

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
WESTERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
<i>Plaintiff,</i>)	
)	Case No. 5:22-CV-4057
v.)	
)	
QUAD COUNTY CORN PROCESSORS)	
COOPERATIVE,)	
)	
<i>Defendant.</i>)	

CONSENT DECREE

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Plaintiff United States of America, on behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) concurrently files a complaint in this action alleging that Quad County Corn Processors Cooperative violated Section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act (“CAA” or “Act”), 42 U.S.C. § 7545(o), and the regulations issued thereunder at 40 C.F.R. Part 80, Subpart M.

B. The Complaint alleges that Defendant produced renewable fuel from a process not described in its registration statement, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 80.1460(b)(5); failed to submit information required by 40 C.F.R. § 80.1451(b)(1)(iii)(U), in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 80.1460(b)(1); did not apply the Renewable Identification Number (“RIN”) apportionment equations required by 40 C.F.R. § 80.1426(f)(3)(vi) in the simultaneous production of cellulosic and non-cellulosic renewable fuel, resulting in the assignment of an incorrect D code for the RINs it generated, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 80.1431(a)(1)(vii) and 40 C.F.R. § 80.1460(b)(2).

C. Defendant does not admit any liability to the United States arising out of the transactions or occurrences alleged in the Complaint.

D. Defendant asserts that its ability to pay is limited and that it does not have an ability to pay a penalty greater than that required by this Consent Decree, and provided financial information to support its contention. The financial information Defendant provided has been reviewed by the United States’ financial expert, who concurred that Defendant has a limited ability to pay a penalty.

E. The Parties recognize, and the Court by entering this Consent Decree finds, that this Consent Decree has been negotiated by the Parties in good faith and will avoid further litigation between the Parties and that this Consent Decree is fair, reasonable, and in the public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, with the consent of the Parties, IT IS HEREBY ADJUDGED, ORDERED, AND DECREED as follows:

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1345, and 1355, and CAA Sections 205(b) and 211(d)(2), 42 U.S.C. §§ 7524(b) and 7545(d)(2). The Parties agree that this Court has personal jurisdiction over them. Venue in this District is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c), and 1395(a).

2. For purposes of this Decree, or any action to enforce this Decree, Defendant consents to the Court's jurisdiction over this Decree and any such action and over Defendant and consents to venue in this judicial district.

III. APPLICABILITY

3. The obligations of this Consent Decree apply to and are binding upon the United States, and upon Defendant and any successors, assigns, parent entities, or other entities or persons otherwise bound by law.

4. In any action to enforce this Consent Decree, Defendant shall not raise as a defense the failure by any of its officers, directors, employees, agents, or contractors to take any actions necessary to comply with the provisions of this Consent Decree.

IV. DEFINITIONS

5. Terms used in this Consent decree that are defined in the Act or in 40 C.F.R. Part 80, Subpart M shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Act or such regulations, unless otherwise provided in this Decree. Whenever the terms set forth below are used in this Consent Decree, the following definitions shall apply:

a. "Act" or "CAA" shall mean the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7401, *et seq.*

- b. “Complaint” shall mean the complaint filed by the United States in this action.
- c. “Consent Decree” or “Decree” shall mean this Consent Decree.
- d. “Day” shall mean a calendar day unless expressly stated to be a business day. In computing any period of time under this Consent Decree, where the last day would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, the period shall run until the close of business of the next business day.
- e. “Defendant” shall mean Quad County Corn Processors Cooperative.
- f. “EPA” shall mean the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any of its successor departments or agencies.
- g. “Effective Date” shall mean the date upon which this Consent Decree is entered by the Court or a motion to enter the Consent Decree is granted, whichever occurs first, as recorded on the Court’s docket.
- h. “Interest” shall mean 4.75%, compounded daily.
- i. “Paragraph” shall mean a portion of this Decree identified by an arabic numeral.
- j. “Parties” shall mean the United States and Defendant.
- k. “RIN” shall mean Renewable Identification Number as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 80.1401.
- l. “Section” shall mean a portion of this Decree identified by a roman numeral.
- m. “United States” shall mean the United States of America, acting on behalf of EPA.

