

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Department of Labor and Industry

In the Matter of Lighthouse Development
Group LLC and Paul S. Fry, individually

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
WITH PENALTY**

I. ORDER

The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (“Commissioner”) issues this Order against Lighthouse Development Group LLC and Paul S. Fry, individually (“Respondents”).

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 7 (2016) and Minn. Stat. § 326B.083 (2016), the Commissioner hereby assesses against Respondents, jointly and severally, a monetary penalty of \$7,000, of which \$2,000 shall be forgiven if Respondents demonstrate to the Commissioner by the 31st day after this Administrative Order their full compliance with: (1) the Construction Contractor Registration requirements of Minn. Stat. § 326B.701, subd. 2 (2016) or (2) Residential Building Contractor or Residential Remodeler licensing requirements of Minn. Stat. § 326B.805, subd. 1 (2016), as applicable.

The Commissioner also hereby orders Respondents to cease and desist from violating the laws cited in the “Conclusions of Law” section of this Administrative Order. Specifically, the Commissioner orders Lighthouse Development Group LLC and Paul S. Fry, individually and doing business under any business name, to cease and desist from performing public or private sector commercial or residential building construction or improvement services in the state of Minnesota as defined in Minn. Stat. § 181.723, subs. 1 and 2 (2016) until such time as the Respondents fully respond to the Commissioner’s April 20, 2018 Subpoena Duces Tecum and demonstrate their full compliance with the registration or licensing requirements cited above.

The Commissioner takes the above action based upon the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondents are engaged in the business of providing commercial or residential building construction or improvement services but is neither licensed by the Commissioner nor registered in the Minnesota Construction Contractor Registration Program (“Registration Program”) administered by the Commissioner.
2. On April 12, 2018, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (“Department”) opened an investigation of Respondents based on information indicating that Respondents may have engaged in violations of the Minnesota statutes governing the classification of workers in the construction industry.

3. On March 5, 2014, Respondent Lighthouse Development Group LLC (“Respondent Lighthouse”) registered as a limited liability company with the Minnesota Secretary of State under file No. 742941400029 with a Registered Address at 4709 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota. This registration is active and in good standing as of the date of this Order.
4. Respondent Lighthouse was registered in the Department’s Registration Program with registration No. IR696819 from July 14, 2015 until December 31, 2015 at which time that registration expired for nonrenewal. Its address was listed as 7338 Bloomington Avenue South, Richfield, Minnesota. Respondent Lighthouse has not renewed nor re-registered in the Registration Program since that expiration.
5. The Department received evidence showing that Respondent Lighthouse was hired and paid by BEP/LYMAN LLC, dba in Minnesota as Carpentry Contractors Company, to perform building construction and improvement services starting on May 16, 2016 and continuing through all of 2017.
6. A Department investigator mailed a Subpoena Duces Tecum via first-class and certified mail to Respondents on April 20, 2018 to the Registered Offices at 4709 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota and to 7338 Bloomington Avenue South, Richfield, Minnesota. The subpoena response deadline was May 10, 2018.
7. The first-class mailing to the Richfield address was not returned to the Department by the U.S. Postal Service (“USPS”).
8. The subpoena sent via certified mail to the Richfield address was returned to the Department by the USPS marked “UNCLAIMED” on May 13, 2018.
9. Both the first-class and certified mailings to the Minneapolis address were returned to the Department. The first-class mailing came back marked “Return to Sender – Not Deliverable As Addressed – Unable To Forward” on May 4, 2018. The certified mailing came back on May 20, 2018 marked “UNCLAIMED” by the USPS.
10. On May 16, 2018, the Department investigator mailed a follow up letter and a copy of the original Subpoena Duces Tecum via first-class and certified mail to Respondents at the Richfield. The first-class mailing was not returned to the Department by the USPS. The certified return receipt was returned to the Department with an illegible signature on June 2, 2018.
11. As of the date of this Order, Respondents have not responded to the Subpoena Duces Tecum nor have they contacted the Department.
12. As of the date of this Order, Respondent Lighthouse has not registered in the Registration Program or obtained a license issued by the Department.

