

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4

IN THE MATTER OF:
Welch Group Environmental Belton
Anderson, Anderson County, South Carolina

ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT AND ORDER ON
CONSENT FOR REMOVAL ACTION

Welch Group Environmental, LLC
Respondent;

U.S. EPA Region 4
Docket No. CERCLA-04-2011-3762

David B. Jones
Respondent.

Proceeding Under Sections 104, 106(a), 107
and 122 of the Comprehensive
Environmental Response, Compensation,
and Liability Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§
9604, 9606(a), 9607 and 9622

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I. JURISDICTION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. This Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement) is entered into voluntarily by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Welch Group Environmental, LLC (WGE) and David B. Jones, hereafter referred to as "Respondents." This Settlement Agreement provides for the performance of a removal action by Respondents and the reimbursement of certain response costs incurred by the United States at or in connection with the "Welch Group Environmental Belton Site" (the Site) generally located at 5043 Belton Highway in Anderson, Anderson County, South Carolina 29621.

2. This Settlement Agreement is issued under the authority vested in the President of the United States by Sections 104, 106(a), 107 and 122 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604, 9606(a), 9607 and 9622, as amended (CERCLA).

3. EPA has notified the State of South Carolina (the State) of this action pursuant to Section 106(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9606(a).

4. EPA and Respondents recognize that this Settlement Agreement has been negotiated in good faith and that the actions undertaken by Respondents in accordance with this Settlement Agreement do not constitute an admission of any liability. Respondents do not admit, and retain the right to controvert in any subsequent proceedings other than proceedings to implement or enforce this Settlement Agreement, the validity of the findings of facts, conclusions of law, and determinations in Sections IV and V of this Settlement Agreement. Respondents agree to comply with and be bound by the terms of this Settlement Agreement and further agree that they will not contest the basis or validity of this Settlement Agreement or its terms.

II. PARTIES BOUND

5. This Settlement Agreement applies to and is binding upon EPA and upon Respondents and their successors and assigns. Any change in ownership or corporate status of a Respondent including, but not limited to, any transfer of assets or real or personal property shall not alter such Respondent's responsibilities under this Settlement Agreement.

6. Respondents are jointly and severally liable for carrying out all activities required by this Settlement Agreement. In the event of the insolvency or other failure of any one or more Respondents to implement the requirements of this Settlement Agreement, the remaining Respondents shall complete all such requirements.

7. Respondents shall ensure that their contractors, subcontractors, and representatives receive a copy of this Settlement Agreement and comply with this Settlement Agreement. Respondents shall be responsible for any noncompliance with this Settlement Agreement.

III. DEFINITIONS

8. Unless otherwise expressly provided in this Settlement Agreement, terms used in this Settlement Agreement which are defined in CERCLA or in regulations promulgated under CERCLA shall have the meaning assigned to them in CERCLA or in such regulations. Whenever terms listed below are used in this Settlement Agreement or in the appendices attached hereto and incorporated hereunder, the following definitions shall apply:

a. "Action Memorandum" shall mean the EPA Action Memorandum relating to the Site signed by the Regional Administrator, EPA Region 4, or his/her delegate, and all attachments thereto. The Action Memorandum is attached as Appendix D.

b. "CERCLA" shall mean the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601, *et seq.*

c. "Day" shall mean a calendar day. In computing any period of time under this Settlement Agreement, where the last day would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the period shall run until the close of business of the next working day.

d. "Effective Date" shall be the effective date of this Settlement Agreement as provided in Section XXX.

e. "EPA" shall mean the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any successor departments or agencies of the United States.

f. "SCDHEC" shall mean the South Carolina Department of Environment and Health and Environmental Control and any successor departments or agencies of the State.

g. "Future Response Costs" shall mean all costs, including, but not limited to, direct and indirect costs, that the United States incurs after the Effective Date in reviewing or developing plans, reports and other items pursuant to this Settlement Agreement, verifying the Work, or otherwise implementing, overseeing, or enforcing this Settlement Agreement, including but not limited to, payroll costs, contractor costs, travel costs, laboratory costs, the costs incurred pursuant to Paragraph 26 (costs and attorneys fees and any monies paid to secure access, including the amount of just compensation), Paragraph 36 (emergency response), and Paragraph 62 (work takeover).

h. "Interest" shall mean interest at the rate specified for interest on investments of the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund established by 26 U.S.C. § 9507, compounded annually on October 1 of each year, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a). The applicable rate of interest shall be the rate in effect at the time the interest accrues. The rate of interest is subject to change on October 1 of each year.

i. "National Contingency Plan" or "NCP" shall mean the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan promulgated pursuant to Section 105 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9605, codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 300, and any amendments thereto.

j. "Settlement Agreement" shall mean this Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent and all appendices attached hereto (listed in Section XXIX). In the event of conflict between this Settlement Agreement and any appendix, this Settlement Agreement shall control.

k. "Paragraph" shall mean a portion of this Settlement Agreement identified by an Arabic numeral.

l. "Parties" shall mean EPA and Respondents.

m. "Past Response Costs" shall mean all costs, including, but not limited to, direct and indirect costs, that the United States paid at or in connection with the Site through the Effective Date.

n. "RCRA" shall mean the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6901, *et seq.* (also known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act).

o. "Respondents" shall mean Welch Group Environmental, LLC and David B. Jones.

p. "Section" shall mean a portion of this Settlement Agreement identified by a Roman numeral.

q. "Site" shall mean the Welch Group Environmental Belton Site, encompassing approximately three (3) acres, located at 5043 Belton Highway in Belton, Anderson County, South Carolina, on which WGE operated its business, and the areal extent of any contamination.

r. "State" shall mean the State of South Carolina.

s. "Statement of Work" or "SOW" shall mean the statement of work for implementation of the removal action, as set forth in Appendix A to this Settlement Agreement, and any modifications made thereto in accordance with this Settlement Agreement.

t. "Waste Material" shall mean 1) any "hazardous substance" under Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14); 2) any pollutant or contaminant under Section 101(33) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(33); and 3) any "solid waste" under Section 1004(27) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(27) that is not considered usable product.

u. “Work” shall mean all activities Respondents are required to perform under this Settlement Agreement.

IV. FINDINGS OF FACT

9. The Site is located at 5043 Belton Highway, Anderson, South Carolina 29621 and is comprised of a three acre parcel with two, one-story buildings. The Site is owned by David B. Jones and is leased to Welch Group Environmental, LLC (WGE). WGE used the Site for approximately fourteen months to conduct material separation of recovered range materials in the operation of a munitions recovery business. WGE operations involve smelting and molding of lead and other metals, such as copper, recovered from both indoor and outdoor shooting ranges across the United States. This Site is one of three locations where WGE operated in South Carolina. On December 2, 2010 the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) ordered WGE to cease operations due to permit violations. WGE ceased operations.

10. On December 22, 2010, SCDHEC referred the Site to EPA Region 4. On January 31, 2011, EPA began the Removal Site Evaluation (RSE). EPA found approximately 941, 55-gallon drums of hardened salt, 66 drums of lead derived material, and several other containers of lead material. EPA surface soil samples show that high levels of lead exist at concentrations that are an imminent and substantial threat to public health and welfare.

