

Paragraph I.C. of the Red Noland and Simmons Rockwell proposed orders prohibit respondents, in any lease, from stating the amount of any payment or that any or no initial payment is required at lease signing or delivery, unless the advertisement also states, clearly and conspicuously, all of the terms required by Regulation M, as amended and as follows: (1) That the transaction advertised is a lease; (2) the total amount due at lease signing or delivery; (3) whether or not a security deposit is required; (4) the number, amounts, and timing of scheduled payments; and (5) that an extra charge may be imposed at the end of the lease term in a lease in which the liability of the consumer at the end of the lease term is based on the anticipated residual value of the vehicle.

Furthermore, Paragraph I.D. of the Red Noland proposed order prohibits this respondent from stating a percentage rate in an advertisement or in documents evidencing the lease transaction, unless respondent also states the notice required by Regulation M that "this percentage may not measure the overall cost of financing this lease."

Paragraph I.D. of the Simmons Rockwell proposed order, and paragraph I.E. of the Red Noland proposed order, prohibit respondents from engaging in any other violation of Regulation M, as amended.

In addition, Paragraph II. A. of the Simmons Rockwell proposed order enjoins respondent, in any credit advertisement, from stating the amount or percentage of any downpayment, the number of payments or period of repayment, the amount of any payment, or the amount of any finance charge, without disclosing, clearly and conspicuously, all of the terms required by Regulation Z, as follows: (1) The amount or percentage of the downpayment; (2) the terms of repayment; and (3) annual percentage rate, using that term or the abbreviation "APR." If the annual percentage rate may be increased after consummation of the credit transaction, that fact must also be disclosed. Paragraph II.B. of this proposed order also prohibits Simmons Rockwell from stating a rate of finance charge unless respondents state the rate as an "annual percentage rate" or the abbreviation "APR," using that term. Paragraph III.C. of this proposed order also enjoins Simmons Rockwell from engaging in any other violation of Regulation Z, as amended.

The information required by Paragraph I of the Red Noland proposed order (lease advertisements), and Paragraphs I and II of the Simmons

Rockwell proposed order (lease and credit advertisements), must be disclosed "clearly and conspicuously." Both proposed orders define the term "clearly and conspicuously" for Red Noland's and Simmons Rockwell's advertisements in all media. In a television, video, radio or Internet or other electronic advertisement, the required disclosures made in the audio portion of the advertisement must be delivered in a volume, cadence, and location sufficient for an ordinary consumer to hear and comprehend. The required disclosures in the video portion of the advertisement must be of a size and shade, and must appear on the screen for a duration and in a location, sufficient for an ordinary consumer to read and comprehend. In a print advertisement, the required disclosures must be in a type size and location sufficient for an ordinary consumer to read and comprehend, in print that contrasts with the background against which it appears. Additionally, the required disclosures must be in understandable language and syntax. Further, nothing contrary to, inconsistent with, or in mitigation of the required disclosures shall be used in any advertisement.

The purpose of this analysis is a facilitate public comment on the proposed orders. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the agreements and proposed orders or to modify in any way their terms.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 992 3026]

Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company, Inc.; Analysis to Aid Public Comment

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Proposed consent agreement.

SUMMARY: The consent agreement in this matter settles alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair methods of competition. The attached Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes both the allegations in the draft complaint that accompanies the consent agreement and the terms of the consent order—embodied in the consent agreement—that would settle these allegations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20580.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Ostheimer, FTC/S-4002, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20580. (202) 326-2699.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46 and section 2.34 of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 2.34), notice is hereby given that the above-captioned consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days. The following Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes the terms of the consent agreement, and the allegations in the complaint. An electronic copy of the full text of the consent agreement package can be obtained from the FTC Home Page (for April 27, 2000), on the World Wide Web, at "http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/formal.htm." A paper copy can be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Room, Room H-130, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580, either in person or by calling (202) 326-3627.

Public comment is invited. Comments should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20580. Two paper copies of each comment should be filed, and should be accompanied, if possible, by a 3½ inch diskette containing an electronic copy of the comment. Such comments or views will be considered by the Commission and will be available for inspection and copying at its principal office in accordance with section 4.9(b)(6)(ii) of the Commission's Rule of Practice (16 CFR 4.9(b)(6)(ii)).

Analysis of Proposed Consent Order to Aid Public Comment

The Federal Trade Commission has accepted, subject to final approval, an agreement containing a consent order from Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company, Inc. ("Santa Fe").

The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for thirty (30) days for receipt for comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After thirty (30) days, the Commission will again review the agreement and the comments received, and will decide whether it should withdraw from the agreement or make final the agreement's proposed order.

