

Townsends Bankruptcy Updates: Creditors' Committee Appointed; Important Recent Court Filings

As we previously reported, Townsends, Inc. and four affiliates - Townsend Farms, Inc.; Townsends of Arkansas, Inc.; Townsend Farms of Arkansas, Inc.; and Crestwood Farms LLC - voluntarily filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in Delaware on December 19th (bankruptcy filing details available here). Townsends is a major producer of poultry products which contracts with more than 300 growers with over 1,200 chicken houses, has over 3,000 employees, and generated over \$504 million in revenue for the twelve months ended December 5, 2010.

Yesterday, the United States Trustee for Region 3 announced the appointment of an Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in the Townsends bankruptcy cases. The creditors appointed to serve on the Committee are:

- International Paper Co.
- Commodity Specialists Company
- Cargill Inc.
- Novus International Inc.
- Install Inc.

The Creditors' Committee has selected the law firm of <u>Lowenstein Sandler</u>, <u>PC</u> as its proposed counsel (counsel appointment requires court approval, which has not yet been sought).

In addition, a variety of important and informative documents have been filed in the Townsends bankruptcy cases since our last report. A selection of those court filings is included below; for ease of use, the filings have been separated into two categories - first, orders entered by bankruptcy judge Christopher S. Sontchi and, second, motions, applications and other pleadings filed by Townsends or its creditors.

Recent Orders Entered by Bankruptcy Judge Christopher S. Sontchi in the Townsends Bankruptcy Cases

- Order (Interim) (A) Authorizing the Debtors to Obtain First-Priority Secured Post-Petition Financing, (B) Authorizing the Debtors to Use Cash Collateral of Existing Secured Lenders, and Providing Related Adequate Protection, and (C) Prescribing Form and Manner of Notice and Setting the Time for the Final Hearing
- Amended Order Authorizing The Debtors To Honor Prepetition Obligations To And Continue Prepetition Practices With (I) Shippers, (II) Warehousemen, And (III) Other Claimants
- Amended Order Authorizing The Debtors To Honor Prepetition Claims Of Feed Ingredient Suppliers And Sales Brokers



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- Amended Order Authorizing The Debtors To (I) Honor Prepetition Obligations To And (II) Continue Prepetition Practices With Critical Vendors
- Order (Amended) Authorizing the Debtors to Honor Prepetition Obligations to Growers
- Order (I) Authorizing The Debtors To Pay Certain Prepetition (A) Wages, Salaries And
 Other Compensation And (B) Employee Medical And Similar Benefits; (II) Authorizing
 And Directing Banks And Other Financial Institutions To Honor All Related Checks And
 Electronic Payment Requests; And (III) Granting Related Relief

Recent Motions, Applications and Other Pleadings Filed by Townsends or its Creditors

- <u>Motion for Payment of Administrative Expenses/Claims Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 503(b)(9)</u> Filed by Eastern Minerals, Inc. (Attachments: # (1) Exhibit # (2) Certificate of Service)
- Reclamation of Claim / Demand for Reclamation of Goods . Filed by Gateco Oil Company, Inc.
- Application to Employ/Retain SSG Capital Advisors, LLC as Investment Banker to the Debtors Filed by Townsends, Inc. (Attachments: # (1) Notice # (2) Exhibit A (Victor Declaration)# (3) Exhibit B (Engagement Letter)# (4) Exhibit C (Proposed Order))
- Application to Employ/Retain Huron Consulting Group, Consultants to the Debtors as Dalton T. Edgecomb, Chief Restructuring Officer Filed by Townsends, Inc. (Attachments: # (1) Notice # (2) Exhibit A# (3) Exhibit B# (4) Exhibit C)
- Application to Employ/Retain Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Debtors Filed by Townsends, Inc. (Attachments: # (1) Notice # (2) Exhibit A# (3) Exhibit B# (4) Exhibit C (Proposed Order))
- Application to Employ/Retain McKenna Long & Special Counsel to the Debtors Filed by Townsends, Inc. (Attachments: # (1) Notice # (2) Exhibit A (Levengood Declaration) # (3) Exhibit B (Rule 2016 Statement) # (4) Exhibit C (Proposed Order))

For access to all major pleadings filed in this case, please visit http://www.chapter11cases.com/Townsends-Incfka-Townsend-Specialty-Foods_c_11223.html