

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

STONE CANYON INDUSTRIES HOLDINGS
LLC;

SCIH SALT HOLDINGS INC;

MORTON SALT, INC.;

and

K+S AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.: 21-1067 (TJK)

ASSET PRESERVATION AND HOLD SEPARATE STIPULATION AND ORDER

It is hereby stipulated by and among the undersigned Parties, subject to approval and entry of this Order by the Court, as follows.

I. DEFINITIONS

As used in this Asset Preservation and Hold Separate Stipulation and Order (“Stipulation and Order”):

A. “Stone Canyon” means Defendant Stone Canyon Industries Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited corporation with its headquarters in Los Angeles, California, its successors and assigns, and its subsidiaries, divisions, groups, affiliates, including SCIH, partnerships, and joint

ventures, and their directors, officers, managers, agents, and employees.

B. “SCIH” means Defendant SCIH Salt Holdings Inc., an affiliate of Stone Canyon and a Delaware corporation with its headquarters in Overland Park, Kansas, its successors and assigns, and its subsidiaries, divisions, groups, affiliates, partnerships, and joint ventures, and their directors, officers, managers, agents and employees.

C. “US Salt” means US Salt LLC, a Delaware limited liability company with its headquarters in Overland Park, Kansas, its successors and assigns, and its subsidiaries, divisions, groups, affiliates, partnerships, and joint ventures, and their directors, officers, managers, agents, and employees. US Salt is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of SCIH.

D. “K+S AG” means Defendant K+S Aktiengesellschaft, a German company with its headquarters in Hesse, Germany, its successors and assigns, and its subsidiaries, divisions, groups, affiliates, partnerships, and joint ventures, and their directors, officers, managers, agents, and employees.

E. “Morton” means Defendant Morton Salt, Inc., a Delaware corporation with its headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, its successors and assigns, and its subsidiaries, divisions, groups, affiliates, partnerships, and joint ventures, and their directors, officers, managers, agents, and employees.

F. “Acquirer” means the entity to which Defendants divest the Divestiture Assets.

G. “Divestiture Assets” means all of Defendants’ rights, titles, and interests in US Salt, including:

1. the refinery and associated acreage located at 3580 Salt Point Road, Watkins Glen, NY 14891;

2. the leased warehouse located at 224 N. Main Street, Horseheads, NY 14845;

3. all other real property, including fee simple interests and real property leasehold interests and renewal rights thereto, improvements to real property, and options to purchase any adjoining or other property, together with all buildings, facilities, and other structures;

4. all tangible personal property, including fixed assets, machinery and manufacturing equipment, tools, vehicles, inventory, materials, office equipment and furniture, computer hardware, and supplies;

5. all contracts, contractual rights, and customer relationships, and all other agreements, commitments, and understandings, including supply agreements, teaming agreements, and leases, and all outstanding offers or solicitations to enter into a similar arrangement;

6. all licenses, permits, certifications, approvals, consents, registrations, waivers, and authorizations issued or granted by any governmental organization, and all pending applications or renewals;

7. all records and data, including (a) customer lists, accounts, sales, and credits records, (b) production, repair, maintenance, and performance records, (c) manuals and technical information Defendants provide to their own employees, customers, suppliers, agents, or licensees, (d) records and research data concerning historic and current research and development activities, and (e) drawings, blueprints, and designs;

8. all intellectual property owned, licensed, or sublicensed, either as licensor or licensee, including (a) patents, patent applications, and inventions and discoveries that may be patentable, (b) registered and unregistered copyrights and copyright applications, and (c) registered and unregistered trademarks, trade dress, service marks, trade names, and trademark applications; and

9. all other intangible property, including (a) commercial names and d/b/a names, (b) technical information, (c) computer software and related documentation, know-how, trade secrets, design protocols, specifications for materials, specifications for parts, specifications for devices, safety procedures (e.g., for the handling of materials and substances), quality assurance and control procedures, and (d) rights in internet web sites and internet domain names. *Provided, however,* that the assets specified in Paragraphs (G)(1)–(9) above do not include (a) any trademarks, trade names, commercial names, doing business as (“d/b/a”) names, service marks, or service names containing the name “Kissner” or (b) the SCIH enterprise licenses for Adobe Acrobat, Atera, Microsoft Office 365, Mitel, Team Viewer, Ultipro, and Webroot.