V. CIVIL PENALTY

6. Defendant shall pay to the United States the principal amount of \$320,000 plus Interest calculated from the date of lodging as a civil penalty, as provided in this Section.

7. The civil penalty shall be paid in three installments. Defendant shall make the first payment of \$110,000 plus Interest within 30 Days after the Effective Date. Defendant shall make the second payment of \$105,000 plus Interest within one year after the Effective Date. Defendant shall make the third payment of \$105,000 plus Interest within two years after the Effective Date.

8. The Financial Litigation Unit (“FLU”) of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Iowa shall send a calculation of the Interest due to Defendant. Defendant may pay any installment payment prior to the due date, but must contact the FLU in advance for a determination regarding the amount of Interest to be included with the payment.

9. If Defendant fails to make any payment required by Paragraph 7 by the required due date, all remaining payments and all accrued Interest shall become due immediately upon such failure. If the first payment is not timely made, Interest shall accrue from the Effective Date. Interest shall continue to accrue on any unpaid amounts until the total amount due has been received. Interest required by this Paragraph shall be in addition to any stipulated penalties owed pursuant to Paragraph 24.

10. Defendant shall pay the civil penalty due by FedWire Electronic Funds Transfer (“EFT”) to the U.S. Department of Justice account, in accordance with instructions provided to Defendant by the FLU of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Iowa after the Effective Date. The payment instructions provided by the FLU will include a Consolidated Debt Collection System (“CDCS”) number, which Defendant shall use to identify all payments required to be made in accordance with this Consent Decree. The FLU will provide the payment instructions to:

Toni McClellan
Controller
Quad County Corn Processors Cooperative
100 East 3rd Street
Galva, IA 51020
tonim@quad-county.com
(712) 282-4628

Delayne Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
Quad County Corn Processors Cooperative
100 East 3rd Street
Galva, IA 51020
delaynej@quad-county.com
(712) 282-4628

Defendant may change the individual to receive payment instructions on its behalf by providing written notice of such change to the United States and EPA in accordance with Section XVI (Notices).

11. At the time of payment, Defendant shall send notice that payment has been made: (i) to EPA via email at cinwd_acctsreceivable@epa.gov or via regular mail at EPA Cincinnati Finance Office, 26 W. Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268; (ii) to the United States via email or regular mail in accordance with Section XVI; and (iii) to EPA in accordance with Section XVI. Such notice shall state that the payment is for the civil penalty owed pursuant to the Consent Decree in *Quad County Corn Processors Cooperative* and shall reference the civil action number assigned by the Court, the CDCS Number provided by the FLU, and DOJ case number 90-5-2-1-12296.

12. Defendant shall not deduct any penalties paid under this Decree pursuant to this Section or Section VIII (Stipulated Penalties) in calculating its federal income tax.

VI. RIN RETIREMENT REQUIREMENTS

13. Defendant shall retire a total of 438,314 valid D3 RINs according to the following schedule:

a. No later than December 31, 2022, Defendant shall retire at least 87,662 valid 2021 or 2022 D3 RINs; Defendant may, however meet all or a portion of this obligation by retiring valid 2022 or 2023 D3 RINs between January 1, 2023 and March 31, 2023.

b. No later than December 31, 2023, Defendant shall retire at least 131,494 valid 2022 or 2023 D3 RINs.

c. No later than December 31, 2024, Defendant shall retire a sufficient number of valid 2023 or 2024 D3 RINs such that the cumulative total of RINs retired pursuant to this Paragraph is 438,314 RINs.

14. The parties acknowledge that the Effective Date may occur after December 31, 2022. Defendant agrees that it is bound to perform duties identified in Section VI (RIN Retirement Requirements) even if those duties arise prior to the Effective Date. Valid D3 RINs (e.g., RINs generated in the same calendar year or in the prior calendar year from the date they were retired, among other things) retired by Defendant at any time after lodging of the Consent Decree shall count toward Defendant's RIN retirement obligations under the Consent Decree, provided that such RIN retirement is in compliance with the terms of this Section. In the event the United States withdraws or withholds consent to this Consent Decree before entry, or the Court declines to enter the Consent Decree, then the preceding requirement to perform duties scheduled to occur before the Effective Date shall terminate.