11. Following the RSE, EPA initiated an emergency removal action. Under EPA’s oversight, on February 1, 2011, WGE and David Jones began securing the Site, containing and securing open vessels/drums, segregating empty drums and scrap materials and constructing silt fencing to limit the further impact of potentially impacted surface water off-Site. The emergency removal action is transitioning into a time-critical removal action, subject to the terms of the Administrative Order on Consent.

V. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DETERMINATIONS

12. Based on the Findings of Fact set forth above, and the Administrative Record supporting this removal action, EPA has determined that:

a. The Welch Group Environmental Belton Site is a “facility” as defined by Section 101(9) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9).

b. The contamination found at the Site, as identified in the Findings of Fact above, includes a “hazardous substance” as defined by Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14).

c. Each Respondent is a “person” as defined by Section 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(21).

d. Each Respondent is a responsible party under Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a), and is jointly and severally liable for performance of response action and for response costs incurred and to be incurred at the Site.

- i. Respondent David Jones is an “owner” of the facility, as defined by Section 101(20)(A) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(20)(A), and within the meaning of Section 107(a)(1) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a)(1).
- iii. Respondent Welch Group Environmental, LLC is an “operator” of the facility at the time of disposal of hazardous substances at the facility, as defined by Section 101(20)(A) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(20)(A), and within the meaning of Section 107(a)(2) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a)(2).

e. The conditions described in Paragraphs 9-11 of the Findings of Fact above constitute an actual or threatened of “release” of a hazardous substance from the facility as defined by Section 101(22) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(22).

f. The removal action required by this Settlement Agreement is necessary to protect the public health, welfare, or the environment and, if carried out in compliance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement, will be consistent with the NCP, as provided in Section 300.700(c)(3)(ii) of the NCP.

VI. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Determinations, and the Administrative Record for this Site, it is hereby Ordered and Agreed that Respondents shall comply with all provisions of this Settlement Agreement, including, but not limited to, all attachments to this Settlement Agreement and all documents incorporated by reference into this Settlement Agreement.

VII. DESIGNATION OF CONTRACTOR, PROJECT COORDINATOR, AND ON-SCENE COORDINATOR

13. Respondents have notified EPA that Act Environmental Services (ACT) will serve as Respondents’ contractor at the Site. EPA has approved the use of such contractor. Respondents shall notify EPA of the name(s) and qualification(s) of any other contractor(s) or subcontractor(s) retained to perform the Work at least five (5) days prior to commencement of such Work. EPA retains the right to disapprove of any or all of the contractors and/or subcontractors retained by Respondents. If EPA disapproves of a selected contractor, Respondents shall retain a different contractor and shall notify EPA of that contractor’s name

and qualifications within five (5) days of EPA's disapproval. EPA may, at its discretion, require the proposed contractor to demonstrate compliance with ANSI/ASQC E-4-1994, "Specifications and Guidelines for Quality Systems for Environmental Data Collection and Environmental Technology Programs" (American National Standard, January 5, 1995), by submitting a copy of the proposed contractor's Quality Management Plan (QMP). The QMP should be prepared in accordance with "EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans (QA/R-2)" (EPA/240/B0-1/002), or equivalent documentation as required by EPA.

14. Respondents have designated Mick Robarts of ACT as the Project Coordinator who shall be responsible for administration of all actions by Respondents required by this Settlement Agreement and shall submit to EPA the designated Project Coordinator's name, address, telephone number, and qualifications. To the greatest extent possible, the Project Coordinator shall be present on Site or readily available during Site work. EPA retains the right to disapprove of the designated Project Coordinator. If, at any time, EPA disapproves of the designated Project Coordinator, Respondents shall retain a different Project Coordinator and shall notify EPA of that person's name, address, telephone number, and qualifications within five (5) days following EPA's disapproval. Receipt by Respondents' Project Coordinator of any notice or communication from EPA relating to this Settlement Agreement shall constitute receipt by all Respondents.

15. EPA has designated Leo Francendese of the Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch, Region 4, as its On-Scene Coordinator (OSC). Except as otherwise provided in this Settlement Agreement, Respondents shall direct all submissions required by this Settlement Agreement to the OSC below. Submissions may be made via email.

Leo Francendese
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 562-8772 (work); (404) 606-2223 (cell)
francendese.leo@epa.gov

16. EPA and Respondents shall have the right, subject to Paragraph 15, to change their respective designated OSC or Project Coordinator. Respondents shall notify EPA five (5) days before such a change is made. The initial notification may be made orally, but shall be promptly followed by a written notice.

VIII. WORK TO BE PERFORMED

17. Respondents shall perform the following work to implement EPA's Action Memorandum:

- a. Develop a Site Health and Safety Plan;
- b. Provide for Site security and control access to Site;
- c. Contain and secure open vessels/drums;
- d. Implement drainage controls to prevent run off;
- e. Construct sediment/soil containment measures such as silt curtains or hay bales where appropriate;
- f. Provide for the containment and segregation of noncompatible materials and/or Waste Material;
- g. Immediately identify all usable products destined for future use and/or sale;
- h. Repackage all materials and Waste Materials that are currently in compromised containers;
- i. Remove containers and equipment that may contain Waste Material; and
- j. Provide the following plans:
 - 1. Waste Characterization Plan;
 - 2. Decontamination/Demolition Plan; and
 - 3. Soils Removal and Disposal Plan.

18. Work Plan and Implementation.

a. Respondents have submitted, and EPA has approved, a Work Plan for performing the removal action generally described in Paragraph 17 above. The Work Plan provides a description of, and an expeditious schedule for, the actions required by this Settlement Agreement.

b. Respondents shall implement the approved Work Plan in accordance with the schedule approved by EPA. EPA may require modification to the Work Plan as it is implemented. If EPA requires modifications to the Work Plan, Respondents shall submit a revised draft Work Plan within 10 days of receipt of EPA's notification of the required modifications. Once approved, or approved with modifications, the Work Plan, the schedule, and any subsequent modifications shall be incorporated into and become fully enforceable under this Settlement Agreement.

c. Respondents shall not commence any Work except in conformance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

19. Health and Safety Plan. Respondents have submitted a Health and Safety Plan, which have been reviewed by EPA to ensure the protection of the public health and safety during performance of on-Site work under this Settlement Agreement. The plan complies with all currently applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations found at 29 C.F.R. Part 1910, and includes contingency planning. Respondents shall implement the plan during the pendency of the removal action.