H. “Including” means including but not limited to.

I. “Relevant Personnel” means all full-time, part-time, or contract employees involved in the production or sale of evaporated salt, wherever located, for (1) US Salt, or (2) SCIH. *Provided, however,* that Relevant Personnel does not include a) employees of SCIH engaged in human resources, legal, information technology, or other general or administrative support functions; or b) any SCIH employee with the title Senior Vice President or higher.

J. “Transaction” means the proposed acquisition of Morton by SCIH.

II. OBJECTIVES

The proposed Final Judgment filed in this case is meant to ensure Defendants' prompt divestiture of the Divestiture Assets for the purpose of establishing a viable competitor in the production and sale of evaporated salt products in the United States in order to remedy the anticompetitive effects that the United States alleges would otherwise result from SCIH's proposed acquisition of assets, including Morton, from K+S AG. This Stipulation and Order ensures that, prior to divestiture, the Divestiture Assets remain independent, economically viable, competitive, and saleable; that Defendants will preserve and maintain the Divestiture Assets; and that the level of competition that existed between Defendants prior to the Transaction is maintained during the pendency of the required divestiture of the Divestiture Assets.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over the Parties. Venue of this action is proper in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Defendants waive service of summons of the Complaint.

IV. CONSUMMATION OF THE TRANSACTION

Defendants will not consummate the Transaction before the Court has signed this Stipulation and Order.

V. COMPLIANCE WITH AND ENTRY OF FINAL JUDGMENT

A. The proposed Final Judgment filed with this Stipulation and Order, or any amended proposed Final Judgment agreed upon in writing by the United States and Defendants and filed with the Court, may be filed with and entered by the Court as the Final Judgment, upon the motion of the United States or upon the Court's own motion, after compliance with the

requirements of the Antitrust Procedures and Penalties Act (“APPA”), 15 U.S.C. § 16, and without further notice to any party or any other proceeding, as long as the United States has not withdrawn its consent. The United States may withdraw its consent at any time before the entry of the Final Judgment by serving notice on Defendants and by filing that notice with the Court.

B. From the date of the signing of this Stipulation and Order by Defendants until the Final Judgment is entered by the Court, or until expiration of time for all appeals of any ruling declining entry of the proposed Final Judgment, Defendants will comply with all of the terms and provisions of the proposed Final Judgment.

C. From the date on which the Court enters this Stipulation and Order, the United States will have the full rights and enforcement powers set forth in the proposed Final Judgment as if the proposed Final Judgment were in full force and effect as a final order of the Court, and Section XIV of the proposed Final Judgment will also apply to violations of this Stipulation and Order.

D. Defendants agree to arrange, at their expense, publication of the newspaper notice required by the APPA, which will be drafted by the United States in its sole discretion. The publication must be arranged as quickly as possible and, in any event, no later than three business days after Defendants’ receipt of (1) the text of the notice from the United States and (2) the identity of the newspaper or newspapers within which the publication must be made. Defendants must promptly send to the United States (1) confirmation that publication of the newspaper notice has been arranged and (2) the certification of the publication prepared by the newspaper or newspapers within which the notice was published.

E. This Stipulation and Order applies with equal force and effect to any amended proposed Final Judgment agreed upon in writing by the United States and Defendants and filed with the Court.

F. Defendants represent that the divestiture ordered by this Stipulation and Order and the proposed Final Judgment can and will be made and that Defendants will not later raise a claim of mistake, hardship, or difficulty of compliance as grounds for asking the Court to modify any of its provisions.

VI. ASSET PRESERVATION AND HOLD SEPARATE

From the date of the signing of this Stipulation and Order by Defendants and until the divestiture required by the proposed Final Judgment has been accomplished:

A. Defendants must take all actions necessary to operate, preserve, and maintain the full economic viability, marketability, and competitiveness of the Divestiture Assets including by (1) operating the Divestiture Assets in the ordinary course of business and consistent with past practices and (2) providing sufficient working capital and lines and sources of credit.