15. Defendant shall retire the RINs identified in Paragraph 13 in the EPA Moderated Transaction System using EMTS Retirement Code 70 – Enforcement Obligation. The retirement transaction must include “OECA – U.S. v. Quad County” in the EMTS submission comment field of the retirement transaction.

16. Within 30 Days of retiring RINs under Paragraph 13 or Paragraph 17, Defendant shall submit to the United States a RIN Retirement Report that documents: (a) the EMTS submission date(s) that the RINs were retired; (b) the number, D-Code and vintage (year) of each RIN that was retired; and (c) the EMTS transaction ID for each RIN retirement transaction.

17. Should Defendant determine, or be informed by EPA in writing, that any RINs it retired in accordance with Paragraph 13 are invalid, Defendant shall retire an equivalent number of valid replacement RINs within 60 Days of that event, or within such other time period that EPA and Defendant agree to in writing. An EPA determination that any RINs retired in accordance with Paragraph 13 are invalid shall be provided to Defendant in writing, shall provide a basis for the determination, and shall be subject to 40 C.F.R. § 80.1431, 40 C.F.R. § 80.1473, and 40 C.F.R. § 80.1474(b).

18. If, within 60 months after termination of this Consent Decree pursuant to Section XIX (Termination), Defendant determines, or is informed by EPA, that any RINs retired in accordance with Paragraph 13, above, are invalid, Defendant shall, regardless of the termination of this Consent Decree, be required to retire an equivalent number of valid replacement RINs within 60 Days of that event, or in such other time period Defendant and EPA agree to in writing, in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

VII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

19. Any submittal required by Section VI (RIN Retirement Requirements) or Section IX (Force Majeure) shall be signed and certified by a corporate officer of Defendant authorized to make such certification(s) on behalf of Defendant and include the following certification:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate 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 also have no personal knowledge that the information submitted is other than 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.

20. All reports shall be submitted to the persons designated in Section XVI (Notices).

21. The reporting requirements of this Consent Decree do not relieve Defendant of any reporting obligations required by the Act or implementing regulations, or by any other federal, state, or local law, regulation, permit, or other requirement.

22. Any information provided pursuant to this Consent Decree may be used by the United States in any proceeding to enforce the provisions of this Consent Decree and as otherwise permitted by law.

VIII. STIPULATED PENALTIES

23. Defendant shall be liable for stipulated penalties to the United States for violations of this Consent Decree as specified below, unless excused under Section IX (Force Majeure). A violation includes failing to perform any obligation required by the terms of this Decree according to all applicable requirements of this Decree and within the specified time schedules established by or approved under this Decree.

24. Late Payment of Civil Penalty. If Defendant fails to pay the civil penalty required to be paid under Section V (Civil Penalty) when due, Defendant shall pay a stipulated penalty of \$5,000 per Day for each Day that the payment is late during the first 15 Days and \$10,000 for each Day thereafter.

25. Reporting Requirements. The following stipulated penalties shall accrue per violation per Day for each violation of the reporting requirements of Paragraph 16:

<u>Penalty per violation per Day</u>	<u>Period of Noncompliance</u>
\$1,000	1st through 14th Day
\$5,000	15th through 30th Day

\$10,000

31st Day and beyond

26. RIN Retirement Requirements. If Defendant fails to retire the number of RINs specified in Paragraph 13 or 17, Defendant shall pay a stipulated penalty of \$1,000 per Day for each Day that Defendant is late meeting its RIN retirement requirements during the first 20 Days, \$5,000 for Days 21-30, and \$10,000 for each Day thereafter. In addition, Defendant shall pay a one-time stipulated penalty of \$0.40 per RIN not retired by the date specified in Paragraph 13 or 17.