20. Quality Assurance and Sampling.

a. All sampling and analyses performed pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall conform to EPA direction, approval, and guidance regarding sampling, quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), data validation, and chain of custody procedures. Respondents shall ensure that the laboratory used to perform the analyses participates in a QA/QC program that complies with the appropriate EPA guidance. Respondents shall follow, as appropriate, "Quality Assurance/Quality Control Guidance for Removal Activities: Sampling QA/QC Plan and Data Validation Procedures" (OSWER Directive No. 9360.4-01, April 1, 1990), as guidance for QA/QC and sampling. Respondents shall only use laboratories that have a documented Quality System that complies with ANSI/ASQC E-4 1994, "Specifications and Guidelines for Quality Systems for Environmental Data Collection and Environmental Technology Programs" (American National Standard, January 5, 1995), and "EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans (QA/R-2) (EPA/240/B-01/002, March 2001; reissued May 2006)," or equivalent documentation as determined by EPA. EPA may consider laboratories accredited under the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) as meeting the Quality System requirements.

b. Upon request by EPA, Respondents shall have such a laboratory analyze samples submitted by EPA for QA monitoring. Respondents shall provide to EPA the QA/QC procedures followed by all sampling teams and laboratories performing data collection and/or analysis.

c. Upon request by EPA, Respondents shall allow EPA or its authorized representatives to take split and/or duplicate samples. Respondents shall notify EPA not less than five (5) days in advance of any sample collection activity, unless shorter notice is agreed to by EPA. EPA shall have the right to take any additional samples that EPA deems necessary. Upon request, EPA shall allow Respondents to take split or duplicate samples of any samples it takes as part of its oversight of Respondents' implementation of the Work.

21. Post-Removal Site Control. In accordance with the Work Plan schedule, or as otherwise directed by EPA, Respondents shall submit a proposal for post-removal site control consistent with Section 300.415(I) of the NCP and OSWER Directive No. 9360.2-02. Upon EPA approval, Respondents shall implement such controls and shall provide EPA with documentation of all post-removal site control arrangements.

22. Reporting.

a. Respondents shall submit a written progress report to EPA concerning actions undertaken pursuant to this Settlement Agreement every 7th day after the date of receipt of EPA's approval of the Work Plan until termination of this Settlement Agreement, unless otherwise directed in writing by the OSC. These reports shall describe all significant developments during the preceding period, including the actions performed and any problems encountered, analytical

data received during the reporting period, and the developments anticipated during the next reporting period, including a schedule of actions to be performed, anticipated problems, and planned resolutions of past or anticipated problems.

b. Respondents shall submit electronic copies of all plans, reports or other submissions required by this Settlement Agreement or any approved work plan.

c. Respondents who own or control property at the Site shall, at least 30 days prior to the conveyance of any interest in real property at the Site, give written notice to the transferee that the property is subject to this Settlement Agreement and written notice to EPA and the State of the proposed conveyance, including the name and address of the transferee. Respondents who own or control property at the Site also agree to require that their successors comply with the immediately preceding sentence and Sections IX (Site Access) and X (Access to Information).

23. Final Report. Within sixty (60) days after completion of all Work required by this Settlement Agreement, Respondents shall submit for EPA review and approval a final report summarizing the actions taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement. The final report shall conform, at a minimum, with the requirements set forth in Section 300.165 of the NCP entitled "OSC Reports." The final report shall include a good faith estimate of total costs or a statement of actual costs incurred in complying with the Settlement Agreement, a listing of quantities and types of materials removed off-Site or handled on-Site, a discussion of removal and disposal options considered for those materials, a listing of the ultimate destination(s) of those materials, a presentation of the analytical results of all sampling and analyses performed, and accompanying appendices containing all relevant documentation generated during the removal action (*e.g.*, manifests, invoices, bills, contracts, and permits). The final report shall also include the following certification signed by a person who supervised or directed the preparation of that report:

"Under penalty of law, I certify that to the best of my knowledge, after appropriate inquiries of all relevant persons involved in the preparation of the report, the information submitted is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

24. Off-Site Shipments.

a. Respondents shall, prior to any off-Site shipment of Waste Material from the Site to an out-of-state waste management facility, provide written notification of such shipment of Waste Material to the appropriate state environmental official in the receiving facility's state and to the On-Scene Coordinator. However, this notification requirement shall not apply to any off-Site shipments when the total volume of all such shipments will not exceed 10 cubic yards.

i. Respondents shall include in the written notification the following information: 1) the name and location of the facility to which the Waste Material is to be

shipped; 2) the type and quantity of the Waste Material to be shipped; 3) the expected schedule for the shipment of the Waste Material; and 4) the method of transportation. Respondents shall notify the state in which the planned receiving facility is located of major changes in the shipment plan, such as a decision to ship the Waste Material to another facility within the same state, or to a facility in another state.

ii. The identity of the receiving facility and state will be determined by Respondents following the award of the contract for the removal action. Respondents shall provide the information required by Paragraph 21(a) and 21(b) as soon as practicable after the award of the contract and before the Waste Material is actually shipped.

b. Before shipping any hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants from the Site to an off-site location, Respondents shall obtain EPA's certification that the proposed receiving facility is operating in compliance with the requirements of CERCLA Section 121(d)(3), 42 U.S.C. § 9621(d)(3), and 40 C.F.R. § 300.440. Respondents shall only send hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants from the Site to an off-site facility that complies with the requirements of the statutory provision and regulation cited in the preceding sentence.

IX. SITE ACCESS

25. If the Site, or any other property where access is needed to implement this Settlement Agreement, is owned or controlled by any of the Respondents, such Respondents shall, commencing on the Effective Date, provide EPA, the State, and their representatives, including contractors, with access at all reasonable times to the Site, or such other property, for the purpose of conducting any activity related to this Settlement Agreement.

26. Where any action under this Settlement Agreement is to be performed in areas owned by or in possession of someone other than Respondents, Respondents shall use their best efforts to obtain all necessary access agreements within seven (7) days after the Effective Date, or as otherwise specified in writing by the OSC. Respondents shall immediately notify EPA if after using their best efforts they are unable to obtain such agreements. For purposes of this Paragraph, "best efforts" includes the payment of reasonable sums of money in consideration of access. Respondents shall describe in writing their efforts to obtain access. EPA may then assist Respondents in gaining access, to the extent necessary to effectuate the response actions described in this Settlement Agreement, using such means as EPA deems appropriate. Respondents shall reimburse EPA for all costs and attorney's fees incurred by the United States in obtaining such access, in accordance with the procedures in Section XV (Payment of Response Costs).

27. Notwithstanding any provision of this Settlement Agreement, EPA and the State retain all of their access authorities and rights as well as all of their rights to require land/water use restrictions, including enforcement authorities related thereto, under CERCLA, RCRA, and any other applicable statutes or regulations.

X. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

28. Respondents shall provide to EPA and the State, upon request, copies of all documents and information within their possession or control or that of their contractors or agents relating to activities at the Site or to the implementation of this Settlement Agreement, including, but not limited to, sampling, analysis, chain of custody records, manifests, trucking logs, receipts, reports, sample traffic routing, correspondence, or other documents or information related to the Work. Respondents shall also make available to EPA and the State, for purposes of investigation, information gathering, or testimony, their employees, agents, or representatives with knowledge of relevant facts concerning the performance of the Work.

29. Respondents may assert business confidentiality claims covering part or all of the documents or information submitted to EPA and the State under this Settlement Agreement to the extent permitted by and in accordance with Section 104(e)(7) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e)(7), and 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b). Documents or information determined to be confidential by EPA will be afforded the protection specified in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. If no claim of confidentiality accompanies documents or information when they are submitted to EPA and the State, or if EPA has notified Respondents that the documents or information are not confidential under the standards of Section 104(e)(7) of CERCLA or 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B, the public may be given access to such documents or information without further notice to Respondents.

