## File No. 230422073P1

IN THE ALBERTA COURT OF JUSTICE

CRIMINAL DIVISION

BETWEEN:

HIS MAJESTY THE KING

- and –

**OLGA KIIKER** 

JUSTICE P.J MASON
AT CALGARY, ALBERTA

ON TUESDAY, THE 21st DAY OF NAVEMBER, 2023

CALGAR

## ORDER PURSUANT TO SECTION 51(1) OF THE EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE ACT

**WHEREAS** Olga Kiiker has pled guilty to the following offence under the *Emissions Management and Climate Resilience Act* 

Count 24: On or about April 1, 2021, at or near Calgary, in the province of Alberta, did knowingly provide false or misleading information pursuant to a requirement under this Act or the regulations to provide information and did thereby commit an offence contrary to s. 44(a) of the *Emissions Management and Climate Resilience Act*.

**AND WHEREAS** Olga Kiiker has been sentenced to a fine of \$10,000 imposed under the *Emissions Management and Climate Resilience Act*, inclusive of victim fine surcharge, having regard to the nature of the offence and circumstances surrounding its commission;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED pursuant to the provisions of section 51(1) of the *Emissions Management and Climate Resilience Act*, Olga Kiiker will comply with the following conditions:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of section 51(1)(a) of the *Emissions Management* and Climate Resilience Act, Olga Kiiker shall not engage in any employment that may involve collecting, analyzing, reporting, validating, verifying or auditing environmental data, including, but not limited to data regarding greenhouse gas emissions, for a period of three (3) years from the date of this Order.

AND WHEREAS Olga Kiiker agrees to prepare an article for publication in the Environmental Services Association of Alberta Weekly News publication, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 2. Pursuant to the provisions of s. 51(1)(c) of the *Emissions Management and Climate Resilience Act*, Alberta Environment and Parks shall arrange and allow the Environmental Services Association of Alberta to publish and freely distribute, without compensation and without restriction, an article prepared by Ms. Kiiker, substantially in the form attached hereto as Schedule "A", in the ESAA Weekly News for publication in the year 2024.
- 3. This Order may be consented to in counterpart, by facsimile or otherwise.

DATED this day of November , 2023 in Calgary, in the Province of Alberta.

Justice MASM Alberta Court of Justice

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT BY:

Lindsay Tate

Counsel for Appeals and Specialized Prosecutions Branch

of the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service

Niall Fink

Solicitor for Olga Kiiker

## **SCHEDULE "A"**

## "LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES"

I have prepared this article as part of a creative sentencing order from the Alberta Court of Justice, in order to inform others about the consequences of mistakes I made as an environmental services provider.

For many years I worked for the same company in the environmental consulting industry. One of our services was to provide peer reviews of third party documents and reports for our clients, which we submitted to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP). My role was as an environmental regulatory coordinator, which included marketing, client relations, and coordinating projects. I also conducted peer reviews of similar documents in other provinces, but I did not have the qualifications to peer review the same in Alberta. Our company had only one person who was qualified to complete peer reviews.

That employee left the company and we could not find anyone to replace them. This left us without anyone to complete peer reviews, just before the busy season a few months after. Our company was struggling financially after the COVID-19 pandemic and a shortage of staff. We were under a lot of pressure to get work and keep work. It didn't seem possible to turn down contracts for third party reviews, and I thought I could convince the former employee to help with verification on the side, just to get us through this busy time. But that didn't happen.

I had not successfully completed the training required by AEP in order to conduct peer reviews in Alberta as the reporting deadline was approaching. Our clients were important to us. I made a bad decision as the only solution I could see was to use the former employee's signature. So I made the decision to use the former employee's signature and email credentials, posing as them in e-mails and on peer review documents. I also sent a required "Verification Online Training Quiz" into AEP using their name and email address confirming that the training and quiz had been completed by them when it had not.

I know that this was the wrong thing to do. But at the time I thought, "what harm could it do?" It didn't seem like anybody would be hurt by my actions. I was also under a tremendous amount of stress at the time. I was recovering from a major ongoing medical event and I was afraid I would lose my job if we did not complete the work. I just wasn't thinking clearly.

It didn't take long before the former employee found out I had impersonated them and reported my conduct to their professional regulator. Shortly thereafter our sub-contractors and that regulator contacted my company. The company subcontracted qualified peer reviewers to re-do the peer reviews, and I was let go immediately after these reviews were completed.

As a result of my actions, I was charged with providing false and misleading information to AEP and have pled guilty. As a result, I have been fined \$10,000 and have been ordered not to participate in any more similar consulting or auditing positions for a period of three years.

I cannot begin to express my regret for my actions and only hope someone else will learn from my mistakes. I truly regret the terrible decisions I've made, every single day. Because of my poor decisions I am no longer employed. With my serious medical issues and my age, I am unable to find suitable employment. This has been a terrible time in my life.

I hope that anyone else who is thinking that a signature is just a signature remembers my story and takes the time to think about the potential consequences.