

**BEFORE THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Washington, D.C. 20585**

In the Matter of:)	
)	
)	
Hefei Rongshida Washing Equipment)	Case Number: 2014-SW-20001
Manufacturing Co., Ltd.)	
(residential clothes washers))	
)	

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY

Date issued: December 4, 2014

Number of alleged violations:	324
Maximum possible assessment:	\$64,800
Proposed civil penalty:	\$64,800

The Office of the General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") alleges that Hefei Rongshida Washing Equipment Manufacturing Co., Ltd. ("Hefei Rongshida"), a subsidiary of Midea Group, has violated certain provisions of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6291 *et seq.* ("the Act"), and 10 C.F.R. Part 429.

Specifically, DOE alleges:

1. Hefei Rongshida has manufactured and distributed in commerce in the United States a residential clothes washer basic model that includes individual model MAE80-S1702GPS (the "subject model").
2. The subject model is considered a "covered product" as described in 42 U.S.C. § 6292(a)(7).
3. Hefei Rongshida has distributed in commerce in the United States at least 324 units of the subject model.
4. DOE's testing of four units of the subject model, conducted in accordance with the DOE test procedure for residential clothes washers (Appendix J1 to Subpart B of 10 C.F.R. Part 430), yielded the test results for Modified Energy Factor ("MEF") of 1.11, 1.15, 1.12, and 1.11, respectively.

5. When evaluated in accordance with 10 C.F.R. Part 429, Subpart C, Appendix A, the subject model does not comply with the minimum federal standard of MEF of at least 1.26 as set forth at 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(g)(2).
6. DOE's testing of four units of the subject model, conducted in accordance with the DOE test procedure for residential clothes washers (Appendix J1 to Subpart B of 10 C.F.R. Part 430), yielded the test results for Water Factor ("WF") of 17.4, 17.1, 17.0, and 17.2, respectively.
7. When evaluated in accordance with 10 C.F.R. Part 429, Subpart C, Appendix A, the subject model does not comply with the maximum federal standard of WF of not more than 9.5 as set forth at 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(g)(2).

The following information is provided in question and answer format to help explain your legal obligations and options.

What do I do now?

DOE is offering to settle this enforcement action for the amount listed in paragraph III.2.a of the attached Compromise Agreement. To accept this settlement offer, you must submit the signed Compromise Agreement and then pay the fine within thirty (30) days of the date of an Adopting Order adopting the Compromise Agreement.

If you do not choose to settle the case, DOE may seek the maximum penalty authorized by law. You have other options as described below.

What are my other options?

If you do *not* agree to DOE's settlement offer, then you must select Option 1 or Option 2 below within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of this Notice.

Option 1: You may elect to have DOE issue an order assessing a civil penalty. Failure to pay the assessed penalty within sixty (60) calendar days of the order assessing such penalty will result in referral of the case to a U.S. District Court for an order affirming the assessment of the civil penalty. The District Court has the authority to review the law and the facts de novo.

Option 2: You may elect to have DOE refer this matter to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for an agency hearing on the record. Upon a finding of violation by the ALJ, DOE will issue an order assessing a civil penalty. This order may be appealed to the appropriate U.S. Court of Appeals.

When must I respond?

You must submit a signed compromise agreement within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of this notice to pay the lowest fine. If you do not wish to settle AND you wish to choose Option 1 as described above, you must notify DOE within thirty (30) calendar days of the date you received this notice of your selection of Option 1. Otherwise, if you do not settle the case, DOE will refer to the case to an ALJ as described in Option 2.

How should I submit my response?

To assure timely receipt, DOE strongly encourages you to submit your response by e-mail, fax, or an express delivery service. DOE accepts scanned images of signed documents (such as PDFs). Responses may be sent by any of the following methods:

By email to: douglas.rawald@hq.doe.gov

By fax to: (202) 586-3274

By mail to: Doug Rawald
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of the General Counsel (GC-32)
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

What happens if I fail to respond?

If you fail to respond within thirty (30) calendar days after receiving this notice, or by the time of any extension granted by DOE, DOE will refer the case to an ALJ for a full administrative hearing (Option 2, above).

What should I include in my response?

- 1) If you wish to accept DOE's settlement offer, you should submit the signed compromise agreement. If you do not wish to accept DOE's settlement offer, you should specify if you wish to elect Option 1; otherwise, DOE will proceed with Option 2, as described above.
- 2) Provide your Taxpayer Identification Number ("TIN"). The Debt Collection Improvement Act requires all Federal agencies to obtain the TIN in any case which may give rise to a debt to the government.

How did DOE calculate the maximum possible assessment?

Federal law sets a maximum civil penalty for each unit of a covered product that does not meet an applicable energy or water conservation standard that is distributed in commerce in the U.S. 10 C.F.R. § 429.102(a)(6). In the maximum penalty calculation in this notice, DOE has calculated a maximum penalty of \$200 per unit for 324 units distributed in commerce in the U.S. This number may be adjusted based on any additional information obtained if the case goes to hearing.

Issued by:

/signed/

Laura L. Barhydt
Assistant General Counsel for
Enforcement