30. Respondents may assert that certain documents, records and other information are privileged under the attorney-client privilege or any other privilege recognized by federal law. If the Respondents assert such a privilege in lieu of providing documents, they shall provide EPA and the State with the following: 1) the title of the document, record, or information; 2) the date of the document, record, or information; 3) the name and title of the author of the document, record, or information; 4) the name and title of each addressee and recipient; 5) a description of the contents of the document, record, or information; and 6) the privilege asserted by Respondents. However, no documents, reports or other information created or generated pursuant to the requirements of this Settlement Agreement shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged or confidential.

31. No claim of privilege or confidentiality shall be made with respect to any data, including, but not limited to, all sampling, analytical, monitoring, hydrogeologic, scientific, chemical, or engineering data, or any other documents or information evidencing conditions at or around the Site.

XI. RECORD RETENTION

32. Until 10 years after Respondents' receipt of EPA's notification pursuant to Section XXVII (Notice of Completion of Work), each Respondent shall preserve and retain all non-identical copies of records and documents (including records or documents in electronic form) now in its possession or control or which come into its possession or control that relate in any

manner to the performance of the Work or the liability of any person under CERCLA with respect to the Site, regardless of any corporate retention policy to the contrary. Until 10 years after Respondents' receipt of EPA's notification pursuant to Section XXVII (Notice of Completion of Work), Respondents shall also instruct their contractors and agents to preserve all documents, records, and information of whatever kind, nature or description relating to performance of the Work.

33. At the conclusion of this document retention period, Respondents shall notify EPA and the State at least 90 days prior to the destruction of any such records or documents, and, upon request by EPA or the State, Respondents shall deliver any such records or documents to EPA or the State. Respondents may assert that certain documents, records and other information are privileged under the attorney-client privilege or any other privilege recognized by federal law. If Respondents assert such a privilege, they shall provide EPA or the State with the following: 1) the title of the document, record, or information; 2) the date of the document, record, or information; 3) the name and title of the author of the document, record, or information; 4) the name and title of each addressee and recipient; 5) a description of the subject of the document, record, or information; and 6) the privilege asserted by Respondents. However, no documents, reports or other information created or generated pursuant to the requirements of this Settlement Agreement shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged or confidential.

34. Each Respondent hereby certifies individually that to the best of its knowledge and belief, after thorough inquiry, it has not altered, mutilated, discarded, destroyed or otherwise disposed of any records, documents or other information (other than identical copies) relating to its potential liability regarding the Site since the first notification of potential liability by EPA or the State or the filing of suit against it regarding the Site and that it has fully complied with any and all EPA requests for information pursuant to Sections 104(e) and 122(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604(e) and 9622(e), and Section 3007 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6927.

XII. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS

35. Respondents shall perform all actions required pursuant to this Settlement Agreement in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations except as provided in Section 121(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 6921(e), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 300.400(e) and 300.415(j). In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 300.415(j), all on-Site actions required pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall, to the extent practicable, as determined by EPA, considering the exigencies of the situation, attain applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs) under federal environmental or state environmental or facility siting laws. Respondents shall identify ARARs in the Work Plan subject to EPA approval.

XIII. EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND NOTIFICATION OF RELEASES

36. In the event of any action or occurrence during performance of the Work which causes or threatens a release of Waste Material from the Site that constitutes an emergency

situation or may present an immediate threat to public health or welfare or the environment, Respondents shall immediately take all appropriate action. Respondents shall take these actions in accordance with all applicable provisions of this Settlement Agreement, including, but not limited to, the Health and Safety Plan, in order to prevent, abate or minimize such release or endangerment caused or threatened by the release. Respondents shall also immediately notify the OSC or, in the event of his/her unavailability, the Regional Duty Officer at (404) 562-8700, of the incident or Site conditions. In the event that Respondents fail to take appropriate response action as required by this Paragraph, and EPA takes such action instead, Respondents shall reimburse EPA all costs of the response action not inconsistent with the NCP pursuant to Section XV (Payment of Response Costs).

37. In addition, in the event of any release of a hazardous substance from the Site, Respondents shall immediately notify the OSC at 404-606-2223 and the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802. Respondents shall submit a written report to EPA within 7 days after each release, setting forth the events that occurred and the measures taken or to be taken to mitigate any release or endangerment caused or threatened by the release and to prevent the reoccurrence of such a release. This reporting requirement is in addition to, and not in lieu of, reporting under Section 103(c) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(c), and Section 304 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. § 11004, *et seq.*

XIV. AUTHORITY OF ON-SCENE COORDINATOR

38. The OSC shall be responsible for overseeing Respondents' implementation of this Settlement Agreement. The OSC shall have the authority vested in an OSC by the NCP, including the authority to halt, conduct, or direct any Work required by this Settlement Agreement, or to direct any other removal action undertaken at the Site. Absence of the OSC from the Site shall not be cause for stoppage of work unless specifically directed by the OSC.

XV. PAYMENT OF RESPONSE COSTS

39. Payment for Past Response Costs.

a. EPA shall issue a demand to Respondents for the payment of Past Response Costs no earlier than 120 days following the completion of the Work at this Site as determined by the OSC. Within 60 days after Respondents' receipt from EPA of a demand for payment, Respondents shall pay a minimum of \$15,000 per calendar month to EPA until EPA's cumulative Past and Future Response Costs are paid in full. Payment shall be made to EPA by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) in accordance with current EFT procedures to be provided to Respondents by EPA Region 4, and shall be accompanied by a statement identifying the name and address of the party making payment, the Site name, the EPA Region and Site/Spill ID Number B4E7, and the EPA docket number for this action to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA: 021030004
Account Number: 68010727
SWIFT address: FRNYUS33
33 Liberty Street
New York, New York 10045
Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read: "D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency"

b. At the time of payment, Respondents shall send notice that such payment has been made by email to acctsreceivable.cinwd@epa.gov, or by mail to:

EPA Cincinnati Finance Office
26 Martin Luther King Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45268

with a copy to:

Leo Francendese
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
francendese.leo@epa.gov

and a copy to:

Paula V. Painter
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
painter.paula@epa.gov

c. The total amount to be paid by Respondents pursuant to Paragraph 36(a) shall be deposited by EPA in the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund.

