EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

Newsroom

2013 News Releases

Dyno Nobel Inc. to Pay $257,167 for Clean Air Act and Risk Management Program Violations at Two Facilities in Missouri

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Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Lenexa, Kan., Oct. 18, 2013) - Dyno Nobel Inc., has agreed to pay a $257,167 civil penalty to settle alleged violations of the Clean Air Act (CAA), Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) at its facilities in the cities of Louisiana and Carthage, Mo.

Inspections at the two facilities in 2010 revealed the CAA violations and resulted in EPA Region 7 issuing an Administrative Compliance Order in January 2011. Neither of Dyno Nobel's Risk Management Programs (RMPs) fully complied with all regulatory requirements. Federal RMP regulations require facilities to have processes in place to safely store and handle hazardous chemicals.

In addition to the Risk Management Program violations, Dyno Nobel failed to immediately notify the National Response Center, the State Emergency Response Commission, and the Local Emergency Response Committee of an accidental release of sulfuric acid that occurred at the Carthage facility on May 9, 2012, violating CERCLA and EPCRA regulations, respectively.

The Louisiana, Mo., facility stored approximately 1.6 million pounds of anhydrous ammonia, or 160 times the threshold quantity. The facility also stored approximately 1.5 million pounds of nitric acid, or 100 times the threshold quantity.

The Carthage, Mo., facility stored approximately 419,000 pounds of nitric acid, or 27 times the threshold quantity; 80,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia, or eight times the threshold quantity; and 225,000 pounds of oleum, or 22 times the threshold quantity.

Anhydrous ammonia is a toxic chemical and short-term exposure to high concentrations can cause death. Nitric acid is highly corrosive and can cause severe burns; it can be fatal on short exposure. Oleum reacts as a strong acid; as a liquid, it causes severe burns of the skin and eyes.

"This Agency works hard to make sure firms that store and handle these potentially dangerous chemicals follow the laws designed to keep employees and neighboring communities safe. Recent events remind us all how important it is to take the required safety precautions," EPA Region 7 Administrator Karl Brooks said. "This second substantial administrative penalty for Dyno Nobel operations in the Great Plains signals the EPA intends to remain vigilant in enforcing laws intended to protect public health and safety."

Dyno Nobel settled a similar Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions case with EPA Region 8 in 2011 for $110,900.

By agreeing to the settlement with EPA, Dyno Nobel Inc., has certified that it is now in compliance with all requirements of the CAA, EPCRA, and CERCLA regulations.

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