# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Before the SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 Release No. 56401 / September 13, 2007

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING ENFORCEMENT Release No. 2681 / September 13, 2007

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING** File No. 3-12762

In the Matter of

Beutel Accountancy Corporation and Todd W. Beutel, CPA,

Respondents.

ORDER INSTITUTING PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATIVE AND CEASE-ANDDESIST PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO
SECTIONS 4C AND 21C OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
AND RULE 102(e) OF THE
COMMISSION'S RULES OF PRACTICE,
MAKING FINDINGS, AND IMPOSING
REMEDIAL SANCTIONS AND A
CEASE-AND-DESIST ORDER

I.

The Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") deems it appropriate that cease-and-desist proceedings be, and hereby are, instituted against Beutel Accountancy Corporation and Todd W. Beutel, CPA (collectively "Respondents") pursuant to Section 21C of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") and that public administrative proceedings be, and hereby are, instituted against Beutel Accountancy Corporation pursuant to Section 4C¹ of the Exchange Act and Rule 102(e)(1)(iii) of the Commission's Rules of Practice.²

The Commission may censure any person, or deny, temporarily or permanently, to any person the privilege of appearing or practicing before the Commission in any way, if that person is found . . . to have willfully violated, or willfully aided and abetted the violation of, any provision of the securities laws or the rules and regulations thereunder.

Section 4C provides, in relevant part, that:

Rule 102(e)(1)(iii) provides, in relevant part, that:

In anticipation of the institution of these proceedings, Respondents have submitted an Offer of Settlement ("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 them and the subject matter of these proceedings, which are admitted, Respondents consent to the entry of this Order Instituting Public Administrative and Cease-and-Desist Proceedings Pursuant to Sections 4C and 21C of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 102(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, Making Findings, and Imposing Remedial Sanctions and a Cease-and-Desist Order ("Order"), as set forth below.

#### III.

On the basis of this Order and Respondents' Offer, the Commission finds<sup>3</sup> that:

#### A. RESPONDENTS

- 1. Beutel Accountancy Corporation (the "Firm") is a California corporation and a public accounting firm headquartered in Agoura Hills, California. The Firm audited Vital Health Technologies, Inc.'s (also known as Caribbean American Health Resorts, Inc.) financial statements for the company's 2003 and 2004 fiscal years ended December 31, 2003, and December 31, 2004, respectively. Vital Health Technologies, Inc. dismissed the Firm as its independent auditor on May 20, 2005.
- **2.** Todd W. Beutel, CPA ("Beutel"), age 42, is a certified public accountant licensed in the state of California since 1995. Beutel was the engagement partner in connection with the Firm's audit of Vital Health Technologies, Inc.'s financial statements for the company's 2003 and 2004 fiscal years ended December 31, 2003, and December 31, 2004, respectively.

### B. FACTS

1. Vital Health Technologies, Inc. ("Vital Health") is a Minnesota corporation with its headquarters in Beverly Hills, California. Vital Health's common stock is quoted on the Pink Sheets under the symbol "CAHR" and is registered with the Commission pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act. For fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, Vital Health reported revenues of \$10,500, and total assets of \$1 million. For fiscal year ended December 31, 2004,

The Commission may censure a person or deny, temporarily or permanently, the privilege of appearing or practicing before it in any way to any person who is found . . . to have willfully violated, or willfully aided and abetted the violation of any provision of the Federal securities laws or the rules and regulations thereunder.

The findings herein are made pursuant to Respondents' Offer of Settlement and are not binding on any other person or entity in this or any other proceeding.

Vital Health reported revenues of \$5,500, and total assets of \$1 million.

