

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CHARLESTON DIVISION

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS OF) Civil Action No. 2:24-cv-02935-RMG
THE CITY OF CHARLESTON (d.b.a.)
Charleston Water System), Individually and on) CLASS ACTION
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
)
vs.)
)
DUDE PRODUCTS INC.,)
)
)
Defendant.)
)
)
_____)

I, ROSS D. MURRAY, declare and state as follows:

1. I am employed as a Vice President by Gilardi & Co. LLC (“Gilardi”), located at 1 McInnis Parkway, Suite 250, San Rafael, California, 94903. The following statements are based on my personal knowledge and information provided to me by other Gilardi employees and, if called to testify thereto, I could and would do so competently.

2. Pursuant to this Court’s May 31, 2024 Order and Opinion (the “Preliminary Approval Order”), Gilardi was appointed to supervise and administer certain elements of the notice procedure in connection with the above-captioned action (the “Action”). I oversaw the notice services that Gilardi provided in accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order.

3. I submit this declaration in order to provide the Court and the parties to the Action with information regarding: (i) mailing of the Court-approved Notice of Settlement (the “Notice”), attached hereto as Exhibit A; and (ii) publication of the Notice via press release.

DISSEMINATION OF THE NOTICE

4. Pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order, Gilardi was responsible for disseminating the Notice to potential Settlement Class Members by First-Class Mail. The Settlement Class consists of all STP Operators in the United States whose systems were in operation between May 9, 2021 and the date of preliminary approval. An “STP Operator” is an entity that “owns and/or operates sewage or wastewater conveyance and treatment systems, including municipalities, authorities, and wastewater districts.”

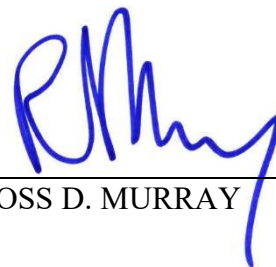
5. Gilardi received an excel file, via email, from Plaintiff’s counsel, which contained the names and addresses of potential Settlement Class Members. Specifically, this file was described as the EPA’s list of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) as of November 1, 2023. The list was reviewed to identify and correct incomplete data, resulting in a mailing list of 15,045 unique names and addresses. Gilardi had the unique name and address data printed on the

postcard Notices, posted the Notices for First-Class Mail, postage prepaid, and delivered 15,045 postcard Notices on June 28, 2024, to the United States Post Office for mailing.

PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE

6. In accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order, on June 28, 2024, Gilardi caused a Summary Notice to be transmitted in a press release over *Business Wire*, as shown in the confirmation of publication attached hereto as Exhibit B. The press release further directed potential Settlement Class Members to the Settlement website for additional information about the Settlement, including the long-form Notice.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed this 15th day of August, 2024, at San Rafael, California.



ROSS D. MURRAY

EXHIBIT A

Dude Products Settlement
Dude Gilardi & Co. LLC
P.O. Box 301130
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1130

*Commissioners of Public Works of the City of
Charleston (d.b.a. Charleston Water System)*
v. *Dude Products Inc.*

COURT-APPROVED
LEGAL NOTICE

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:24-CV-02935-RMG
A FEDERAL COURT HAS
AUTHORIZED THIS NOTICE.
THIS IS NOT A SOLICITATION
FROM A LAWYER.
WWW.CHARLESTONWIPESETTLEMENT.COM

«3of9 barcode »

«BARCODE»

Postal Service: Please do not mark barcode

DDPS «Claim Number»

«FIRST1» «LAST1»

«ADDRESS LINE 1» «ADDRESS LINE 2»

«CITY», «STATE»«PROVINCE» «POSTALCODE»

«COUNTRY»

24-cv-02935-RMG
DDPS

SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM OPERATORS IN THE UNITED STATES WHOSE SYSTEM WAS IN OPERATION BETWEEN MAY 9, 2021 AND MAY 31, 2024, MAY BE AFFECTED BY A CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT.

*A federal court authorized this Notice. You are not being sued.
This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.*

A proposed settlement (“Settlement”) has been reached between Charleston Water System and Defendant DUDE Products Inc. (“Defendant”). Charleston Water System challenges the manufacturing, design, marketing and/or sale of Defendant’s flushable wipes.¹ Defendant denies the allegations about its flushable wipes and maintains that the products perform as advertised. There has been no finding of liability against Defendant. Defendant agreed to the Settlement to avoid the uncertainties and expenses of trial.