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondents committed violations of applicable law. Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 7 (2016).
2. Respondents committed a violation of Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 2(b) (2016) by failing to respond to a written request for production of documents from the Commissioner.
3. Respondents performed building construction or improvement services and were treated as independent contractors despite not being licensed by the Department or registered in the Registration Program in violation of Minn. Stat. § 326B.701, subd. 2 (2016).

IV. DETERMINATION OF PENALTY AMOUNT

In determining the amount of the penalty, the Commissioner considered: the extent of deviation from compliance; whether the violations were willful; the gravity of the violations; the number of violations; whether there is a history of past violations; whether Respondents gained economic benefit in not complying with the law; and other factors as justice may require.

V. REQUEST FOR HEARING

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 8 (2016), Respondents shall have 30 days after issuance of this Administrative Order to request a hearing. In addition, if the Commissioner determines that Respondents have not achieved compliance with the Contractor Registration or residential building contractor or residential remodeler licensing requirements cited above within the 31-day period for corrective action, Respondents have the right to a review of the Commissioner's determination by requesting a hearing within 20 days after the Commissioner issues notice of this determination. A request for hearing must be in writing and must be served on or faxed to the Commissioner at the following address or fax number by the deadline:

Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
CCLD – Enforcement Services Unit
Attention: Charlie Durenberger
443 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
Fax number: (651) 284-5746

The date on which a request for hearing is served by mail shall be the postmark date on the envelope in which the request for hearing is mailed. The request for hearing must specifically state the reasons for seeking review of the order or notice. If the request for hearing is served by fax it cannot exceed 15 pages in length and must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. central time on the last day permitted for serving a request. Respondent's review rights are more thoroughly described in Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subs. 4 and 8 (2016).

If the Respondents submit to the Commissioner a timely request for hearing, the Administrative Order shall be stayed unless otherwise ordered by a judge, and a contested case hearing will be conducted. The contested case procedures are set out in chapter 14 of Minnesota Statutes, the Rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, Minn. Rules 1400.5010 to 1400.8400 (2015), and Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 8 (2016). These materials may be purchased from the Minnesota Book Store, telephone (651) 297-3000, and are also available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

VI. EFFECT OF FINAL ORDER

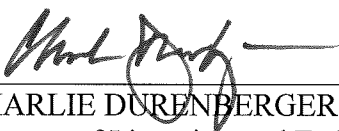
If Respondents do not request a hearing or Respondents' request for a hearing is not served on or faxed to the Commissioner by the deadline specified in the "Request for Hearing" section of this Administrative Order, this Administrative Order shall become a final order of the Commissioner and will not be subject to review by any court or agency. *See* Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 8 (2016).

The monetary penalty imposed upon Respondents by this Administrative Order, other than the forgivable portion, is due and payable ten days after the date the Administrative Order becomes final. If the Commissioner determines that Respondents have failed to comply with the Contractor Registration or licensing provisions cited above, then the forgivable portion of the penalty is due and payable 20 days after the Commissioner serves notice of this determination or on the date this Administrative Order becomes final, whichever is later. *See* Minn. Stat. § 326B.083, subd. 3 (2016).

When this Administrative Order becomes final, the Commissioner may file and enforce any unpaid portion of the penalty as a judgment in district court without further notice or additional proceedings. *See* Minn. Stat. §§ 16D.17 and 326B.083, subd. 2 (2016). Failure to pay a monetary penalty owed may result in the revocation, suspension, or denial of any or all licenses, permits, certificates, and registrations issued by the Commissioner. *See* Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 17 (2016). Also, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16D.13 (2016), Respondents are hereby notified that thirty (30) days after the date this Administrative Order becomes final, simple interest computed in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 16D.13, subd. 2 (2016) will begin to accrue on the unpaid portion of the penalty.

Dated: 7/18/18

KEN B. PETERSON
Commissioner

BY: 
CHARLIE DURENBERGER
Director of Licensing and Enforcement
Construction Codes and Licensing Division
Department of Labor and Industry