# INITIAL DECISION RELEASE NO. 1041 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING File No. 3-17309

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Before the SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

In the Matter of

COASTAL PACIFIC MINING CORP. AND PETAQUILLA MINERALS LTD.

INITIAL DECISION OF DEFAULT July 27, 2016

APPEARANCE: David S. Frye, for the Division of Enforcement,

Securities and Exchange Commission

BEFORE: Jason S. Patil, Administrative Law Judge

## **SUMMARY**

This initial decision revokes the registrations of the registered securities of Respondents Coastal Pacific Mining Corp. and Petaquilla Minerals Ltd. due to their failures to timely file required periodic reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

## INTRODUCTION

On June 23, 2016, the Commission issued an order instituting proceedings (OIP) pursuant to Section 12(j) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The OIP alleges that Respondents have a class of securities registered with the Commission pursuant to Exchange Act Section 12(g) and are delinquent in their periodic filings. Respondents were served with the OIP by June 29, 2016, and their answers were due by July 12, 2016. *Coastal Pac. Mining Corp.*, Admin. Proc. Rulings Release No. 3983, 2016 SEC LEXIS 2433 (ALJ July 13, 2016). Following Respondents' failures to timely file answers, I ordered them to show cause by July 25, 2016, why the registrations of their securities should not be revoked by default due to their failures to file answers or otherwise defend this proceeding. *Id.* To date, Respondents have failed to file answers, respond to the show cause order, or otherwise defend this proceeding.

# FINDINGS OF FACT

Respondents are in default for failing to file answers or otherwise defend the proceeding. *See* OIP at 3; 17 C.F.R. §§ 201.155(a)(2), .220(f). Accordingly, as authorized by Rule of Practice 155(a), 17 C.F.R. § 201.155(a), I find the following allegations in the OIP to be true.

Coastal Pacific Mining Corp., Central Index Key (CIK) No. 1410181, is an Alberta corporation located in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, with a class of securities registered with the Commission pursuant to Exchange Act Section 12(g). The company is delinquent in its periodic filings with the Commission, having not filed any periodic reports since it filed a Form 20-F for the period ended April 30, 2012, which reported a net loss of \$3,088,639 Canadian for the period from the company's inception on March 27, 2007, through April 30, 2012. As of June 16, 2016, the company's common stock was quoted on OTC Link operated by OTC Markets Group Inc. (formerly "Pink Sheets") (OTC Link), had six market makers, and was eligible for the "piggyback" exception of Exchange Act Rule 15c2-11(f)(3).

Petaquilla Minerals Ltd., CIK No. 947121, is a British Columbia corporation located in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, with a class of securities registered with the Commission pursuant to Exchange Act Section 12(g). The company is delinquent in its periodic filings with the Commission, having not filed any periodic reports since it filed a Form 20-F for the period ended June 30, 2013, which reported a net loss of \$4,601,691 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for the thirteen months ended June 30, 2013. As of June 16, 2016, the company's common shares were quoted on OTC Link, had six market makers, and were eligible for the "piggyback" exception of Exchange Act Rule 15c2-11(f)(3).

In addition to their repeated failures to timely file periodic reports, Respondents failed to heed delinquency letters sent to them by the Commission's Division of Corporation Finance requesting compliance with their periodic filing obligations or, through their failures to maintain valid addresses on file with the Commission as required by Commission rules, did not receive such letters.

# **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Exchange Act Section 13(a) and the rules promulgated thereunder require issuers of securities registered pursuant to Exchange Act Section 12 to file with the Commission current and accurate information in periodic reports. Specifically, Rule 13a-1 requires issuers to file annual reports. See 17 C.F.R. §§ 240.13a-1. "Compliance with those requirements is mandatory and may not be subject to conditions from the registrant." America's Sports Voice, Inc., Exchange Act Release No. 55511, 2007 SEC LEXIS 1241, at \*12 (Mar. 22, 2007), recons. denied, Exchange Act Release No. 55867, 2007 SEC LEXIS 1239 (June 6, 2007). Scienter is not required to establish violations of Exchange Act Section 13(a) and Rule 13a-1. See SEC v. McNulty, 137 F.3d 732, 740-41 (2d Cir. 1998); SEC v. Wills, 472 F. Supp. 1250, 1268 (D.D.C. 1978). Respondents failed to timely file periodic reports. As a result, Respondents violated Exchange Act Section 13(a) and Rule 13a-1 thereunder.

