CV-S-00-1088



CV-S-00-1088-0001



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1 KATHERINE S. ADDLEMAN MICHAEL R. MACPHAIL 2 ANDRES R. GUEVARA 02 PM '00 SEP 3 Attorneys for Plaintiff SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION 1801 California Street, Suite 4800 4 Denver, Colorado 80202 Telephone: (303) 844-1000 5 Fax: (303) 844-1010 6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 7 DISTRICT OF NEVADA 8 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE 9 CV-S-00-1088-KJD-RJJ COMMISSION, 10 Plaintiff, 11 VS. 12 LEE E. GAHR, and 13 CHILL TECH INDUSTRIES, INC., **COMPLAINT FOR** INJUNCTIVE AND 14 OTHER EQUITABLE Defendants. RELIEF 15 16 17 Plaintiff Securities and Exhange Commission ("Commission"), for its complaint alleges 18 as follows: 19 I. SUMMARY OF THE ACTION 20 1. Between approximately September 1998 and May 2000, Chill Tech Industries, 21 Inc. ("Chill Tech"), through its chief operating officer Lee E. Gahr ("Gahr"), made numerous 22 false and misleading statements through an Internet website, various press releases, phony 23 unsolicited faxes, and a magazine article. These statements concerned: (1) the "environmentally 24 friendly" nature of, purported testing of, and Chill Tech's ability to manufacture, the "Arctic 25

Can," purportedly a self-cooling beverage can; (2) presentations of the Arctic Can to various well-known companies and governmental entities and related revenue and earnings projections; (3) financial and stock projections, and predictions of future listing of Chill Tech's stock on the Nasdaq Stock Market, In. ("Nasdaq"); and (4) Chill Tech's receipt of financing commitments and agreements to acquire substantial assets.

- 2. Gahr, who ran Chill Tech pursuant to a management agreement, was responsible for all of the above statements.
- 3. Certain of the above statements caused the price and volume of Chill tech stock to increase significantly in the short term.
- 4. While Gahr was disseminating the false press releases, he personally sold 1,056,500 shares of Chill Tech common stock for profits of at least \$278,738.

## II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 [15 U.S.C. §77u(a)] ("Securities Act") and Sections 21(e) and 27 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 [15 U.S.C. §§78u(e) and 78aa] ("Exchange Act"). Venue lies in this Court pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act and Section 27 of the Exchange Act.
- 6. In connection with the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business described in this Complaint, each of the defendants, directly and indirectly, has made use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, and/or of the means and instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce.

7. Defendant Chill Tech resides within this judicial district. Additionally, certain of the transactions, acts, practices and course of business constituting the violations of law alleged occurred within this judicial district.

# III. DEFENDANTS

- 8. Lee E. Gahr, age 36, is a resident of Vancouver, British Columbia, and was appointed chief operating officer on December 8, 1998. Gahr was in charge of the day-to-day operations of Chill Tech pursuant to a management agreement between Chill Tech and Biscay Management and Consulting Ltd. ("Biscay"), a private company that Gahr operated.
  - 9. Chill Tech is a Nevada corporation.

# IV. BACKGROUND

# A. STATEMENTS MADE BY CHILL TECH AND GAHR

- 10. Between September 1998 and August 17, 1999, Chill Tech issued 11 false and misleading press releases.
- 11. By no later than March 1999, Chill Tech posted on its Internet website, www.chilltech.com, past press releases dating back to November 1998. Chill Tech posted press releases dated as follows on its Internet website soon after they were issued: November 6, 1998; December 11, 1998; February 5, 1999; February 22, 1999; March 1, 1999; March 3, 1999; March 7, 1999; March 10, 1999; March 14, 1999; and May 3, 2000.
- 12. Sometime between February and April 1999, at least two individuals in the United States received phony faxes touting Chill Tech stock. The faxes purported to consist of a

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promotional article concerning Chill Tech published in "Vision," a fictitious magazine supposedly published in Geneva, Switzerland.

- 13. A promotional article touting Chill Tech was published in the April 1999 issue of Market Pulse Journal, a quarterly publication with an unpaid circulation of approximately 20,000.
- 14. These press releases, Internet website, phony faxes, and magazine article contained false and misleading statements concerning: (1) the "environmentally friendly" nature of, purported testing of, and Chill Tech's ability to manufacture, the "Arctic Can," purportedly a self-cooling beverage can; (2) "presentations" of the Arctic Can with a view towards selling the product to various well-known companies and governmental entities; (3) financial and stock price projections, and predictions of future Nasdaq listing; and (4) Chill Tech's receipt of financing commitments and agreements to acquire substantial assets.
- 15. Gahr and Chill Tech were the source of the statements contained in the press releases, Internet website, phony faxes, and the Market Pulse Journal article, or Gahr and Chill Tech drafted, approved, and/or reviewed such statements prior to their issuance.