This matter involves an alleged misleading representation for Natural American Spirit cigarettes, which Santa Fe has advertised as containing no additives. According to the FTC complaint, through these advertisements, Santa Fe represented that because Natural American Spirit cigarettes contain no additives, smoking them is less hazardous to a smoker's health than smoking otherwise comparable cigarettes that contain additives. The complaint alleges that Santa Fe did not have a reasonable basis for the representation at the time it was made. Among other reasons, according to the complaint, the smoke from Natural American Spirit cigarettes, like the smoke from all cigarettes, contains numerous carcinogens and toxins, including tar and carbon monoxide.¹

The proposed consent order contains provisions designed to prevent Santa Fe engaging in similar acts and practices in the future.

Part I of the order requires Santa Fe to include the following disclosure, clearly and prominently, in certain advertising for its tobacco cigarettes: "No additives in our tobacco does NOT mean a safer cigarette." (The order requires a similar disclosure in advertising for other tobacco products Santa Fe advertises as having no additives.) The disclosure must be included in all tobacco advertising that represents (through such phrases as "no additives" or "100% tobacco") that the product has no additives. This Part exempts Santa Fe from the disclosure requirement: (1) For cigarette advertisements not required to bear the Surgeon General's health warning; and (2) if Santa Fe possesses scientific evidence demonstrating that its "no additives" cigarette poses materially lower health risks than other cigarettes of the same type. In general, the disclosure required by Part I must be in the same type size and style as the Surgeon General's warning and must appear within a rectangular box that is no less than 40% of the size of the box containing the Surgeon General's warning.

Part II of the order requires Santa Fe to include the following disclosure, clearly and prominently, in advertising and on packaging for herbal cigarettes:

"Herbal cigarettes are dangerous to your health. They produce tar and carbon monoxide." (The order requires a similar disclosure for other herbal smoking products.) The disclosure must be included in all advertising and on packaging for herbal smoking products that represent (through such phrases as "no tobacco," "tobacco-free," or "herbal") that the product has no tobacco. This Part also contains an exemption from the disclosure requirement if Santa Fe possesses scientific evidence demonstrating that such herbal smoking products do not pose any material health risks. In general, the disclosure required by Part II must be in the same type size and style as the Surgeon General's warning and for advertisements must appear within a rectangular box that is the same size as the box containing the Surgeon General's warning.

Part III requires Santa Fe to send a letter to its purchasers for resale notifying them that they should discontinue the use of certain existing Natural American Spirit cigarette advertisements and promotional materials and that Santa Fe is required to stop doing business with purchasers for resale that do not comply with this request.

Parts IV–VIII of the order require Santa Fe to keep copies of relevant advertisements and materials substantiating claims made in the advertisements; to provide copies of the order to certain of its personnel; to notify the Commission of changes in the composition or formula of Natural American Spirit cigarettes that may affect the order; to notify the Commission of changes in corporate structure; and to file compliance reports with the Commission. Part IX provides that the order will terminate after twenty (20) years under certain circumstances.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the proposed order, and it is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the agreement and proposed order or to modify in any way their terms.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30DAY–29–00]

Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a list of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these requests, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer at (404) 639–7090. Send written comments to CDC, Desk Officer; Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235; Washington, DC 20503. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Proposed Project

1. Public Health Prevention Service Program—New—Epidemiology Program Office (EPO). In 1995, senior CDC leadership asked for a review of CDC's role in developing public health workers. As a result of the review, the Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS) program was established in 1997, to be carried out by the Epidemiology Program Office (EPO). The purpose of the PHPS program is to improve the nation's public health practice by preparing entry-level public health professionals to conduct prevention programs that improve health and prevent injury and to manage emerging public health problems.

Implicit in the creation of the program is the expectation that the PHPS participants would be a new breed of public health professional who would owe primary allegiance to prevention and public health as disciplines rather than to specific programs, be comfortable working across a variety of programs and in multiple levels of jurisdictions, and be knowledgeable about and prepared to meet future challenges in public health in planning, implementing, managing, and evaluating scientifically sound prevention programs and interventions.

PHPS participants (Prevention Specialists) are selected annually in a national competition. Each year, approximately 25 PHPS participants are chosen from a pool of about 100 applicants. During their 3-year participation they undertake formal training, engage in a series of rotations throughout CDC and, finally, are posted to 2-year assignments with health

¹ In late 1997, Santa Fe voluntarily did begin placing the statement, "To our knowledge there is no research indicating cigarettes containing additive-free tobacco are safer than cigarettes with tobacco containing additives" in certain ads for Natural American Spirit tobacco cigarettes. Since early 1998, Santa Fe has also included the statement "We make no representation expressed or implied that these cigarettes are any less hazardous than any other cigarettes" on the packaging of Natural American Spirit cigarettes.