## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA before the SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 Release No. 63928 / February 18, 2011

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING ENFORCEMENT Release No. 3244 / February 18, 2011

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING File No. 3-14268

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In the Matter of : ORDER INSTITUTING ADMINISTRATIVE

: PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO RULE

JOANNE KLINE, : 102(e) OF THE COMMISSION'S RULES OF

: PRACTICE, MAKING FINDINGS, AND Respondent. : IMPOSING REMEDIAL SANCTIONS

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I.

The Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") deems it appropriate and in the public interest that public administrative proceedings be, and hereby are, instituted against Joanne Kline ("Respondent" or "Kline") pursuant to Rule 102(e)(3)(i) of the Commission's Rules of Practice.<sup>1</sup>

The Commission, with due regard to the public interest and without preliminary hearing, may, by order, . . . suspend from appearing or practicing before it any . . . accountant . . . who has been by name . . . permanently enjoined by any court of competent jurisdiction, by reason of his or her misconduct in an action brought by the Commission, from violating or aiding and abetting the violation of any provision of the Federal securities laws or of the rules and regulations thereunder.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Rule 102(e)(3)(i) provides, in relevant part, that:

In anticipation of the institution of these proceedings, Respondent has submitted an Offer of Settlement (the "Offer") which the Commission has determined to accept. Solely for the purpose of these proceedings and any other proceedings brought by or on behalf of the Commission, or to which the Commission is a party, and without admitting or denying the findings herein, except as to the Commission's jurisdiction over her and the subject matter of these proceedings, and the findings contained in Section III.3 below, which are admitted, Respondent consents to the entry of this Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Rule 102(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, Making Findings, and Imposing Remedial Sanctions ("Order"), as set forth below.

## III.

On the basis of this Order and Respondent's Offer, the Commission finds that:

- 1. Kline, age 48, has been a certified public accountant licensed to practice in the State of Arizona since April 1993, but her license was suspended in November 2010. She served as the controller of NutraCea, Inc. ("NutraCea") from March 2007 to June 2009.
- 2. NutraCea is a California corporation with its principal executive offices located in Phoenix, Arizona and is engaged in the business of manufacturing health food products. NutraCea's common stock is registered with the Commission pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") and trades on the OTC:BB under the symbol "NTRZ".
- 3. On January 13, 2011, the Commission filed a complaint against Kline in SEC v. NutraCea, et al. (Civil Action No. CV 11-0092-PHX-SRB). On February 14, 2011, the court entered an order permanently enjoining Kline, by consent, from future violations of Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act and Rules 13b2-1 and 13b2-2 thereunder, and aiding and abetting violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20, 13a-1 and 13a-13 thereunder. Kline was also ordered to pay a \$25,000 civil money penalty.
- 4. The Commission's complaint alleged, among other things, that NutraCea, through the misconduct of Kline and others, overstated its sales revenues for the second and third quarters of fiscal year 2007 and its fiscal year 2007 by booking false sales and engaging in improper revenue recognition practices. The complaint alleged that Kline violated the books and records and internal controls provisions of the federal securities laws because she knew that NutraCea improperly accounted for a \$2.6 million sale in the second quarter of 2007 and a \$1.9 million sale in the fourth quarter of 2007. The complaint further alleged that Kline also signed false management representation letters to NutraCea's auditors.

In view of the foregoing, the Commission deems it appropriate and in the public interest to impose the sanction agreed to in Respondent Kline's Offer.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED, effective immediately, that:

- A. Kline is suspended from appearing or practicing before the Commission as an accountant.
- B. After one year from the date of this order, Respondent may request that the Commission consider her reinstatement by submitting an application (attention: Office of the Chief Accountant) to resume appearing or practicing before the Commission as:
- 1. a preparer or reviewer, or a person responsible for the preparation or review, of any public company's financial statements that are filed with the Commission. Such an application must satisfy the Commission that Respondent's work in her practice before the Commission will be reviewed either by the independent audit committee of the public company for which she works or in some other acceptable manner, as long as she practices before the Commission in this capacity; and/or
- 2. an independent accountant. Such an application must satisfy the Commission that:
- (a) Respondent, or the public accounting firm with which she is associated, is registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("Board") in accordance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and such registration continues to be effective;
- (b) Respondent, or the registered public accounting firm with which she is associated, has been inspected by the Board and that inspection did not identify any criticisms of or potential defects in the respondent's or the firm's quality control system that would indicate that the respondent will not receive appropriate supervision;
- (c) Respondent has resolved all disciplinary issues with the Board, and has complied with all terms and conditions of any sanctions imposed by the Board (other than reinstatement by the Commission); and
- (d) Respondent acknowledges her responsibility, as long as Respondent appears or practices before the Commission as an independent accountant, to comply with all requirements of the Commission and the Board, including, but not limited to, all requirements relating to registration, inspections, concurring partner reviews and quality control standards.

C. The Commission will consider an application by Respondent to resume appearing or practicing before the Commission provided that her state CPA license is current and she has resolved all other disciplinary issues with the applicable state boards of accountancy. However, if state licensure is dependent on reinstatement by the Commission, the Commission will consider an application on its other merits. The Commission's review may include consideration of, in addition to the matters referenced above, any other matters relating to Respondent's character, integrity, professional conduct, or qualifications to appear or practice before the Commission.

By the Commission.

Elizabeth M. Murphy Secretary

## Service List

Rule 141 of the Commission's Rules of Practice provides that the Secretary, or another duly authorized officer of the Commission, shall serve a copy of the Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Rule 102(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, Making Findings, and Imposing Remedial Sanctions ("Order"), on the Respondent and her legal agent.

The attached Order has been sent to the following parties and other persons entitled to notice:

Honorable Brenda P. Murray Chief Administrative Law Judge Securities and Exchange Commission 100 F Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20549-2557

Spencer E. Bendell, Esq. Los Angeles Regional Office Securities and Exchange Commission 5670 Wilshire Blvd., 11th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90036

Ms. Joanne Kline c/o Maureen Beyers, Esq. Osborn Maledon 2929 N. Central Avenue Twenty-First Floor Phoenix, AZ 85012

Maureen Beyers, Esq. Osborn Maledon 2929 N. Central Avenue Twenty-First Floor Phoenix, AZ 85012 (Counsel for Joanne Kline)