WHO IS IN THE SETTLEMENT CLASS?

If you own[ed] or operate[d] a sewage or wastewater conveyance and treatment plant, such as a municipality, authority or wastewater district in the United States whose system was in operation between May 9, 2021 and May 31, 2024, you are part of the Settlement Class. The Court-certified Settlement Class is defined as “All STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) Operators in the United States whose systems were in operation between May 9, 2021 and the date of preliminary approval.”

WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT WITH DEFENDANT PROVIDE?

Defendant has agreed to modify its business practices with respect to its flushable wipes Products, including DUDE Wipes flushable wipes. The details of these business practice modifications and the terms of the settlement are available at www.charlestonwipessettlement.com.

YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

Do Nothing. By doing nothing, you will automatically receive the benefits of the Settlement with Defendant in the form of business practice modifications described in the Notice.

Object to the Settlement or the Request for Attorneys’ Fees and Expenses. You can object to the Settlement and/or Class Counsel’s request for attorneys’ fees and expenses of up to \$275,000.

Should I Hire An Attorney? You do not need to hire your own attorney because Class Counsel is working on your behalf. If you retain an individual attorney, you will need to pay for that attorney.

Final Approval Hearing. The Court will hold the Final Approval Hearing on September 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., at the J. Waties Waring Judicial Center, 83 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29401. You can go to this hearing, but you do not have to. The Court will hear any objections, determine if the Settlement with Defendant is fair, and consider Class Counsel’s request for attorneys’ fees and expenses. Class Counsel’s request for fees and expenses will be posted on the Settlement Website after they are filed.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

This Notice is only a summary. For more information, visit www.charlestonwipessettlement.com.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL OR WRITE THE COURT FOR INFORMATION OR ADVICE.

¹ The terms of the Settlement are in the Stipulation of Settlement, dated May 10, 2024 (the “Stipulation”), which can be viewed at www.charlestonwipessettlement.com.

EXHIBIT B



If you are a Sewage Treatment System Operator in the United States whose system was in operation between May 9, 2021 and May 31, 2024, Charleston Water System’s class action settlement may affect your rights.

June 28, 2024 08:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time

MELVILLE, N.Y.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP and AquaLaw PLC announce that a proposed settlement (“Settlement”) has been reached in a class action with DUDE Products Inc. (“Defendant”) regarding the manufacturing, design, marketing and/or sale of its flushable wipes.¹ Defendant denies the allegations about its flushable wipes and maintains that the products perform as advertised. There has been no finding of liability against Defendant. Defendant has agreed to the Settlement to avoid the uncertainties and expenses associated with continuing the case.

You are part of the Settlement Class if you own[ed] or operate[d] a sewage or wastewater conveyance and treatment plant, such as a municipality, authority or wastewater district in the United States whose system was in operation between May 9, 2021 and May 31, 2024.

To settle the lawsuit brought by the Charleston Water System, Defendant has agreed to implement certain modifications to its business practices and has made certain representations and commitments with respect to its flushable wipes products. The details of these business practice modifications are set forth in the Stipulation, which is located at www.charlestonwipessettlement.com.

If you are part of the Settlement Class, you will automatically receive the benefits of the Settlement. You may also object to the Settlement and/or Class Counsel’s request for attorneys’ fees and expenses of up to \$275,000 by September 6, 2024. You may retain and pay for an individual attorney, but you do not need to because Class Counsel is working on your behalf.

For more information, including the Stipulation and other legal documents, visit www.charlestonwipessettlement.com.

¹ The terms of the Settlement are in the Stipulation of Settlement, dated May 10, 2024 (the “Stipulation”), which can be viewed at www.charlestonwipessettlement.com. All capitalized terms not defined in this press release have the same meanings as in the Stipulation.

Contacts

Media Contact:

Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP

Shareholder Relations Department

Greg Wood

(619) 231-1058

Declaration of Publication

I, Carla Peak, as Vice President, Legal Notification Services at Verita Global LLC f/k/a Gilardi Settlement Administration Company in San Rafael, California, hereby certify that I caused the attached notice to be published as a press release by the following wire service:

Name of Publication: BusinessWire
Address: 101 California Street 20th Floor
City, ST Zip: San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone #: 415-986-4422
State of: California

The press release was distributed on June 28, 2024 to the following media circuits offered by the above-referenced wire service:

1. National Newsline

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 28th day of June 2024, at Sellersville, Pennsylvania.



Carla Peak
Carla Peak