- 2. Vital Health has at all relevant times been an issuer as defined by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the "Act").
- 3. The Firm audited Vital Health's 2003 financial statements included in Vital Health's annual report for fiscal year 2003 on Form 10-KSB, filed with the Commission on April 14, 2004. As part of that audit, the Firm prepared and issued an audit report dated March 29, 2004, which the company included in its 2003 Form 10-KSB.
- 4. The Firm audited Vital Health's 2004 financial statements included in Vital Health's annual report for fiscal year 2004 on Form 10-KSB, filed with the Commission on April 15, 2005. As part of that audit, the Firm prepared and issued an audit report dated April 14, 2005 (together with the March 29, 2004 audit report, the "Vital Health audit reports"), which the company included in its 2004 Form 10-KSB. Vital Health paid the Firm a total of \$22,000 for the 2003 and 2004 audit work.<sup>4</sup>
- 5. At the time the Firm issued the Vital Health audit reports, it was not registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (the "Board"), as required by Section 102(a) of the Act.
- 6. Beutel was the engagement partner on the Firm's audits of Vital Health's 2003 and 2004 financial statements. Beutel participated in the preparation and issuance of the Vital Health audit reports.
- 7. By public notice of disapproval dated July 28, 2005, effective as of May 10, 2005, the Board disapproved an application for registration submitted by the Firm based in part on the Firm's violation of Section 102(a) of the Act in issuing the Vital Health audit reports.<sup>5</sup>

## C. VIOLATIONS

1. Section 102(a) of the Act provides that "it shall be unlawful for any person that is not a registered public accounting firm to prepare or issue, or to participate in the preparation or issuance of, any audit report with respect to any issuer."

During the course of the Commission's investigation, the Firm voluntarily reimbursed Vital Health the \$22,000 in audit fees. In view of the Firm's reimbursement, the Commission is not ordering disgorgement in this matter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> PCAOB Release No. 2005-017 (July 28, 2005). The public notice of disapproval also found that the Firm's issuance of the Vital Health audit reports violated Board Rule 2100, which implemented Section 102(a) of the Act. Id.

A violation of the Act or any rule that the Board issues under the Act is treated for all purposes in the same manner as a violation of the Exchange Act, including with respect to penalties. Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 15 U.S.C.A. § 7202(b)(1) (West 2002).

- 2. The provisions of Section 102(a) of the Act became effective on October 22, 2003.
- 3. Based on the conduct described above, the Firm willfully violated Section 102(a) of the Act.
- 4. Based on the conduct described above, Beutel caused the Firm's violation of Section 102(a) of the Act.

## D. FINDINGS

Based on the foregoing, the Commission finds that the Firm willfully violated Section 102(a) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and that Beutel caused the Firm's violation of Section 102(a) of the Act.

## E. UNDERTAKINGS

Respondents undertake not to request, demand, or accept, directly or indirectly, any compensation from Vital Health in connection with the audit work associated with the Vital Health audit reports. In determining whether to accept the Offer, the Commission has considered this undertaking.

IV.

In view of the foregoing, the Commission deems it appropriate to impose the sanctions agreed to in Respondents' Offer.

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

## 1. Beutel Accountancy Corporation

A. The Firm shall cease and desist from committing or causing any violations and any future violations of Section 102(a) of the Act.

B. The Firm is censured.

Section 102(a) became effective "[b]eginning 180 days after the date of the determination of the Commission under Section 101(d)" of the Act that the Board was prepared to undertake its statutory responsibilities. The Commission made the required determination on April 25, 2003. See Order Regarding Section 101(d) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, Securities Act Release No. 8223, Exchange Act Release No. 47746, 2003 WL 1956164 (Apr. 25, 2003).

<sup>&</sup>quot;Willfully" as used in this Offer means intentionally committing the act that constitutes the violation. There is no requirement that the actor also be aware that he is violating a rule or statute. See Wonsover v. SEC, 205 F.3d 408, 414 (D.C. Cir. 2000); Tager v. SEC, 344 F.2d 5, 8 (2d Cir. 1965).

C. The Firm may practice before the Commission as an independent accountant provided that:

1. It is registered with the Board in accordance with the Act, and such registration continues to be effective; and

2. It has submitted to the Commission staff (attention: Office of the Chief Accountant) the Board's letter notifying the Firm that its registration application has been approved.

# 2. Todd W. Beutel, CPA

A. Beutel shall cease and desist from committing or causing any violations and any future violations of Section 102(a) of the Act.

B. Beutel may practice before the Commission as an independent accountant provided that:

1. The public accounting firm with which he is associated is registered with the Board in accordance with the Act, and such registration continues to be effective; and

2. He has submitted to the Commission staff (attention: Office of the Chief Accountant) the Board's letter notifying the public accounting firm with which he is associated that its registration application has been approved.

By the Commission.

Nancy M. Morris Secretary