B. Defendants must use all reasonable efforts to maintain and increase the sales and revenues of the products provided by the Divestiture Assets and must maintain at 2021 levels or previously approved levels for 2022, whichever are higher, all promotional, advertising, sales, technical assistance, customer support and service, marketing, research and development, and merchandising support for the Divestiture Assets.

C. Defendants must use all reasonable efforts to maintain and preserve existing relationships with customers, suppliers, governmental authorities, vendors, landlords, creditors, agents, and all others having business relationships relating to the Divestiture Assets.

D. Defendants must maintain, in accordance with sound accounting principles, separate, accurate, and complete financial ledgers, books, or other records that report on a periodic basis, such as the last business day of every month, consistent with past practices, the assets, liabilities, expenses, revenues, and income of the Divestiture Assets.

E. Defendants must maintain the working conditions, staffing levels, and work force training and expertise of all Relevant Personnel. Relevant Personnel must not be transferred or reassigned except to Acquirer or via transfer bids initiated by employees pursuant to Defendants' regular, established job posting policy. Defendants must provide the United States with 10 calendar days' notice of the transfer of Relevant Personnel, and, upon objection by the United States to such transfer, Relevant Personnel may not be transferred or reassigned. Defendants must use all reasonable efforts, including by providing financial incentives, to encourage Relevant Personnel to continue in the positions held as of the date of the signing of this Stipulation and Order by Defendants, and financial incentives may not be structured so as to disincentivize employees from accepting employment with Acquirer.

F. Defendants must maintain all licenses, permits, approvals, authorizations, and certifications relating to or necessary for the operation of the Divestiture Assets and must operate the Divestiture Assets in compliance with all regulatory obligations and requirements.

G. Defendants must take all steps necessary to ensure that the Divestiture Assets are fully maintained in operable condition at no less than their current capacity and sales, with the same level of quality, functionality, access, and customer support, and must, consistent with past practices, maintain and adhere to normal repair and maintenance schedules for the Divestiture Assets.

H. Except as approved by the United States in accordance with the terms of the proposed Final Judgment, Defendants must not remove, sell, lease, assign, transfer, pledge, encumber, or otherwise dispose of any Divestiture Assets.

K. Defendants must take no action that would jeopardize, delay, or impede the sale of the Divestiture Assets.

L. Management, sales, and operations of the Divestiture Assets must be held entirely separate, distinct, and apart from Defendants' other operations. Defendants must not coordinate the production, marketing, or terms of sale of any products produced or sold by the Divestiture Assets with the production, marketing, or terms of sale of any other products produced or sold by Defendants.

M. Defendants must appoint, subject to approval of the United States in its sole discretion, a person or persons to oversee the Divestiture Assets. Such person or persons will be responsible for Defendants' compliance with this Section VI, for managing the sales and operations of the Divestiture Assets separately from Defendants' other operations, and for ensuring the preservation the Divestiture Assets for the duration of this Stipulation and Order. In the event any such person is unable to perform his or her duties, Defendants must appoint, subject to the approval of the United States in its sole discretion, a replacement within 10 working days. Should Defendants fail to appoint a replacement acceptable to the United States within this time period, the United States will appoint a replacement.

N. Within 20 days after the entry of this Stipulation and Order, Defendants will inform the United States of the steps Defendants have taken to comply with this Stipulation and Order.

VII. DURATION OF OBLIGATIONS

Defendants' obligations under Section VI of this Stipulation and Order will expire upon the completion of the divestiture required by the proposed Final Judgment or until further order of the Court. In the event that (1) the United States has withdrawn its consent, as provided in Paragraph V(A) of this Stipulation and Order; (2) the United States voluntarily dismisses the Complaint in this matter; or (3) the Court declines to enter the proposed Final Judgment, the time has expired for all appeals of any ruling declining entry of the proposed Final Judgment, and the Court has not otherwise ordered continued compliance with the terms and provisions of the proposed Final Judgment, Defendants are released from all further obligations under this Stipulation and Order, and the making of this Stipulation and Order will be without prejudice to any party in this or any other proceeding.

Dated: April 19,2021

Respectfully submitted,

FOR PLAINTIFF
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED by the Court, this 22 day of April, 2021.

/s/ Timothy J. Kelly
United States District Judge