

INITIAL DECISION RELEASE NO. 1280
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
FILE NO. 3-18201

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

In the Matter of	:	INITIAL DECISION
	:	MAKING FINDINGS AND
HAMPSHIRE GROUP, LIMITED,	:	REVOKING REGISTRATION
UNITED MORTGAGE TRUST, INC., and	:	BY DEFAULT
ZOOM COMPANIES, INC.	:	November 2, 2018

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

BEFORE: Carol Fox Foelak, Administrative Law Judge

SUMMARY

This Initial Decision revokes the registration of the registered securities of Hampshire Group, Limited (Respondent).¹ The revocation is based on Respondent's repeated failure to file required periodic reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

I. BACKGROUND

The Securities and Exchange Commission instituted this proceeding with an Order Instituting Proceedings (OIP), pursuant to Section 12(j) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, on September 22, 2017. Respondent's Answer was due within ten days of service of the OIP on it. *See* OIP at 3; 17 C.F.R. § 201.220(b). Respondent was served with the OIP on October 6, 2017, by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail attempted delivery at "the most recent address shown on [its] most recent filing with the Commission," pursuant to 17 C.F.R. § 201.141(a)(2)(ii), and failed to file an Answer. On November 2, 2017, an Initial Decision of Default revoked the registration of its registered securities. *Hampshire Grp.*, Initial Decision Release No. 1220, 2017 SEC LEXIS 3497 (A.L.J.).

On August 22, 2018, in light of *Lucia v. SEC*, 138 S. Ct. 2044 (2018), the Commission ordered a new hearing in each pending proceeding, including this one, before an administrative law judge who had not previously participated in the proceeding, unless the parties expressly agreed to alternative procedures, including agreeing that the proceeding remain with the previous presiding administrative law judge. *Pending Admin. Proc.*, Securities Act of 1933 Release No. 10536, 2018 SEC LEXIS 2058, at *2-3. Accordingly, the proceeding was reassigned to the undersigned. *Pending Admin. Proc.*, Admin. Proc. Rulings Release No. 5955, 2018 SEC LEXIS 2264 (C.A.L.J. Sept. 12, 2018).

¹ The proceeding has ended as to the other captioned respondents, United Mortgage Trust, Inc., and Zoom Companies, Inc., which settled. *Hampshire Grp.*, Exchange Act Release Nos. 81873, 2017 SEC LEXIS 3294 (Oct. 13, 2017); 81912, 2017 SEC LEXIS 3353 (Oct. 19, 2017).

In view of the reassignment of the proceeding, Respondent was afforded a new opportunity to file an Answer, which was due by October 12, 2018. *Hampshire Grp.*, Admin. Proc. Rulings Release No. 6083, 2018 SEC LEXIS 2596, at *3 (A.L.J. Sept. 26, 2018). It did not file an Answer and was ordered to show cause by November 1, 2018, why it should not be deemed to be in default and the registration of its securities revoked. *Hampshire Grp.*, Admin. Proc. Rulings Release No. 6234, 2018 SEC LEXIS 2920, at *2-3 (A.L.J. Oct. 22, 2018). To date, it has not filed an Answer to the OIP or responded to the order to show cause. Thus, Respondent has failed to answer or otherwise to defend the proceeding within the meaning of 17 C.F.R. § 201.155(a)(2). Accordingly, Respondent is in default, and the undersigned finds that the allegations in the OIP are true as to it. See OIP at 3; 17 C.F.R. §§ 201.155(a), .220(f). Official notice has been taken of the Commission's public official records concerning Respondent, pursuant to 17 C.F.R. § 201.323.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

Hampshire Group, Limited (HAMPQ) (CIK No. 887150),² is a delinquent Delaware corporation located in Anderson, South Carolina, with a class of securities registered with the Commission pursuant to Exchange Act Section 12(g). HAMPQ is delinquent in its periodic filings with the Commission, having not filed any periodic reports since it filed a Form 10-Q for the period ended September 26, 2015, which reported a net loss of \$2,131,000 for the fiscal period from January 1, 2015, through September 26, 2015. On November 23, 2016, HAMPQ filed a Chapter 11 petition in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, which was still pending as of September 6, 2017. As of September 5, 2017, the common stock of HAMPQ was quoted on OTC Link operated by OTC Markets Group Inc. (formerly "Pink Sheets"), had nine market makers and was eligible for the "piggyback" exception of Exchange Act Rule 15c2-11(f)(3).