27. Use of Invalid RINs. If Defendant uses invalid RINs to meet its requirements under Paragraph 13, Defendant shall pay a one-time stipulated penalty of up to \$0.40 per invalid RIN unless Defendant demonstrates that it meets the affirmative defense criteria set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 80.1473(e)(1)-(5). To assert this affirmative defense, Defendant must submit a written report to EPA including all pertinent supporting documentation demonstrating that the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 80.1473(e)(1)-(5) are met. The written report must be submitted within 30 Days of Defendant either discovering or being notified of the invalidity of the RINs at issue.

28. Stipulated penalties under this Section shall begin to accrue on the Day after performance is due or on the Day a violation occurs, whichever is applicable, and shall continue to accrue until performance is satisfactorily completed or until the violation ceases. Stipulated penalties shall accrue simultaneously for separate violations of this Consent Decree.

29. Defendant shall pay any stipulated penalty within 30 Days of receiving the United States' written demand.

30. The United States may in the unreviewable exercise of its discretion, reduce or waive stipulated penalties otherwise due it under this Consent Decree.

31. Stipulated penalties shall continue to accrue as provided in Paragraph 28 during any Dispute Resolution, but need not be paid until the following:

a. If the dispute is resolved by agreement of the Parties or by a decision of EPA for which Quad County Corn Processors Cooperative did not seek judicial review under Paragraph 46, Defendant shall pay accrued penalties determined to be owing, together with interest, to the United States within 30 Days of the effective date of the agreement or the receipt of EPA's decision or order.

b. If Quad County Corn Processors Cooperative seeks judicial review of EPA's decision pursuant to Paragraph 46 and the United States prevails in whole or in part, Defendant shall pay all accrued penalties determined by the Court to be owing, together with interest, within 60 Days of receiving the Court's decision or order, except as provided in subparagraph c, below.

c. If any Party appeals the District Court's decision, Defendant shall pay all accrued penalties determined to be owing, together with interest, within 15 Days of receiving the final appellate court decision.

32. Obligations Prior to the Effective Date. Upon the Effective Date, the stipulated penalty provisions of this Decree shall be retroactively enforceable with regard to any and all violations of Paragraph 13 that have occurred prior to the Effective Date, provided that stipulated penalties that may have accrued prior to the Effective Date may not be collected unless and until this Consent Decree is entered by the Court.

33. Defendant shall pay stipulated penalties owing to the United States in the manner set forth and with the confirmation notices required by Paragraph 10, except that the transmittal

letter shall state that the payment is for stipulated penalties and shall state for which violation(s) the penalties are being paid.

34. If Defendant fails to pay stipulated penalties according to the terms of this Consent Decree, Defendant shall be liable for interest on such penalties, as provided for in 28 U.S.C. § 1961, accruing as of the date payment became due. Nothing in this Paragraph shall be construed to limit the United States from seeking any remedy otherwise provided by law for Defendant's failure to pay any stipulated penalties.

35. The payment of penalties and interest, if any, shall not alter in any way Defendant's obligation to complete the performance of the requirements of this Consent Decree.

36. Non-Exclusivity of Remedy. Stipulated penalties are not the United States' exclusive remedy for violations of this Consent Decree. Subject to the provisions of Section XIII (Effect of Settlement/Reservation of Rights), the United States expressly reserves the right to seek any other relief it deems appropriate for Defendant's violation of this Decree or applicable law, including but not limited to an action against Defendant for statutory penalties, additional injunctive relief, mitigation or offset measures, and/or contempt. However, the amount of any statutory penalty assessed for a violation of this Consent Decree shall be reduced by an amount equal to the amount of any stipulated penalty assessed and paid pursuant to this Consent Decree.

IX. FORCE MAJEURE

37. "Force majeure," for purposes of this Consent Decree, is defined as any event arising from causes beyond the control of Defendant, of any entity controlled by Defendant, or of Defendant's contractors, that delays or prevents the performance of any obligation under this Consent Decree despite Defendant's best efforts to fulfill the obligation. The requirement that Defendant exercise "best efforts to fulfill the obligation" includes using best efforts to anticipate any potential force majeure event and best efforts to address the effects of any potential force

majeure event (a) as it is occurring and (b) following the potential force majeure, such that the delay and any adverse effects of the delay are minimized. “Force Majeure” does not include Defendant’s financial inability to perform any obligation under this Consent Decree.