#### В. MISREPRESENTATIONS MADE BY CHILL TECH AND GAHR

- 16. Gahr and Chill Tech publicly disseminated the following statements:
- (a) In five press releases (issued December 11, 1998; February 5, 1999; March 1, 1999; March 3, 1999; and May 12, 1999), Chill Tech stated that the Arctic Can was a "technologically feasible, environmentally friendly, and economically competitive" product and in two press releases (issued September 9, 1998 and November 6, 1998), Chill Tech stated that it was developing a "self-chilling beverage can."

- (b) In a press release issued December 11, 1998, Chill Tech stated that all research and development of the Arctic Can had been completed and prototypes were being tested
- (c) In three press releases Chill Tech stated that it had negotiated with a German manufacturing company, GEMI, S.R.O. ("GEMI"), as follows:
  - (i) In a press release issued on February 5, 1999, Chill Tech stated that it had received a letter of intent from GEMI for the manufacturing of the Arctic Can;
  - (ii) In a press release issued on February 22, 1999, Chill Tech stated that talks regarding manufacturing between Chill Tech and GEMI were continuing; and
  - (iii) In a press release issued on March 1, 1999, Chill Tech stated that it had entered into a "manufacturing agreement" with GEMI for GEMI to manufacture the Arctic Can.
- (d) In three press releases Chill Tech stated that it had made presentations of the Arctic Can with a view towards selling the product to various companies and government entities as follows:
  - (i) In a press release issued On March 3, 1999, Chill Tech stated that it had made an "official presentation" both to employees of the U.S. Navy and members of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee;
  - (ii) In a press release issued on March 10, 1999, Chill Tech stated that it had made a "proposal" to the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"); and,

- (iii) In a press release issued on March 14, 1999, Chill Tech stated that DelMonte Foods Corp. ("DelMonte") had invited Chill Tech to make a "presentation" later that month and that DelMonte was "extremely interested" in the Arctic Can.
- (e) Chill Tech and/or Gahr made financial projections as follows:
- (i) In a press release issued on March 3, 1999, Chill Tech stated that its profits from a contract with the U.S. Navy would exceed \$5 million dollars per year.
- (ii) In a press release issued on March 10, 1999, Chill Tech stated that a contract with FEMA could generate up to "an additional three million dollars worth of annual revenue."
- (iii) In an April 1999 article published in the Market Pulse Journal Chill Tech stated that it would earn more than \$9 million during its "first year" of operations, more than \$28 million during the second year, and "an estimated" \$48 million by the third year.
- (iv) The phony faxes stated that Chill Tech common stock would reach a price of \$15-\$20 a share by the year 2000.
- (f) Chill Tech claimed to have received offers of financing from The Globus Group ("Globus") as follows:
  - (i) In a press release issued on March 1, 1999, Chill Tech stated that it had received an offer of \$12 million in financing by Globus; and

- (ii) In a press release issued on March 7, 1999, Chill Tech stated that it would pursue the acquisition of \$4 million worth of "NASD-approved assets in the form of television air time" in a deal developed by Globus.
- (g) The March 7, 1999 press release further stated that Chill Tech's acquisition of assets in the form of television air time would provide the company with "the asset base" required to be quoted on the Nasdaq Small Cap market.
- (h) The phony faxes stated that corporate entities Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. and The Coca-Cola Co. were "rumored to be proposing buy-outs" of Chill Tech.
  - 17. The foregoing statements were false and/or misleading for the following reasons:
- (a) The Arctic Can was not "environmentally friendly" since the product contained Freon, a substance banned because of environmental concerns under international treaty since 1996 - a fact which the company admitted in a May 3, 2000 press release but failed to disclose in any of its prior press releases, included those issued on September 9 and November 6, 1998.
  - (b) No product testing was begun before early 2000.
- (c) No letter of intent was signed and no manufacturing agreement existed between Chill Tech and GEMI.
- (d) No face-to-face meetings or other presentations regarding the Arctic Can occurred:
  - (i) Chill Tech merely mailed unsolicited correspondence to the U.S.

