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GENERAL COUNSEL

MAY 20 2002

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Before the State of South Carolina
Department of Insurance

In the matter of:

Southern United Fire Insurance Company

Post Office Box 190429
Mobile, AL 36619-0429

SCDI File Number 112885

Consent Order
Imposing Administrative Penalty

This matter comes before me pursuant to an agreement entered into between the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance and Southern United Fire Insurance Company (Company), an insurer licensed to transact insurance business within the State of South Carolina.

Southern United Fire Insurance Company hereby admits, and I find as fact, that it failed to timely file its March 2002 Quarterly (annual adjusted) Tax Return Installment. This insurer previously also failed to timely file a previous installment with the Department, for which it was given a first-offense warning letter. The Company maintains these actions were completely unintentional.

Rather than contest this matter, the Company and the Department have agreed to submit the entire matter to me, along with their specific recommendation, for my summary decision. That consensual recommendation was that the Company would waive its right to a public hearing and would submit an administrative penalty to the Department in the total amount of $1,000.

Section 38-7-60(3) of the South Carolina Code in pertinent part states, "premium and other taxes imposed on insurers pursuant to Sections 38-7-20, 38-7-30, 38-7-40, 38-7-50, and 38-7-90 must be paid to the Director or his designee in quarterly installments on or before March first, June first, September first, and December first of each calendar year." Sections 38-7-60 (4) and 38-5-120 (A) (2) (Supp. 2000) allow the Director of Insurance to impose disciplinary action against an insurer that does not comply with South Carolina's insurance laws.

After a thorough review of the matter, carefully considering the recommendation of the parties, and pursuant to my findings of fact, I hereby conclude as a matter of law that the Company did comply with S.C. Code Ann. § 38-7-60(3) (Supp. 2000). Accordingly, I hereby impose an administrative penalty in the amount of $1,000 against the Company pursuant to the discretion provided to me by the State of South Carolina General Assembly in S.C. Code Ann. §§ 38-5-130 and 38-2-10 (Supp. 2000). This administrative penalty must be paid within ten days of my date and my signature upon this consent order. If the Company has not paid that total amount on, or before, that date, then its certificate of authority to transact business as an insurer within the State of South Carolina will be summarily revoked without any further administrative disciplinary proceedings.

_____ Southern United Fire Insurance Company

The parties have reached this administrative penalty as a result of negotiation and compromise, and in consideration of the internal corrective internal measures the Company has implemented to prevent this problem from recurring and of the Company's assurance that it will timely file each of its future tax returns with the Department. This penalty includes all expenses related to investigation of this matter as provided in § 38-13-70 of the South Carolina Code. The parties expressly agree and understand the Company's payment of the agreed-upon penalty constitutes full accord and satisfaction of this matter.

By the signature of one of its officers or authorized representatives upon this consent order, the Company acknowledges that it understands that this administrative disciplinary order is a public record subject to the disclosure requirements of the State of South Carolina's *Freedom of Information Act,* S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-4-10, *et seq*. (1991 and Supp. 2000).

Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit, or to deprive any person of, any private right of action under the law. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit, in any manner, the criminal jurisdiction of any law enforcement or judicial officer. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit the statutory duty, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-110 (Supp. 2000), of the Director of Insurance, exercised either directly or through the Department, to "report to the Attorney General or other appropriate law enforcement officials criminal violations of the laws relative to the business of insurance or the provisions of this title which he considers necessary to report."

It is, therefore, ordered that Southern United Fire Insurance Company shall, within ten days of my date and my signature upon this consent order, pay through the Department an administrative penalty in the total amount of $1,000.

It is further ordered that a copy of this consent order shall be immediately transmitted to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for distribution to its member states.

This consent order becomes effective on the date of my signature below.

Ernst N. Csiszar
Director

May 21, 2, 2002
Columbia, South Carolina

_____ Southern United Fire Insurance Company

I CONSENT:

AJ Bowab

Signature of Authorized Representative

A.J. Bowab

Name

Treasurer

Title

Southern United Fire Insurance Company
Post Office Box 190429
Mobile, AL 36619-0429

Dated this 16 day of May, 2002