## **SANCTION**

Under Exchange Act Section 12(j), the Commission is authorized, "as it deems necessary or appropriate for the protection of investors," to revoke the registration of a security or suspend its registration for a period not exceeding twelve months if it finds, after notice and an opportunity for hearing, that the issuer of the security has failed to comply with any provision of the Exchange Act or rules thereunder. In determining what sanctions will adequately protect

investors, the Commission "consider[s], among other things, the seriousness of the issuer's violations, the isolated or recurrent nature of the violations, the degree of culpability involved, the extent of the issuer's efforts to remedy its past violations and ensure future compliance, and the credibility of its assurances, if any, against further violations." *Gateway Int'l Holdings, Inc.*, Exchange Act Release No. 53907, 2006 SEC LEXIS 1288, at \*19-20 (May 31, 2006).

Respondents' failures to file required periodic reports are serious because they violate a central provision of the Exchange Act. The purpose of periodic reporting is "to supply investors with current and accurate financial information about an issuer so that they may make sound [investment] decisions." Id. at \*26. The reporting requirements are the primary tool that Congress fashioned for the protection of investors from negligent, careless, and deliberate misrepresentations in the sale of securities. SEC v. Beisinger Indus. Corp., 552 F.2d 15, 18 (1st Cir. 1977). Respondents' violations are also recurrent in that they repeatedly failed to file periodic reports. See Nature's Sunshine Prods., Inc., Exchange Act Release No. 59268, 2009 SEC LEXIS 81, at \*20 (Jan. 21, 2009) (respondent failed to file seven required periodic reports due over a two-year period); Impax Labs., Inc., Exchange Act Release No. 57864, 2008 SEC LEXIS 1197, at \*25-26 (May 23, 2008) (respondent's failure to make eight filings over an eighteen-month period considered recurrent). Respondents are also culpable because they failed to heed delinquency letters sent to them by the Division of Corporation Finance or, through their failures to maintain valid addresses on file with the Commission as required by Commission rules, did not receive such letters. See China-Biotics, Inc., Exchange Act Release No. 70800, 2013 SEC LEXIS 3451, at \*37 & n.60 (Nov. 4, 2013) (holding that revocation may be warranted even without proof that a respondent was aware of its reporting obligations). Respondents have not answered the OIP or otherwise participated in the proceeding to address whether they have made any efforts to remedy their past violations, and have made no assurances against further violations.

Considering these delinquencies, it is necessary and appropriate for the protection of investors to revoke the registrations of each class of Respondents' registered securities.

#### **ORDER**

It is ORDERED that, pursuant to Section 12(j) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrations of each class of registered securities of Coastal Pacific Mining Corp. and Petaquilla Minerals Ltd. are hereby REVOKED.

This initial decision shall become effective in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Rule 360, 17 C.F.R. § 201.360. Pursuant to that rule, a party may file a petition for review of this initial decision within twenty-one days after service of the initial decision. A party may also file a motion to correct a manifest error of fact within ten days of the initial decision, pursuant to Rule 111, 17 C.F.R. § 201.111(h). If a motion to correct a manifest error of fact is filed by a party, then a party shall have twenty-one days to file a petition for review from the date of the undersigned's order resolving such motion to correct a manifest error of fact.

This initial decision will not become final until the Commission enters an order of finality. The Commission will enter an order of finality unless a party files a petition for review or a motion

to correct a manifest error of fact or the Commission determines on its own initiative to review the initial decision as to a party. If any of these events occur, the initial decision shall not become final as to that party.

A respondent may move to set aside a default. Rule 155(b) permits the Commission, at any time, to set aside a default for good cause, in order to prevent injustice and on such conditions as may be appropriate. 17 C.F.R. § 201.155(b). A motion to set aside a default shall be made within a reasonable time, state the reasons for the failure to appear or defend, and specify the nature of the proposed defense in the proceeding. *Id.* 

Jason S. Patil

Administrative Law Judge