38. If any event occurs or has occurred that may delay the performance of any obligation under this Consent Decree, whether or not caused by a force majeure event, Defendant shall provide notice orally or by e-mail to EPA within 72 hours of when Defendant first knew that the event might cause a delay. Within seven Days thereafter, Defendant shall provide in writing to EPA an explanation and description of the reasons for the delay; the anticipated duration of the delay; all actions taken or to be taken to prevent or minimize the delay; a schedule for implementation of any measures to be taken to prevent or mitigate the delay or the effect of the delay; Defendant’s rationale for attributing such delay to a force majeure event if it intends to assert such a claim; and a statement as to whether, in the opinion of Defendant, such event may cause or contribute to an endangerment to public health, welfare or the environment. Defendant shall include with any notice all available documentation supporting the claim that the delay was attributable to a force majeure. Failure to comply with the above requirements shall preclude Defendant from asserting any claim of force majeure for that event for the period of time of such failure to comply, and for any additional delay caused by such failure. Defendant shall be deemed to know of any circumstance of which Defendant, any entity controlled by Defendant, or Defendant’s contractors knew or should have known.

39. If EPA agrees that the delay or anticipated delay is attributable to a force majeure event, the time for performance of the obligations under this Consent Decree that are affected by the force majeure event will be extended by EPA for such time as is necessary to complete those obligations. An extension of the time for performance of the obligations affected by the force

majeure event shall not, of itself, extend the time for performance of any other obligation. EPA will notify Defendant in writing of the length of the extension, if any, for performance of the obligations affected by the force majeure event.

40. If EPA does not agree that the delay or anticipated delay has been or will be caused by a force majeure event, EPA will notify Defendant in writing of its decision.

41. If Defendant elects to invoke the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section X (Dispute Resolution), it shall do so no later than 10 Days after receipt of EPA's notice. In any such proceeding, Defendant shall have the burden of demonstrating by a preponderance of the evidence that the delay or anticipated delay has been or will be caused by a force majeure event, that the duration of the delay or the extension sought was or will be warranted under the circumstances, that best efforts were exercised to avoid and mitigate the effects of the delay, and that Defendant complied with the requirements of Paragraphs 37 and 38. If Defendant carries this burden, the delay at issue shall be deemed not to be a violation by Defendant of the affected obligation of this Consent Decree identified to EPA and the Court.

X. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

42. Unless otherwise expressly provided for in this Consent Decree, the dispute resolution procedures of this Section shall be the exclusive mechanism to resolve disputes arising under or with respect to this Consent Decree. Defendant's failure to seek resolution of a dispute under this Section shall preclude Defendant from raising any such issue as a defense to an action by the United States to enforce any obligation of Defendant arising under this Decree.

43. Informal Dispute Resolution. Any dispute subject to Dispute Resolution under this Consent Decree shall first be the subject of informal negotiations. The dispute shall be considered to have arisen when Defendant sends the United States a written Notice of Dispute. Such Notice of Dispute shall state clearly the matter in dispute. The period of informal

negotiations shall not exceed 20 Days from the date the dispute arises, unless that period is modified by written agreement. If the Parties cannot resolve a dispute by informal negotiations, then the position advanced by the United States shall be considered binding unless, within 45 Days after the conclusion of the informal negotiation period, Defendant invokes formal dispute resolution procedures as set forth below.

44. Formal Dispute Resolution. Defendant shall invoke formal dispute resolution procedures, within the time period provided in the preceding Paragraph, by serving on the United States a written Statement of Position regarding the matter in dispute. The Statement of Position shall include, but need not be limited to, any factual data, analysis, or opinion supporting Defendant's position and any supporting documentation relied upon by Defendant.

45. The United States shall serve its Statement of Position within 45 Days of receipt of Defendant's Statement of Position. The United States' Statement of Position shall include, but need not be limited to, any factual data, analysis, or opinion supporting that position and any supporting documentation relied upon by the United States. The United States' Statement of Position shall be binding on Defendant, unless Defendant files a motion for judicial review of the dispute in accordance with the following Paragraph.

