall resolve only those causes of action alleged herein. Nothing in this Final Order shall be construed to waive, extinguish or otherwise affect Respondent's (or its officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, or assigns) obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations, including the regulations that were the subject of this action. Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of settlement and the civil penalty payment instructions as set forth in the CAFO. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.31(b) this Final Order shall become effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

Date: 11/1/17



Thomas Rucki
Regional Judicial Officer

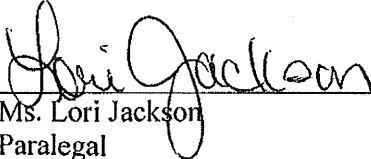
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 1st day of November, 2017, the original of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was hand delivered to the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA, Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733, and that a true and correct copy of the CAFO was sent to the following by the method below:

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT

REQUESTED 1001 1520000339909255

April J. Donovan
Chief Executive Officer
Gastroenterology Consultants of San Antonio, P.A.
12850 Toepperwein Road
Live Oak, TX 78223



Ms. Lori Jackson
Paralegal