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

By failing to file required annual and quarterly reports, Respondent violated Exchange Act Section 13(a) and Rules 13a-1 and 13a-13.

IV. SANCTION

Revocation of the registrations of the registered securities of Respondent will serve the public interest and the protection of investors, pursuant to Section 12(j) of the Exchange Act. Revocation will help ensure that the corporate shell is not later put to an illicit use involving publicly traded securities manipulated to the detriment of market participants. Further, revocation accords with Commission sanction considerations set forth in *Gateway International Holdings, Inc.*, Exchange Act Release No. 53907, 2006 SEC LEXIS 1288, at *19-20 (May 31, 2006) (citing *Steadman v. SEC*, 603 F.2d 1126, 1139-40 (5th Cir. 1979), *aff'd on other grounds*, 450 U.S. 91 (1981)), and with the sanctions imposed in similar cases in which corporations violated Exchange Act Section 13(a) by failing to file required annual and quarterly reports. See *Cobalis Corp.*, Exchange Act Release No. 64813, 2011 SEC LEXIS 2313 (July 6, 2011), *recons. denied*, Exchange Act Release No. 65118, 2011 SEC LEXIS 2839 (Aug. 12, 2011); *Nature's Sunshine Prods., Inc.*, Exchange Act Release No. 59268, 2009 SEC LEXIS 81 (Jan. 21, 2009); *Impax Labs., Inc.*, Exchange Act Release No. 57864, 2008 SEC LEXIS 1197 (May 23, 2008); *America's Sports Voice*,

² The short form of Respondent's name is also its ticker symbol. The CIK number is a unique identifier for each corporation in the Commission's EDGAR database. The user can retrieve filings of a corporation by using its CIK number.

Inc., Exchange Act Release No. 55511, 2007 SEC LEXIS 1241 (Mar. 22, 2007), *recons. denied*, Exchange Act Release No. 55867, 2007 SEC LEXIS 1242 (June 6, 2007); *Eagletech Commc'ns, Inc.*, Exchange Act Release No. 54095, 2006 SEC LEXIS 1534 (July 5, 2006). Respondents' violations were recurrent, egregious, and deprived the investing public of current and accurate financial information on which to make informed decisions.

Failure to file periodic reports violates a crucial provision of the Exchange Act. The purpose of the periodic reporting requirements is to publicly disclose current, accurate financial information about an issuer so that investors may make informed decisions:

The reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is the primary tool which Congress has fashioned for the protection of investors from negligent, careless, and deliberate misrepresentations in the sale of stock and securities. Congress has extended the reporting requirements even to companies which are "relatively unknown and insubstantial."

SEC v. Beisinger Indus. Corp., 552 F.2d 15, 18 (1st Cir. 1977) (quoting legislative history); *accord e-Smart Techs., Inc.*, Exchange Act Release No. 50514, 2004 SEC LEXIS 2361, at *8-9 (Oct. 12, 2004). The Commission has warned that "many publicly traded companies that fail to file on a timely basis are 'shell companies' and, as such, attractive vehicles for fraudulent stock manipulation schemes." *e-Smart Techs., Inc.*, 2004 SEC LEXIS 2361, at *9 n.14.

V. ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to Section 12(j) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. § 78l(j), the REGISTRATION of the registered securities of Hampshire Group, Limited, is REVOKED.

This Initial Decision shall become effective in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Rule 360 of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 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 of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 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 undersigned's order resolving such motion to correct a manifest error of fact. The 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.³

Carol Fox Foelak
Administrative Law Judge

³ A respondent may also file a motion to set aside a default pursuant to 17 C.F.R. § 201.155(b). *See Alchemy Ventures, Inc.*, Exchange Act Release No. 70708, 2013 SEC LEXIS 3459, at *13 & n.28 (Oct. 17, 2013); *see also David Mura*, Exchange Act Release No. 72080, 2014 SEC LEXIS 1530 (May 2, 2014).