46. Defendant may seek judicial review of the dispute by filing with the Court and serving on the United States, in accordance with Section XVI (Notices), a motion requesting judicial resolution of the dispute. The motion must be filed within 20 Days of receipt of the United States' Statement of Position pursuant to the preceding Paragraph. The motion shall contain a written statement of Defendant's position on the matter in dispute, including any supporting factual data, analysis, opinion, or documentation, and shall set forth the relief

requested and any schedule within which the dispute must be resolved for orderly implementation of the Consent Decree.

47. The United States shall respond to Defendant's motion within the time period allowed by the Local Rules of this Court. Defendant may file a reply memorandum, to the extent permitted by the Local Rules.

48. The invocation of dispute resolution procedures under this Section shall not, by itself, extend, postpone, or affect in any way any obligation of Defendant under this Consent Decree, unless and until final resolution of the dispute so provides. Stipulated penalties with respect to the disputed matter shall continue to accrue from the first Day of noncompliance, but payment shall be stayed pending resolution of the dispute as provided in Paragraph 31. If Defendant does not prevail on the disputed issue, stipulated penalties shall be assessed and paid as provided in Section VIII (Stipulated Penalties).

XI. INFORMATION COLLECTION AND RETENTION

49. Until five years after the termination of this Consent Decree, Defendant shall retain, and shall instruct its contractors and agents to preserve, all non-identical copies of all documents, records, or other information (including documents, records, or other information in electronic form) in its or its contractors' or agents' possession or control, or that come into its or its contractors' or agents' possession or control, and that relate in any manner to Defendant's performance of its obligations under this Consent Decree. This information-retention requirement shall apply regardless of any contrary corporate or institutional policies or procedures. At any time during this information-retention period, upon request by the United States, Defendant shall provide copies of any documents, records, or other information required to be maintained under this Paragraph.

50. At the conclusion of the information-retention period provided in the preceding Paragraph, Defendant shall notify the United States at least 90 Days prior to the destruction of any documents, records, or other information subject to the requirements of the preceding Paragraph and, upon request by the United States, Defendant shall deliver any such documents, records, or other information to EPA. Defendant may assert that certain documents, records, or other information is privileged under the attorney-client privilege or any other privilege recognized by federal law. If Defendant asserts such a privilege, it shall provide the following: (a) the title of the document, record, or information; (b) the date of the document, record, or information; (c) the name and title of each author of the document, record, or information; (d) the name and title of each addressee and recipient; (e) a description of the subject of the document, record, or information; and (f) the privilege asserted by Defendant. However, no documents, records, or other information created or generated pursuant to the requirements of this Consent Decree shall be withheld on grounds of privilege.

51. Defendant may also assert that information required to be provided under this Section is protected as Confidential Business Information (“CBI”) under 40 C.F.R. Part 2. As to any information that Defendant seeks to protect as CBI, Defendant shall follow the procedures set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 2.

52. This Consent Decree in no way limits or affects any right of entry and inspection, or any right to obtain information, held by the United States pursuant to applicable federal laws, regulations, or permits, nor does it limit or affect any duty or obligation of Defendant to maintain documents, records, or other information imposed by applicable federal or state laws, regulations, or permits.

XII. CERTIFICATION

53. Defendant hereby certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, after thorough inquiry, (a) that it has submitted to the United States financial information that fairly, accurately, and materially sets forth its financial circumstances; (b) that those circumstances have not materially changed between December 21, 2021 and the date that Defendant signed this Consent Decree; and (c) that it does not have any insurance policies that may cover any payment of a civil penalty relating to this matter.

XIII. EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT/RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

54. This Consent Decree resolves the civil claims of the United States for the violations alleged in the Complaint filed in this action through the date of lodging.

55. The United States reserves all legal and equitable remedies available to enforce the provisions of this Consent Decree. Except as expressly provided in Paragraph 54, this Consent Decree shall not be construed to limit the rights of the United States to obtain penalties or injunctive relief under the Act or its implementing regulations, or under other federal laws, regulations, or permit conditions.

