



**REGION 9**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105



**EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

**DOCKET NO:** CAA(112r)-09-2024-0061

**This ESA is issued to:** Pioneer Americas LLC dba Olin Chlor Alkali Product  
11600 Pike Street  
Santa Fe Springs, California, 90670

**For:** Violation of Section 112(r)(7) of the Clean Air Act  
**At:** Pioneer Americas LLC dba Olin Chlor Alkali Product, 11600 Pike Street, Santa Fe Springs, California, 90670

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This Expedited Settlement Agreement (“ESA”) is being entered into by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), Region IX, by its duly delegated official, Amy C. Miller-Bowen, Director, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, and Pioneer Americas LLC dba Olin Chlor Alkali Product (“Respondent”) pursuant to Section 113(a)(3) and (d) of the Clean Air Act (the “Act”), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a)(3) and (d), and by 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b). EPA has obtained the concurrence of the U.S. Department of Justice, pursuant to Section 113(d)(1) of the Act, 2 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(1), to pursue this administrative enforcement action.

**ALLEGED VIOLATIONS**

Following its June 28, 2023 inspection, EPA alleges Respondent failed to:

1. Maintain accurate safe upper and lower limits, in violation of 40 CFR 68.65(c)(1)(iv).
2. Document an evaluation of the consequences of deviations, in violation of 40 CFR 68.65(c)(1)(v).
3. Maintain accurate P&IDs for the chlorine batch tanks associated with the bleach plant chlorine system, in violation of 40 CFR 68.65(d)(1)(ii).
4. Ensure that equipment was built in accordance with recognized and generally accepted good engineering practices, in violation of 40 CFR 68.65(d)(2).
5. Include the conditions under which emergency shutdown is required in the Facility’s operating procedures for emergency shutdown, in violation of 40 CFR 68.69(a)(1)(iv).
6. Maintain accurate and consistent operating limits, in violation of 40 CFR 68.69(a)(2)(i).
7. Ensure the frequency of inspections are at a frequency determined necessary by prior operating experience, in violation of 40 CFR 68.73(d)(3).
8. Correct deficiencies in equipment that were identified during the Facility’s chlorine off-gas piping inspection, in violation of 40 CFR 68.73(e).

## SETTLEMENT

In consideration of Respondent's size of business, its full compliance history and previous penalties assessed, if any, its good faith effort to comply, the duration and seriousness of the violation, the economic impact of the penalty, and other factors as justice may require, the parties enter into this ESA in order to settle the violations described above for the total penalty amount of **\$7,500**.

This settlement is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- 1) The Respondent by signing below admits to jurisdiction, neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations contained above, 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. Each party to this action shall bear its own attorney's fees and costs, if any. Respondent also certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false submission to the United States Government, that the Respondent has corrected the violations listed above and has sent an **Online Payment through the Department of Treasury: [WWW.PAY.GOV](http://WWW.PAY.GOV)** (Enter SFO 1.1 in search field. Open form and complete required fields). EPA encourages electronic payments, but alternatively you may send a cashier's check or certified check (payable to the Treasurer, United States of America) in the amount of \$7,500 in payment of the full penalty amount to the following address:

US Environmental Protection Agency Fines and Penalties  
Cincinnati Finance Center  
PO Box 979077  
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

The payment should reference Respondent's name. In addition, please send a copy of your payment confirmation to Bridget Johnson at [johnson.bridget@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.bridget@epa.gov).

- 2) Pursuant to CAA § 114(a)(1)(B) [42 U.S.C. § 7414(a)(1)(B)] **please provide documentation to USEPA Region IX describing how each area of identified non-compliance has been addressed.** Such documentation is due to EPA within 45 calendar days of your receipt of this letter. If you have corrected non-compliance and intend to resolve EPA's penalty action through the enclosed ESA, your signature affirms that the listed violations have been corrected. When you return the signed ESA to EPA, please provide documentation describing how each area of identified non-compliance was addressed along with an estimate of the cost you incurred fixing those deficits.

Upon Respondent's submission of the signed original ESA, EPA will take no further civil penalty action against Respondent for the violations of the Act alleged above. This ESA shall not be construed as a covenant not to sue, a release, waiver, or limitation of any rights, remedies, powers, or authorities, civil or criminal that EPA has under the Act or any other statutory, regulatory, or common law enforcement authority of the United States, except as stated above.

If the signed ESA with an attached copy of the payment is not returned to the EPA Region IX office at the above address in correct form by the Respondent within 45 days of the date of Respondent's receipt of the proposed ESA and EPA has not granted an extension of its offer to settle, the ESA is withdrawn, without prejudice to EPA's ability to file an enforcement action for the violations identified herein.

This ESA is binding on the parties signing below.

This ESA is effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

FOR RESPONDENT: Pioneer Americas LLC dba Olin Chlor Alkali Product

Signature: Drew Sikkema Date: 7/1/2024

Name (print): Drew Sikkema

Title (print): Plant Manager

FOR COMPLAINANT: Environmental Protection Agency

**JOEL JONES** Digitally signed by JOEL JONES  
Date: 2024.07.02 08:44:49  
-07'00'

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

for/Amy C. Miller-Bowen, Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. EPA Region IX

It is hereby ORDERED that this ESA be entered.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Beatrice Wong  
Regional Judicial Officer  
U.S. EPA Region IX

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the original copy of the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order in the matter of Pioneer Americas LLC dba Olin Chlor Alkali Product (Docket No. CAA(112r)-09-2024-0061) was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, Region IX, and that a true and correct copy was sent by electronic mail to the following parties:

**RESPONDENT:** Drew Sikkema  
Plant Manager  
Pioneer Americas LLC dba Olin Chlor Alkali Product  
11600 Pike Street  
Santa Fe Springs, California, 90670  
[Dsikkema@olin.com](mailto:Dsikkema@olin.com)

**COMPLAINANT:** Andrew Helmlinger  
Assistant Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA – Region IX  
75 Hawthorne Street, ORC 3-1  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Helmlinger.Andrew@epa.gov

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Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA – Region IX