40. Payments for Future Response Costs.

a. EPA shall issue a bill(s) to Respondents for the payment of Future Response Costs no earlier than 120 days following the completion of the Work at this Site as determined by the OSC. Within 60 days after Respondents' receipt from EPA of a demand for payment, Respondents shall pay a minimum of \$15,000 per calendar month to EPA until EPA's cumulative Past and Future Response Costs are paid in full. Respondents shall pay EPA all Future Response Costs not inconsistent with the NCP. The bill(s) requiring payment will include a SCORPIOS

Report, which includes direct and indirect costs incurred by EPA and its contractors. Respondents shall pay a minimum of \$15,000 per calendar month until EPA's cumulative Future and Past Response Costs are paid in full, except as otherwise provided in Paragraph 42 of this Settlement Agreement.

b. Respondents shall make all payments required by this Paragraph to EPA by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) in accordance with current EFT procedures to be provided to Respondents by EPA Region 4, and shall be accompanied by a statement identifying the name and address of the party making payment, the Site name, the EPA Region and Site/Spill ID Number B4E7, and the EPA docket number for this action to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA: 021030004
Account Number: 68010727
SWIFT address: FRNYUS33
33 Liberty Street
New York, New York 10045
Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read: "D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency"

c. At the time of payment, Respondents shall send notice that payment has been made to by email to acctsreceivable.cinwd@epa.gov, or by mail to:

EPA Cincinnati Finance Office
26 Martin Luther King Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45268

with a copy to:

Leo Francendese
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
francendese.leo@epa.gov

and a copy to:

Paula V. Painter
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
painter.paula@epa.gov

d. The total amount to be paid by Respondents pursuant to Paragraph 40(a) shall be deposited by EPA into the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund.

41. In the event that the payment for Past or Future Response Costs is not made within 60 days of the Demand for Payment, Respondents shall pay Interest on each unpaid \$15,000 required payment. The Interest on Past Response Costs and Future Response Costs shall begin to accrue on the due date of payment and shall continue to accrue until the date of payment. Payments of Interest made under this Paragraph shall be in addition to such other remedies or sanctions available to the United States by virtue of Respondents' failure to make timely payments under this Section, including but not limited to, payment of stipulated penalties pursuant to Section XVIII.

42. Respondents may contest payment of any Future Response Costs billed under Paragraph 40 if they determine that EPA has made a mathematical error, or if they believe EPA incurred excess costs as a direct result of an EPA action that was inconsistent with the NCP. Such objection shall be made in writing within 30 days of receipt of the bill and must be sent to Paula Painter. Any such objection shall specifically identify the contested Future Response Costs and the basis for objection. In the event of an objection, Respondents shall within the 30-day period pay all uncontested Future Response Costs to EPA in the manner described in Paragraph 40. Simultaneously, Respondents shall establish an interest-bearing escrow account in a federally-insured bank duly chartered in the State of South Carolina and remit to that escrow account funds equivalent to the amount of the contested Future Response Costs. Respondents shall send to Paula Painter and the OSC a copy of the transmittal letter and check paying the uncontested Future Response Costs, and a copy of the correspondence that establishes and funds the escrow account, including, but not limited to, information containing the identity of the bank and bank account under which the escrow account is established as well as a bank statement showing the initial balance of the escrow account. Simultaneously with establishment of the escrow account, Respondents shall initiate the Dispute Resolution procedures in Section XVI (Dispute Resolution). If EPA prevails in the dispute, within 5 days of the resolution of the dispute, Respondents shall pay the sums due (with accrued interest) to EPA in the manner described in Paragraph 40. If Respondents prevail concerning any aspect of the contested costs, Respondents shall pay that portion of the costs (plus associated accrued interest) for which they did not prevail to EPA in the manner described in Paragraph 40. Respondents shall be disbursed any balance of the escrow account. The dispute resolution procedures set forth in this Paragraph in conjunction with the procedures set forth in Section XVI (Dispute Resolution) shall be the exclusive mechanisms for resolving disputes regarding Respondents' obligation to reimburse EPA for its Future Response Costs.

XVI. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

43. Unless otherwise expressly provided for in this Settlement Agreement, the dispute resolution procedures of this Section shall be the exclusive mechanism for resolving disputes

arising under this Settlement Agreement. The Parties shall attempt to resolve any disagreements concerning this Settlement Agreement expeditiously and informally.

44. If Respondents object to any EPA action taken pursuant to this Settlement Agreement, including billings for Future Response Costs, they shall notify EPA in writing of their objection(s) within fourteen (14) days of such action, unless the objection(s) has/have been resolved informally. EPA and Respondents shall have fourteen (14) days from EPA's receipt of Respondents' written objection(s) to resolve the dispute through formal negotiations (the Negotiation Period). The Negotiation Period may be extended at the sole discretion of EPA.

45. Any agreement reached by the parties pursuant to this Section shall be in writing and shall, upon signature by both parties, be incorporated into and become an enforceable part of this Settlement Agreement. If the Parties are unable to reach an agreement within the Negotiation Period, an EPA management official at the Superfund Division Director level or higher will issue a written decision on the dispute to Respondents. EPA's decision shall be incorporated into and become an enforceable part of this Settlement Agreement. Respondents' obligations under this Settlement Agreement shall not be tolled by submission of any objection for dispute resolution under this Section. Following resolution of the dispute, as provided by this Section, Respondents shall fulfill the requirement that was the subject of the dispute in accordance with the agreement reached or with EPA's decision, whichever occurs.

XVII. FORCE MAJEURE

46. Respondents agree to perform all requirements of this Settlement Agreement within the time limits established under this Settlement Agreement, unless the performance is delayed by a *force majeure*. For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, a *force majeure* is defined as any event arising from causes beyond the control of Respondents, or of any entity controlled by Respondents, including but not limited to their contractors and subcontractors, which delays or prevents performance of any obligation under this Settlement Agreement despite Respondents' best efforts to fulfill the obligation. *Force majeure* does not include financial inability to complete the Work, or increased cost of performance.

47. If any event occurs or has occurred that may delay the performance of any obligation under this Settlement Agreement, whether or not caused by a *force majeure* event, Respondents shall notify EPA orally within twenty-four hours of when Respondents first knew that the event might cause a delay. Within seven (7) days thereafter, Respondents shall provide to EPA in writing an explanation and description of the reasons for the delay; the anticipated duration of the delay; all actions taken or to be taken to prevent or minimize the delay; a schedule for implementation of any measures to be taken to prevent or mitigate the delay or the effect of the delay; Respondents' rationale for attributing such delay to a *force majeure* event if they intend to assert such a claim; and a statement as to whether, in the opinion of Respondents, such event may cause or contribute to an endangerment to public health, welfare or the environment. Failure to comply with the above requirements shall preclude Respondents from asserting any claim of *force*

majeure for that event for the period of time of such failure to comply and for any additional delay caused by such failure.

48. If EPA agrees that the delay or anticipated delay is attributable to a *force majeure* event, the time for performance of the obligations under this Settlement Agreement that are affected by the *force majeure* event will be extended by EPA for such time as is necessary to complete those obligations. An extension of the time for performance of the obligations affected by the *force majeure* event shall not, of itself, extend the time for performance of any other obligation. If EPA does not agree that the delay or anticipated delay has been or will be caused by a *force majeure* event, EPA will notify Respondents in writing of its decision. If EPA agrees that the delay is attributable to a *force majeure* event, EPA will notify Respondents in writing of the length of the extension, if any, for performance of the obligations affected by the *force majeure* event.

XVIII. STIPULATED PENALTIES

49. Respondents shall be liable to EPA for stipulated penalties in the amounts set forth in Paragraphs 50 and 51 for failure to comply with the requirements of this Settlement Agreement specified below, unless excused under Section XVII (*Force Majeure*). “Compliance” by Respondents shall include completion of the activities under this Settlement Agreement or any work plan or other plan approved under this Settlement Agreement identified below in accordance with all applicable requirements of law, this Settlement Agreement and any plans or other documents approved by EPA pursuant to this Settlement Agreement and within the specified time schedules established by and approved under this Settlement Agreement.