56. This Consent Decree is not a permit, or a modification of any permit, under any federal, State, or local laws or regulations. Defendant is responsible for achieving and maintaining complete compliance with all applicable federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and permits; and Defendant's compliance with this Consent Decree shall be no defense to any action commenced pursuant to any such laws, regulations, or permits, except as set forth herein. The United States does not, by its consent to the entry of this Consent Decree, warrant or aver in any manner that Defendant's compliance with any aspect of this Consent Decree will result in compliance with provisions of the regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 80, Subpart M, or with any other provisions of federal, State, or local laws, regulations, or permits.

57. This Consent Decree does not limit or affect the rights of Defendant or of the United States against any third parties, not party to this Consent Decree, nor does it limit the rights of third parties, not party to this Consent Decree, against Defendant, except as otherwise provided by law.

58. This Consent Decree shall not be construed to create rights in, or grant any cause of action to, any third party not party to this Consent Decree.

XIV. 26 U.S.C. § 162(f)(2)(a)(ii) IDENTIFICATION

59. For purposes of the identification requirement of Section 162(f)(2)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 162(f)(2)(A)(ii), performance of Paragraphs 13-17 of Section VI (RIN Retirement Requirements), Paragraphs 19-20 of Section VII (Reporting Requirements), and Paragraphs 49-50 of Section XI (Information Collection and Retention) is restitution or required to come into compliance with law.

XV. COSTS

60. The Parties shall bear their own costs of this action, including attorneys' fees, except that the United States shall be entitled to collect the costs (including attorneys' fees) incurred in any action necessary to collect any portion of the civil penalty or any stipulated penalties due but not paid by Defendant.

XVI. NOTICES

61. Unless otherwise specified in this Decree, whenever notifications, submissions, or communications are required by this Consent Decree, they shall be made in writing and addressed as follows:

As to the United States by email: eescdcopy.enrd@usdoj.gov
Re: DJ # 90-5-2-1-12296

As to the United States by mail: EES Case Management Unit
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611
Re: DJ # 90-5-2-1-12296

As to EPA: Director, Air Enforcement Division
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Mail Code 2422A
Washington, D.C. 20460

Matthew Kryman
Attorney-Advisor
Air Enforcement Division
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1595 Wynkoop Street (8MSU)
Denver, Colorado 80202
Telephone: (303) 312-6272
Email: kryman.matthew@epa.gov

As to Defendant: Delayne Johnson
President and CEO
Quad County Corn Processors Cooperative
100 East 3rd Street
Galva, IA 51020
delaynej@quad-county.com

Shannon S. Broome
Partner
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
50 California Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94105
Telephone: (415) 818-2275
sbroome@huntonak.com
Counsel for Defendant

62. Any Party may, by written notice to the other Parties, change its designated notice recipient or notice address provided above.

63. Notices submitted pursuant to this Section shall be deemed submitted upon mailing, unless otherwise provided in this Consent Decree or by mutual agreement of the Parties in writing.

XVII. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

64. The Court shall retain jurisdiction over this case until termination of this Consent Decree, for the purpose of resolving disputes arising under this Decree or entering orders modifying this Decree, pursuant to Sections X and XVIII, or effectuating or enforcing compliance with the terms of this Decree.

XVIII. MODIFICATION

65. The terms of this Consent Decree may be modified only by a subsequent written agreement signed by all the Parties. Where the modification constitutes a material change to this Decree, it shall be effective only upon approval by the Court.

66. Any disputes concerning modification of this Decree shall be resolved pursuant to Section X (Dispute Resolution). The Party seeking the modification bears the burden of demonstrating that it is entitled to the requested modification in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b).

XIX. TERMINATION

67. After Defendant has completed the requirements of Section VI (RIN Retirement Requirements), has paid the civil penalty and any accrued stipulated penalties as required by this Consent Decree, and has complied with all other requirements of this Consent Decree, Defendant

may serve upon the United States a Request for Termination, stating that Defendant has satisfied those requirements, together with all necessary supporting documentation.