    Navy and no correspondence was sent to the members of the U.S. Senate Armed

    Services Committee Senate;

- (ii) Chill Tech merely mailed unsolicited correspondence to FEMA;
- (iii) DelMonte was not "extremely interested" in the Arctic Can and no meeting or other "presentation" had been scheduled. DelMonte requested additional information about the Arctic Can that the Defendants never provided.
- (e) The financial projections in the March 3, 1999 press release, the March 10, 1999 press release, the Market Pulse Journal, and in the phony faxes each lacked a reasonable basis because, among other reasons, they were predicated on fictitious business relationships and undermined by Chill Tech's developmental stage status, lack of a viable product, and lack of significant assets or revenues.
- (f) The March 1, 1999 and March 7, 1999 press releases regarding financing were each false because neither Globus nor its principal Bruce Gorcyca a/k/a/ Anthony DiMarco ("DiMarco") possessed or otherwise had access to the represented assets or financing.
- (g) The March 7, 1999 press release was false because Chill Tech lacked the assets, capitalization, net income and/or bid price necessary to satisfy Nasdaq's requirements for listing.
- (h) The claims in the phony faxes regarding a "buyout" of Chill Tech by Anheuser-Busch were false because Anheuser-Busch never considered a business combination with Chill Tech.

V. MARKET IMPACT

18. Some of the false statements disseminated by the Defendants substantially impacted the market for Chill Tech Stock.

19. The closing price of Chill Tech stock increase between 15% and 94% on the dates of four of the press releases. These included: the September 9, 1998 press releases initially touting the Arctic Can (closing price increase by 89% from \$1.03 to \$2); the December 11, 1998 press release concerning testing and manufacturing of the Artic Can (closing price increased by 15% from \$1.03 to \$1.19); the March 10, 1999 press release regarding a purported business relationship with FEMA (closing price increased by 21% from \$.75 to \$.91); and the August 17, 1999 press release disclosing delays in producing the Arctic Can, but expressing confidence in eventual production (closing price increased by 94% from \$.16 to \$.31). In addition, reported volume on the dates of six of the press releases increased between 51% and 734%.

## VI. GAHR'S TRADING

- 20. From January through December 1999, Gahr sold at least 1,056,500 shares of Chill Tech common stock at prices between \$1.09 and \$.04 per share through Canadian and U.S. brokerage accounts in his and Biscay's names.
- 21. At least some of these shares came directly from Chill Tech and were issued between December 1998 and June 1999.
- 22. On four occasions, Gahr sold stock on the date of, or one day after, the issuance of a false press release by Chill Tech.
  - 23. Gahr realized profits of at least \$278,738 through these sales.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violations of Exchange Act §10(b) and Rule 10b-5)

- 24. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 23 above.
- 25. Defendants Gahr and Chill Tech, with scienter, in connection with the purchase or sale of securities, by the use of means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce or of the mails, directly or indirectly: (a) employed devices, schemes or artifices to defraud; (b) made untrue statements of material facts or omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or (c) engaged in acts, practices or courses of business which operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon purchasers of securities in violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 [17 C.F.R. §240.10b-5] thereunder.
- 26. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants Gahr and Chill Tech violated Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to do so.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violations of Securities Act § 17(a)(1))

- 27. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 23 above.
- 28. Defendant Gahr; with scienter, in the offer or sale of securities, by the use of means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce, or by the use of the mails, directly or indirectly employed devices, schemes or artifices to defraud in violation of Section 17(a)(1) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)(1)]. 29. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant Gahr violated Section 17(a)(1) of the Securities Act and unless restrained

and enjoined will continue to do so.

## THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violations of Securities Act §§ 17(a)(2) and (3))

- 30. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 23 above.
- 31. Defendant Gahr, in the offer or sale of securities, by the use of means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce, or by the use of the mails, directly or indirectly (a) obtained money or property by means of untrue statements of material fact and by omissions to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or (b) engaged in transactions, practices or courses of business which operate, operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon purchasers of securities in violation of Sections 17(a)(2) and (3) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 77q(a)(2) and (3)].
- 32. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant Gahr violated Sections 17(a)(2) and (3) of the Securities Act and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to do so.

### FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violations of Securities Act § 5(a) and 5(c))

- 33. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 23 above.
- 34. Defendant Gahr, directly and indirectly, in connection with the sale and offer to sell securities by the means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce, or the mails, has:
  - 35. Caused to be carried through the mails or in interstate commerce securities for the

purpose of sale or for delivery after sale when no registration statement was in effect; and

36. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant Gahr violated Sections 5(a) and 5(c) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a) and 77e(c)].

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that this Court:

I.

Enter a permanent injunction restraining and enjoining Defendants Gahr and Chill Tech, their subsidiaries, officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys-in-fact, and all persons in active concert or participation with them, and each of them, from violating, directly or indirectly, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 thereunder.

II.

Enter a permanent injunction restraining and enjoining Defendant Gahr his subsidiaries, officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys-in-fact, and all persons in active concert or participation with him from violating, directly or indirectly, Sections 17(a)(1), 17(a)(2) and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act.

III.

Enter a permanent injunction restraining and enjoining Defendant Gahr, his subsidiaries, officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys-in-fact, and all persons in active concert or participation with him from violating, directly or indirectly, Sections 5(a) and 5(c) of the Securities Act.

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