50. Stipulated Penalty Amounts - Work.

a. The following stipulated penalties shall accrue per violation per day for any noncompliance identified in Paragraph 47(b):

<u>Penalty Per Violation Per Day</u>	<u>Period of Noncompliance</u>
\$500	1st through 14th day
\$1,000	15th through 30th day
\$1,500	31st day and beyond

b. Compliance Milestones

- i. Failure to timely submit a draft Work Plan as required by Paragraph 18;
- ii. Failure to timely submit modifications requested by EPA or its representatives to the draft Work Plan;
- iii. Failure to timely submit Plans as required under the Paragraph 14(j).

- iv. Failure to timely submit payment for Past and Future Response Costs required by Paragraphs 39 and 40;
- v. Failure to obtain insurance as required by Paragraph 74; and
- vi. Failure to comply with any schedule in the EPA-approved Work Plan.

51. Stipulated Penalty Amounts - Reports. The following stipulated penalties shall accrue per violation per day for failure to submit timely or adequate reports or other written documents, other than those specifically listed above in Paragraph 50(b), pursuant to Paragraphs 19, 22, 23:

<u>Penalty Per Violation Per Day</u>	<u>Period of Noncompliance</u>
\$200	1st through 14th day
\$400	15th through 30th day
\$800	31st day and beyond

52. In the event that EPA assumes performance of a portion or all of the Work pursuant to Paragraph 62 of Section XX, Respondents shall be liable for a stipulated penalty in the amount of \$150,000.

53. All penalties shall begin to accrue on the day after the complete performance is due or the day a violation occurs, and shall continue to accrue through the final day of the correction of the noncompliance or completion of the activity. However, stipulated penalties shall not accrue: 1) with respect to a deficient submission under Section VIII (Work to be Performed), during the period, if any, beginning on the 31st day after EPA's receipt of such submission until the date that EPA notifies Respondents of any deficiency; and 2) with respect to a decision by the EPA Management Official at the Superfund Division Director level or higher, under Paragraph 45 of Section XVI (Dispute Resolution), during the period, if any, beginning on the 21st day after the Negotiation Period begins until the date that the EPA management official issues a final decision regarding such dispute. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall prevent the simultaneous accrual of separate penalties for separate violations of this Settlement Agreement.

54. Following EPA's determination that Respondents have failed to comply with a requirement of this Settlement Agreement, EPA may give Respondents written notification of the failure and describe the noncompliance. EPA may send Respondents a written demand for payment of the penalties. However, penalties shall accrue as provided in the preceding Paragraph regardless of whether EPA has notified Respondents of a violation.

55. All penalties accruing under this Section shall be due and payable to EPA within 30 days of Respondents' receipt from EPA of a demand for payment of the penalties, unless Respondents invoke the dispute resolution procedures under Section XVI (Dispute Resolution). All payments to EPA under this Section shall be paid by certified or cashier's check(s) made payable to "EPA Hazardous Substances Superfund," shall be mailed to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Fines and Penalties, Cincinnati Finance Center, P.O. Box 979077, St. Louis,

MO 63197-9000, shall indicate that the payment is for stipulated penalties, and shall reference the EPA Region and Site/Spill ID Number B4E7, the EPA Docket Number, and the name and address of the party(ies) making payment. Copies of check(s) paid pursuant to this Section, and any accompanying transmittal letter(s), shall be sent to EPA as provided in Paragraph 40.

56. The payment of penalties shall not alter in any way Respondents' obligation to complete performance of the Work required under this Settlement Agreement.

57. Penalties shall continue to accrue during any dispute resolution period, but need not be paid until 15 days after the dispute is resolved by agreement or by receipt of EPA's decision.

58. If Respondents fail to pay stipulated penalties when due, EPA may institute proceedings to collect the penalties, as well as Interest. Respondents shall pay Interest on the unpaid balance, which shall begin to accrue on the date of demand made pursuant to Paragraph 52. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as prohibiting, altering, or in any way limiting the ability of EPA to seek any other remedies or sanctions available by virtue of Respondents' violation of this Settlement Agreement or of the statutes and regulations upon which it is based, including, but not limited to, penalties pursuant to Sections 106(b) and 122(l) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606(b) and 9622(l), and punitive damages pursuant to Section 107(c)(3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(c)(3). Provided, however, that EPA shall not seek civil penalties pursuant to Section 106(b) or 122(l) of CERCLA or punitive damages pursuant to Section 107(c)(3) of CERCLA for any violation for which a stipulated penalty is provided in this Section, except in the case of a willful violation of this Settlement Agreement or in the event that EPA assumes performance of a portion or all of the Work pursuant to Section XX, Paragraph 62." Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, EPA may, in its unreviewable discretion, waive any portion of stipulated penalties that have accrued pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.

XIX. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY EPA

59. In consideration of the actions that will be performed and the payments that will be made by Respondents under the terms of this Settlement Agreement, and except as otherwise specifically provided in this Settlement Agreement, EPA covenants not to sue or to take administrative action against Respondents pursuant to Sections 106 and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606 and 9607(a), for the Work, Past Response Costs, and Future Response Costs. This covenant not to sue shall take effect upon receipt by EPA of the Past Response Costs due under Section XV of this Settlement Agreement and any Interest or Stipulated Penalties due for failure to pay Past Response Costs as required by Sections XV and XVIII of this Settlement Agreement. This covenant not to sue is conditioned upon the complete and satisfactory performance by Respondents of their obligations under this Settlement Agreement, including, but not limited to, payment of Future Response Costs pursuant to Section XV. This covenant not to sue extends only to Respondents and does not extend to any other person.

XX. RESERVATIONS OF RIGHTS BY EPA

60. Except as specifically provided in this Settlement Agreement, nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall limit the power and authority of EPA or the United States to take, direct, or order all actions necessary to protect public health, welfare, or the environment or to prevent, abate, or minimize an actual or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, or hazardous or solid waste on, at, or from the Site. Further, nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall prevent EPA from seeking legal or equitable relief to enforce the terms of this Settlement Agreement, from taking other legal or equitable action as it deems appropriate and necessary, or from requiring Respondents in the future to perform additional activities pursuant to CERCLA or any other applicable law.

61. The covenant not to sue set forth in Section XIX above does not pertain to any matters other than those expressly identified therein. EPA reserves, and this Settlement Agreement is without prejudice to, all rights against Respondents with respect to all other matters, including, but not limited to:

- a. claims based on a failure by Respondents to meet a requirement of this Settlement Agreement;
- b. liability for costs not included within the definitions of Past Response Costs or Future Response Costs;
- c. liability for performance of response action other than the Work;
- d. criminal liability;
- e. liability for damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources, and for the costs of any natural resource damage assessments;
- f. liability arising from the past, present, or future disposal, release or threat of release of Waste Materials outside of the Site; and
- g. liability for costs incurred or to be incurred by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry related to the Site.