68. Not later than 60 days of receipt by the United States of Defendant's Request for Termination, the Parties shall confer informally concerning the Request and any disagreement that the Parties may have as to whether Defendant has satisfactorily complied with the requirements for termination of this Consent Decree. If the United States agrees that the Decree may be terminated, the Parties shall submit, for the Court's approval, a joint stipulation terminating the Decree.

69. If the United States does not agree that the Decree may be terminated, Defendant may invoke Dispute Resolution under Section X. However, Defendant shall not seek Dispute Resolution of any dispute regarding termination until 60 Days after service of its Request for Termination.

70. The requirements to replace invalid RINs under Section VI (RIN Retirement Requirements) and any associated stipulated penalties shall survive, subject to any applicable statute of limitations, regardless of the termination of this Consent Decree.

XX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

71. This Consent Decree shall be lodged with the Court for a period of not less than 30 Days for public notice and comment in accordance with 28 C.F.R. § 50.7. The United States reserves the right to withdraw or withhold its consent if the comments regarding the Consent Decree disclose facts or considerations indicating that the Consent Decree is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. Defendant consents to entry of this Consent Decree without further notice and agrees not to withdraw from or oppose entry of this Consent Decree by the Court or to challenge any provision of the Decree, unless the United States has notified Defendant in writing that it no longer supports entry of the Decree.

XXI. SIGNATORIES/SERVICE

72. Each undersigned representative of Defendant and the Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree and to execute and legally bind the Party he or she represents to this document.

73. This Consent Decree may be signed in counterparts, and its validity shall not be challenged on that basis. Defendant agrees to accept service of process by mail or email with respect to all matters arising under or relating to this Consent Decree.

XXII. INTEGRATION

74. This Consent Decree constitutes the final, complete, and exclusive agreement and understanding among the Parties with respect to the settlement embodied in the Decree and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, whether oral or written, concerning the settlement embodied herein. The Parties acknowledge that there are no representations, agreements, or understandings relating to the settlement other than those expressly contained in this Consent Decree.

XXIII. FINAL JUDGMENT

75. Being that there is no just reason for delay, upon approval and entry of this Consent Decree by the Court, this Consent Decree shall constitute a final judgment of the Court as to the United States and Defendant.

ENTERED this ____ day of _____, 2022.


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

Signature Page for Consent Decree in *United States of America v. Quad County Corn Processors Cooperative*

FOR THE UNITED STATES:

TODD KIM
Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice

10/26/22
Date


JAMES D. FREEMAN,
Senior Attorney
Environmental Enforcement Section
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice
999 18th Street
South Terrace, Suite 370
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: (303) 844-1489
Email: james.freeman2@usdoj.gov

Signature Page for Consent Decree in *United States of America v. Quad County Corn Processors Cooperative*

FOR THE UNITED STATES:

TIMOTHY T. DUAX
United States Attorney
Northern District of Iowa


10/24/22
Date

Matthew J. Cole
MATTHEW J. COLE
Assistant United States Attorney
Northern District of Iowa

Signature Page for Consent Decree in *United States of America v. Quad County Corn Processors Cooperative*

FOR THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:

Date _____

**Greene,
Mary E**  Digitally signed by
Greene, Mary E
Date: 2022.10.25
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MARY E. GREENE
Director, Air Enforcement Division
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Date _____

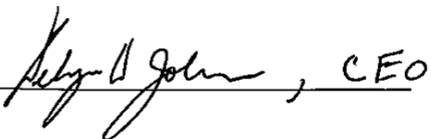
**Kryman,
Matthew**  Digitally signed by
Kryman, Matthew
Date: 2022.10.25
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MATTHEW KRYMAN
Attorney Advisor
Air Enforcement Division
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1595 Wynkoop Street (8MSU)
Denver, CO 80202

Signature Page for Consent Decree in *United States of America v. Quad County Corn Processors Cooperative*

FOR QUAD COUNTY CORN PROCESSORS COOPERATIVE:

9-28-2022
Date

 _____, CEO

Delayne D. Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
Quad County Corn Processors Cooperative