

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

In the Matter of
FAIRFIELD MINERALS, LTD. and
METAL STORM LIMITED

INITIAL DECISION ON DEFAULT
November 3, 2016

APPEARANCE: David S. Frye for the Division of Enforcement,
Securities and Exchange Commission

BEFORE: Brenda P. Murray, Chief Administrative Law Judge

On August 30, 2016, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued an order instituting proceedings (OIP) pursuant to Section 12(j) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, alleging that Respondents have securities registered with the Commission under Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and are delinquent in their periodic filings. Respondents were served with the OIP by September 9, 2016, and their answers were due by September 22, 2016. *Fairfield Minerals, Ltd.*, Admin. Proc. Rulings Release No. 4244, 2016 SEC LEXIS 3847 (ALJ Oct. 12, 2016).

Respondents did not file answers or participate in the prehearing conference held October 4, 2016. *Id.* On October 12, 2016, I ordered Respondents to show cause by October 24, 2016, why the registrations of their securities should not be revoked by default. *Id.* To date, Respondents have not responded to the show cause order. Respondents are therefore in default for failing to file answers, participate in the prehearing conference, or otherwise defend the proceeding. OIP at 3; 17 C.F.R. §§ 201.155(a)(1)-(2), .220(f), .221(f). Accordingly, I find the allegations in the OIP to be true. 17 C.F.R. § 201.155(a).

Findings of Fact

Fairfield Minerals, Ltd., Central Index Key (CIK) No. 1118188, is a Canadian 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 January 31, 2001, which reported a net loss of \$829,000 Canadian under

generally accepted accounting principles in the United States for the prior twelve months. As of August 22, 2016, the company's common stock was not publicly quoted or traded.

Metal Storm Limited, CIK No. 1119775, is an Australian corporation located in Darra, Queensland, Australia, 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 December 31, 2011, which reported a net loss attributable to members of the parent of \$6,033,218 Australian for the prior year. As of August 22, 2016, the American Depository Receipts representing ordinary shares of the company were not publicly quoted or traded.

In addition to their repeated failures to file timely 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 Rule 13a-1 require issuers of securities registered with the Commission pursuant to Exchange Act Section 12 to file with the Commission current and accurate information in annual reports, even if the registration is voluntary under Exchange Act Section 12(g). 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). Scierter is not required to establish violations of Exchange Act Section 13(a) and rules thereunder. *SEC v. McNulty*, 137 F.3d 732, 740-41 (2d Cir. 1998). By failing to timely file required annual reports, Respondents violated Exchange Act Section 13(a) and Rule 13a-1.

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 the registration for a period not exceeding twelve months if it finds, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, that the issuer of the security has failed to comply with any provision of the Exchange Act or rules thereunder. 15 U.S.C § 78l(j). 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 Respondents failed to file periodic reports for fifteen years in the case of Fairfield and nearly five years in the case of Metal Storm. *See Nature's Sunshine Prods., Inc.*, Exchange Act Release No. 59268, 2009 SEC LEXIS 81, at *20 (Jan. 21, 2009); *Impax Labs., Inc.*, Exchange Act Release No. 57864, 2008 SEC LEXIS 1197, at *25-26 (May 23, 2008).

Respondents are culpable because they knew, or should have known, of their obligations to file periodic reports. *China-Biotics, Inc.*, Exchange Act Release No. 70800, 2013 SEC LEXIS 3451, at *37 & n.60 (Nov. 4, 2013) (holding that scienter is not necessary to establish grounds for revocation); *Robert L. Burns*, Investment Advisers Act of 1940 Release No. 3260, 2011 SEC LEXIS 2722, at *41 n.60 (Aug. 5, 2011) (stating that the Commission has "repeatedly held that ignorance of the securities laws is not a defense to liability thereunder"). By not participating in this proceeding, Respondents forfeited an opportunity to show they have made efforts to remedy their past violations and to offer assurances against further violations.

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

Order

I ORDER that, pursuant to Section 12(j) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrations of each class of registered securities of Fairfield Minerals, Ltd., and Metal Storm Limited are REVOKED.

This initial decision shall become effective in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Rule of Practice 360. 17 C.F.R. § 201.360. Pursuant to that Rule, I FURTHER ORDER that a party may file a petition for review of this initial decision within twelve days after service of the initial decision. 17 C.F.R. § 201.360(b). A party may also file a motion to correct a manifest error of fact within ten days of the initial decision, pursuant to Rule of Practice 111. 17 C.F.R. § 201.111. 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 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 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 has the right to file a motion to set aside a default within a reasonable time, stating the reasons for the failure to appear or defend, and specifying the nature of the proposed defense. 17 C.F.R. § 201.155(b). The Commission can set aside a default at any time for good cause. *Id.*

Brenda P. Murray
Chief Administrative Law Judge