62. Work Takeover. In the event EPA determines that Respondents have ceased implementation of any portion of the Work, are seriously or repeatedly deficient or late in their performance of the Work, or are implementing the Work in a manner which may cause an endangerment to human health or the environment, EPA may assume the performance of all or any portion of the Work as EPA determines necessary. Respondents may invoke the procedures set forth in Section XVI (Dispute Resolution) to dispute EPA's determination that takeover of the Work is warranted under this Paragraph. Costs incurred by the United States in performing the Work pursuant to this Paragraph shall be considered Future Response Costs that Respondents shall

pay pursuant to Section XV (Payment of Response Costs). Notwithstanding any other provision of this Settlement Agreement, EPA retains all authority and reserves all rights to take any and all response actions authorized by law.

XXI. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY RESPONDENTS

63. Respondents covenant not to sue and agree not to assert any claims or causes of action against the United States, or its contractors or employees, with respect to the Work, Past Response Costs, Future Response Costs, or this Settlement Agreement, including, but not limited to:

a. any direct or indirect claim for reimbursement from the Hazardous Substance Superfund established by 26 U.S.C. § 9507, based on Sections 106(b)(2), 107, 111, 112, or 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606(b)(2), 9607, 9611, 9612, or 9613, or any other provision of law;

b. any claim arising out of response actions at or in connection with the Site, including any claim under the United States Constitution, the State Constitution, the Tucker Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1491, the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, as amended, or at common law; or

c. any claim against the United States pursuant to Sections 107 and 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607 and 9613, Section 7002(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6972(a), or State law, relating to the Work, Past Response Costs, or Future Response Costs.

64. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to constitute approval or preauthorization of a claim within the meaning of Section 111 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9611, or 40 C.F.R. § 300.700(d).

65. Respondents agree not to assert any claims and to waive all claims or causes of action that they may have for all matters relating to the Site, including for contribution, against any person where the person's liability to Respondents with respect to the Site is based solely on having arranged for disposal or treatment, or for transport for disposal or treatment, of hazardous substances at the Site, or having accepted for transport for disposal or treatment of hazardous substances at the Site, if all or part of the disposal, treatment, or transport occurred before April 1, 2001, and the total amount of material containing hazardous substances contributed by such person to the Site was less than 110 gallons of liquid materials or 200 pounds of solid materials.

66. The waiver in Paragraph 65 shall not apply with respect to any defense, claim, or cause of action that a Respondent may have against any person meeting the above criteria if such person asserts a claim or cause of action relating to the Site against such Respondent. This waiver also shall not apply to any claim or cause of action against any person meeting the above criteria if EPA determines:

a. that such person has failed to comply with any EPA requests for information or administrative subpoenas issued pursuant to Section 104(e) or 122(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§

9604(e) or 9622(e), or Section 3007 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (also known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act or “RCRA”), 42 U.S.C. § 6972, or has impeded or is impeding, through action or inaction, the performance of a response action or natural resource restoration with respect to the Site, or has been convicted of a criminal violation for the conduct to which this waiver would apply and that conviction has not been vitiated on appeal or otherwise; or

b. that the materials containing hazardous substances contributed to the Site by such person have contributed significantly, or could contribute significantly, either individually or in the aggregate, to the cost of response action or natural resource restoration at the Site.

XXII. OTHER CLAIMS

67. By issuance of this Settlement Agreement, the United States and EPA assume no liability for injuries or damages to persons or property resulting from any acts or omissions of Respondents. The United States or EPA shall not be deemed a party to any contract entered into by Respondents or their directors, officers, employees, agents, successors, representatives, assigns, contractors, or consultants in carrying out actions pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.

68. Except as expressly provided in Section XIX (Covenant Not to Sue by EPA), nothing in this Settlement Agreement constitutes a satisfaction of or release from any claim or cause of action against Respondents or any person not a party to this Settlement Agreement, for any liability such person may have under CERCLA, other statutes, or common law, including but not limited to any claims of the United States for costs, damages and interest under Sections 106 and 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606 and 9607.

69. No action or decision by EPA pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall give rise to any right to judicial review, except as set forth in Section 113(h) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(h).

XXIII. CONTRIBUTION

70. The Respondents agree that this Settlement Agreement constitutes an administrative settlement for purposes of Sections 113(f)(2) and 122(h)(4) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9613(f)(2) and 9622(h)(4), and that Respondents are entitled, as of the Effective Date, to protection from contribution actions or claims as provided by Sections 113(f)(2) and 122(h)(4) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9613(f)(2) and 9622(h)(4), or as may be otherwise provided by law, for “matters addressed” in this Settlement Agreement. The “matters addressed” in this Settlement Agreement are the Work, Past Response Costs, and Future Response Costs. The Respondents further agree that this Settlement Agreement constitutes an administrative settlement for purposes of Section 113(f)(3)(B) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(f)(3)(B), pursuant to which Respondents have, as of the Effective Date, resolved their liability to the United States for the Work, Past Response Costs, and Future Response Costs.

a. Each Respondent shall, with respect to any suit or claim brought by it for matters related to this Settlement Agreement, notify EPA in writing no later than 60 days prior to the

initiation of such suit or claim. Each Respondent also shall, with respect to any suit or claim brought against it for matters related to this Settlement Agreement, notify EPA in writing within 10 days of service of the complaint or claim upon it. In addition, each Respondent shall notify EPA within 10 days of service or receipt of any Motion for Summary Judgment and within 10 days of receipt of any order from a court setting a case for trial, for matters related to this Settlement Agreement.

b. In any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding initiated by EPA, or by the United States on behalf of EPA, for injunctive relief, recovery of response costs, or other relief relating to the Site, Respondents shall not assert, and may not maintain, any defense or claim based upon the principles of waiver, *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, claim-splitting, or other defenses based upon any contention that the claims raised in the subsequent proceeding were or should have been brought in the instant case; provided, however, that nothing in this Paragraph affects the enforceability of the covenant by EPA set forth in Section XIX.

c. Effective upon signature of this Settlement Agreement by a Respondent, such Respondent agrees that the time period after the date of its signature shall not be included in computing the running of any statute of limitations potentially applicable to any action brought by the United States related to the "matters addressed" as defined in Paragraph 70 and that, in any action brought by the United States related to the "matters addressed," such Respondent will not assert, and may not maintain, any defense or claim based upon principles of statute of limitations, waiver, laches, estoppel, or other defense based on the passage of time after its signature of this Settlement Agreement. If EPA gives notice to Respondents that it will not make this Settlement Agreement effective, the statute of limitations shall begin to run again commencing ninety days after the date such notice is sent by EPA.

XXIV. INDEMNIFICATION

71. Respondents shall indemnify, save and hold harmless the United States, its officials, agents, contractors, subcontractors, employees and representatives from any and all claims or causes of action arising from, or on account of, negligent or other wrongful acts or omissions of Respondents, their officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, or subcontractors, in carrying out actions pursuant to this Settlement Agreement. In addition, Respondents agree to pay the United States all costs incurred by the United States, including but not limited to attorneys fees and other expenses of litigation and settlement, arising from or on account of claims made against the United States based on negligent or other wrongful acts or omissions of Respondents, their officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, subcontractors and any persons acting on their behalf or under their control, in carrying out activities pursuant to this Settlement Agreement. The United States shall not be held out as a party to any contract entered into by or on behalf of Respondents in carrying out activities pursuant to this Settlement Agreement. Neither Respondents nor any such contractor shall be considered an agent of the United States.

