

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

In the Matter of:

Robert Thwaites
Inmate Number: 77709-066
FTC Oklahoma City
Federal Transfer Center
P.O. Box 898801
Oklahoma City, OK 73189

ORDER DENYING EXPORT PRIVILEGES

On January 10, 2024, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Robert Thwaites (“Thwaites”), was convicted of violating 18 U.S.C. § 371 and the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C § 1701, *et seq.*) (“IEEPA”). Specifically, Thwaites was convicted of conspiring to sell sanctioned Iranian petroleum/crude oil to a refinery in China. As a result of his conviction, the Court sentenced Thwaites to 10 months of imprisonment, two years of supervised release, and a fine of \$3,000.

Pursuant to Section 1760(e) of the Export Control Reform Act (“ECRA”),¹ the export privileges of any person who has been convicted of certain offenses, including, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. § 371 and IEEPA, may be denied for a period of up to ten (10) years from the date of his/her conviction. 50 U.S.C. § 4819(e) (Prior Convictions). In addition, any Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) licenses or other authorizations

¹ ECRA was enacted on August 13, 2018, as part of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 and, as amended, is codified at 50 U.S.C. §§ 4801-4852.

issued under ECRA, in which the person had an interest at the time of the conviction, may be revoked. *Id.*

BIS received notice of Thwaites's conviction for violating 18 U.S.C. § 371 and IEEPA, and has provided notice and opportunity for Thwaites to make a written submission to BIS, as provided in Section 766.25 of the Export Administration Regulations ("EAR" or the "Regulations"). 15 C.F.R. § 766.25.² BIS has received and considered a written submission from Thwaites.

Based upon my review of the record, including Thwaites's submission, and consultations with BIS's Office of Exporter Services, including its Director, and the facts available to BIS, I have decided to deny Thwaites's export privileges under the Regulations for a period of 10 years from the date of Thwaites's conviction. The Office of Exporter Services has also decided to revoke any BIS-issued licenses in which Thwaites had an interest at the time of his conviction.³

Accordingly, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

First, from the date of this Order until January 10, 2034, Robert Thwaites, with a last known address of Inmate Number: 77709-066, FTC Oklahoma City, Federal Transfer Center, P.O. Box 898801, Oklahoma City, OK 73189, and when acting for or on his behalf, his successors, assigns, employees, agents or representatives ("the Denied Person"), may not directly or indirectly participate in any way in any transaction

² The Regulations are currently codified in the Code of Federal Regulations at 15 C.F.R. Parts 730-774 (2024).

³ The Director, Office of Export Enforcement, is the authorizing official for issuance of denial orders, pursuant to amendments to the Regulations (85 *Fed. Reg.* 73411, November 18, 2020).

involving any commodity, software or technology (hereinafter collectively referred to as “item”) exported or to be exported from the United States that is subject to the

Regulations, including, but not limited to:

- A. Applying for, obtaining, or using any license, license exception, or export control document;
- B. Carrying on negotiations concerning, or ordering, buying, receiving, using, selling, delivering, storing, disposing of, forwarding, transporting, financing, or otherwise servicing in any way, any transaction involving any item exported or to be exported from the United States that is subject to the Regulations, or engaging in any other activity subject to the Regulations; or
- C. Benefitting in any way from any transaction involving any item exported or to be exported from the United States that is subject to the Regulations, or from any other activity subject to the Regulations.

Second, no person may, directly or indirectly, do any of the following:

- A. Export, reexport, or transfer (in-country) to or on behalf of the Denied Person any item subject to the Regulations;
- B. Take any action that facilitates the acquisition or attempted acquisition by the Denied Person of the ownership, possession, or control of any item subject to the Regulations that has been or will be exported from the United States, including financing or other support activities related to a transaction whereby the Denied Person acquires or attempts to acquire such ownership, possession or control;

- C. Take any action to acquire from or to facilitate the acquisition or attempted acquisition from the Denied Person of any item subject to the Regulations that has been exported from the United States;
- D. Obtain from the Denied Person in the United States any item subject to the Regulations with knowledge or reason to know that the item will be, or is intended to be, exported from the United States; or
- E. Engage in any transaction to service any item subject to the Regulations that has been or will be exported from the United States and which is owned, possessed or controlled by the Denied Person, or service any item, of whatever origin, that is owned, possessed or controlled by the Denied Person if such service involves the use of any item subject to the Regulations that has been or will be exported from the United States. For purposes of this paragraph, servicing means installation, maintenance, repair, modification or testing.

Third, pursuant to Section 1760(e) of the Export Control Reform Act (50 U.S.C. § 4819(e)) and Sections 766.23 and 766.25 of the Regulations, any other person, firm, corporation, or business organization related to Thwaites by ownership, control, position of responsibility, affiliation, or other connection in the conduct of trade or business may also be made subject to the provisions of this Order in order to prevent evasion of this Order.

Fourth, in accordance with Part 756 of the Regulations, Thwaites may file an appeal of this Order with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security. The appeal

must be filed within 45 days from the date of this Order and must comply with the provisions of Part 756 of the Regulations.

Fifth, a copy of this Order shall be delivered to Thwaites and shall be published in the *Federal Register*.

Sixth, this Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until January 10, 2034.

John Sonderman
John Sonderman
Director
Office of Export Enforcement

Issued this 24 day of September , 2024.