72. The United States shall give Respondents notice of any claim for which the United States plans to seek indemnification pursuant to this Section and shall consult with Respondents prior to settling such claim.

73. Respondents waive all claims against the United States for damages or reimbursement or for set-off of any payments made or to be made to the United States, arising from or on account of any contract, agreement, or arrangement between any one or more of Respondents and any person for performance of Work on or relating to the Site, including, but not limited to, claims on account of construction delays. In addition, Respondents shall indemnify and hold harmless the United States with respect to any and all claims for damages or reimbursement arising from or on account of any contract, agreement, or arrangement between any one or more of Respondents and any person for performance of Work on or relating to the Site, including, but not limited to, claims on account of construction delays.

XXV. INSURANCE

74. At least seven (7) days prior to commencing any on-Site work under this Settlement Agreement, Respondents shall secure, and shall maintain for the duration of this Settlement Agreement, comprehensive general liability insurance and automobile insurance with limits of one (1) million dollars, combined single limit, naming EPA as an additional insured. Within the same time period, Respondents shall provide EPA with certificates of such insurance and a copy of each insurance policy. Respondents shall submit such certificates and copies of policies each year on the anniversary of the Effective Date. In addition, for the duration of the Settlement Agreement, Respondents shall satisfy, or shall ensure that their contractors or subcontractors satisfy, all applicable laws and regulations regarding the provision of worker's compensation insurance for all persons performing the Work on behalf of Respondents in furtherance of this Settlement Agreement. If Respondents demonstrate by evidence satisfactory to EPA that any contractor or subcontractor maintains insurance equivalent to that described above, or insurance covering some or all of the same risks but in an equal or lesser amount, then Respondents need provide only that portion of the insurance described above which is not maintained by such contractor or subcontractor.

XXVI. MODIFICATIONS

75. The OSC may make modifications to any plan or schedule or Statement of Work in writing or by oral direction. Any oral modification will be memorialized in writing by EPA promptly, but shall have as its effective date the date of the OSC's oral direction. Any other requirements of this Settlement Agreement may be modified in writing by mutual agreement of the parties.

76. If Respondents seek permission to deviate from any approved work plan or schedule, Respondents' Project Coordinator shall submit a written request to EPA for approval outlining the proposed modification and its basis. Respondents may not proceed with the requested deviation until receiving oral or written approval from the OSC pursuant to Paragraph 75.

77. No informal advice, guidance, suggestion, or comment by the OSC or other EPA representatives regarding reports, plans, specifications, schedules, or any other writing submitted by Respondents shall relieve Respondents of their obligation to obtain any formal approval required by this Settlement Agreement, or to comply with all requirements of this Settlement Agreement, unless it is formally modified.

XXVII. ADDITIONAL REMOVAL ACTION

78. If EPA determines that additional removal actions not included in an approved plan are necessary to protect public health, welfare, or the environment, EPA will notify Respondents of that determination. Unless otherwise stated by EPA, within 30 days of receipt of notice from EPA that additional removal actions are necessary to protect public health, welfare, or the environment, Respondents shall submit for approval by EPA a Work Plan for the additional removal actions. The plan shall conform to the applicable requirements of Section VIII (Work to Be Performed) of this Settlement Agreement. Upon EPA's approval of the plan pursuant to Section VIII, Respondents shall implement the plan for additional removal actions in accordance with the provisions and schedule contained therein. This Section does not alter or diminish the OSC's authority to make oral modifications to any plan or schedule pursuant to Section XXVI (Modifications).

XXVIII. NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF WORK

79. When EPA determines, after EPA's review of the Final Report, that all Work has been fully performed in accordance with this Settlement Agreement, with the exception of any continuing obligations required by this Settlement Agreement, including post-removal site controls, payment of Future Response Costs or record retention, EPA will provide written notice to Respondents. If EPA determines that any such Work has not been completed in accordance with this Settlement Agreement, EPA will notify Respondents, provide a list of the deficiencies, and require that Respondents modify the Work Plan if appropriate in order to correct such deficiencies. Respondents shall implement the modified and approved Work Plan and shall submit a modified Final Report in accordance with the EPA notice. Failure by Respondents to implement the approved modified Work Plan shall be a violation of this Settlement Agreement.

XXIX. INTEGRATION/APPENDICES

80. This Settlement Agreement and its appendices constitute the final, complete and exclusive agreement and understanding among the Parties with respect to the settlement embodied in this Settlement Agreement. The parties acknowledge that there are no representations, agreements or understandings relating to the settlement other than those expressly contained in this Settlement Agreement. The following appendices are attached to and incorporated into this Settlement Agreement:

Appendix "A": Statement of Work

XXX. EFFECTIVE DATE

81. This Settlement Agreement shall be effective on the day it is signed by the Regional Administrator or his/her delegate.

The undersigned representatives of Respondents certify that they are fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement and to bind the party they represent to this document.

Agreed this day of , 2011.

April 28th, 2011

IN THE MATTER OF THE WELCH GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL BELTON SITE:

For Respondent, Welch Group Environmental, LLC:

By *AB*

Title *President / CEO*

For Respondent, David B. Jones:

By _____

Title

XXX. EFFECTIVE DATE

81. This Settlement Agreement shall be effective on the day it is signed by the Regional Administrator or his/her delegate.

The undersigned representatives of Respondents certify that they are fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement and to bind the party they represent to this document.

Agreed this 28 day of April, 2011.

IN THE MATTER OF THE WELCH GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL BELTON SITE:

For Respondent, Welch Group Environmental, LLC:

By _____

Title _____

For Respondent, David B. Jones:

By David B. Jones
Title OWNER, PROPERTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE WELCH GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL BELTON SITE:

It is so ORDERED and Agreed this 12th day of MAY, 2011.

BY: A. Shane Hitchcock DATE: 05/12/2011

A. Shane Hitchcock, Chief
Emergency Response and Removal Branch
Superfund Division
Region 4
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EFFECTIVE DATE: 05/12/2011

APPENDIX “A”
STATEMENT OF WORK

Statement of Work

- a. Develop a Site Health and Safety Plan;
- b. Provide for Site security and control access to Site;
- c. Contain and secure open vessels/drums;
- d. Implement drainage controls to prevent run off;
- e. Construct sediment/soil containment measures such as silt curtains or hay bales where appropriate;
- f. Provide for the containment and segregation of noncompatible materials and/or Waste Material;
- g. Immediately identify all usable products destined for future use and/or sale;
- h. Repackage all materials and Waste Materials that are currently in compromised containers;
- i. Remove containers and equipment that may contain Waste Material;
- j. Provide the following plans:
 - 1. Waste Characterization Plan;
 - 2. Decontamination/Demolition Plan; and
 - 3. Soils Removal and Disposal Plan.