

IN THE MATTER OF:)	AGREEMENT FOR RECOVERY
)	OF PAST RESPONSE COSTS
Henry Wood Preserving Superfund Site)	
Hemingway, Williamsburg, South Carolina)	U.S. EPA Region 4
)	CERCLA Docket No. CERCLA-04-2006-3770
Ann Rodgers T. Chandler)	
SETTLING PARTY)	PROCEEDING UNDER
)	SECTION 122(h)(1) OF CERCLA
)	42 U.S.C. § 9622(h)(1)



I. JURISDICTION

1. This Agreement is entered into pursuant to the authority vested in the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) by Section 122(h)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (“CERCLA”), 42 U.S.C. § 9622(h)(1), which authority has been delegated to the Regional Administrators of the EPA by EPA Delegation No. 14-14-D. Authority to enter into or exercise Agency concurrence with this Agreement has been further re-delegated from the Regional Administrator through the Director of the Waste Management Division, through the Associate Division Director for the Office of Superfund and Emergency Response, to the Chief of the CERCLA Program Services Branch (renamed the Superfund Enforcement and Information Management Branch) by EPA Regional Delegation R-14-14-D.

2. This Agreement is made and entered into by EPA and Ann Rodgers T. Chandler (“Settling Party”). Settling Party consents to and will not contest EPA’s authority to enter into this Agreement or to implement or enforce its terms.

II. BACKGROUND

3. This Agreement concerns the Henry Wood Preserving Superfund Site (“Site”) located in a rural area near the intersection of Highway 512 and the former Sea Board Railroad, approximately 5.5 miles south-southwest of Hemingway, South Carolina. EPA alleges that the Site is a “facility” as defined by Section 101(9) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9).

4. In response to the release or threatened release of hazardous substances at or from the Site, EPA undertook response actions at the Site pursuant to Section 104 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9604.

5. In performing its response action, EPA incurred response costs at or in connection

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with the Site.

6. EPA alleges that Settling Party is a responsible party pursuant to Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a), and is liable for response costs incurred at or in connection with the Site.

7. EPA has determined that the total past response costs of the United States at or in connection with the Site do not exceed \$500,000, excluding interest.

8. EPA and Settling Party recognize that this Agreement has been negotiated in good faith and that this Agreement is entered into without the admission or adjudication of any issue of fact or law.

III. PARTIES BOUND

9. This Agreement shall be binding upon EPA and upon Settling Party and her heirs, successors and assigns. Each signatory to this Agreement certifies that he or she is authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Agreement and to bind legally the party represented by him or her.

IV. DEFINITIONS

10. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, terms used in this Agreement that are defined in CERCLA or in regulations promulgated under CERCLA shall have the meanings assigned to them in CERCLA or in such regulations. Whenever terms listed below are used in this Agreement or in any appendix attached hereto, the following definitions shall apply:

a. "Agreement" shall mean this Agreement and any attached appendices. In the event of conflict between this Agreement and any appendix, the Agreement shall control.

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

e. "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.

f. "Paragraph" shall mean a portion of this Agreement identified by an Arabic numeral or a lower case letter.

g. "Parties" shall mean EPA and Settling Party.

h. "Past Response Costs" shall mean all costs, including but not limited to direct and indirect costs, that EPA, or the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of EPA, has paid at or in connection with the Site through the effective date of this Agreement, plus accrued Interest on all such costs through such date.

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

j. "Settling Party" shall mean Ann Rodgers T. Chandler and her heirs, successors, and assigns.

k. "Site" shall mean the Henry Wood Preserving Superfund Site, encompassing approximately 5 acres, located in a rural area near Highway 512, 5.5 miles south-southwest of Hemingway, Williamsburg, South Carolina, and generally shown on the map included in Appendix A.

l. "United States" shall mean the United States of America, including its departments, agencies and instrumentalities.

V. PAYMENT OF RESPONSE COSTS

11. Settling Party will, within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this Agreement, remit a check to EPA for the amount of \$2,500. Interest shall begin to accrue from the due date through the date of payment, if not timely received.

12. In addition to the payment made under Paragraph 11, Settling Party shall pay to EPA the proceeds from the sale of all or any portion of the Site property, up to the amount of EPA's uncovered Past Response Costs, provided that:

a. The sale occurs within 5 years of the effective date of this Agreement;

b. The sale price exceeds the current market value of the Site property, which is \$5,100 for purposes of this Agreement; and

c. EPA has outstanding unreimbursed Past Response Costs at the time of the sale.

Payment shall be made within 30 calendar days of the closing date of the sale.

13. Payment(s) shall be made by certified or cashier's check made payable to the "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund." Each check, or a letter accompanying each check, shall identify the name and address of the party making payment, the Site name, the EPA Region and Site/Spill ID Number A43H, and the EPA docket number for this action. Settling Party shall send the check(s) to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati Accounting Operations
Mellon lockbox 371099M
Pittsburgh, PA 15251-7099

14. At the time of any payment, Settling Party shall also send notice that payment has been made to EPA in accordance with Section XII (Notices and Submissions). Such notice shall reference the EPA Region and Site/Spill ID Number A43H and the EPA docket number for this action.

15. The total amount to be paid pursuant to Paragraphs 11 and 12 shall be deposited in the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund.

VI. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AGREEMENT

16. Interest on Late Payments. If Settling Party fails to make any payment required by Paragraph 11 by the required due date, Interest shall continue to accrue on the unpaid balance through the date of payment.

17. Stipulated Penalty.

a. If any amounts due to EPA under Paragraph 11 are not paid by the required date, Settling Party shall be in violation of this Agreement and shall pay to EPA, as a stipulated penalty, in addition to the Interest required by Paragraph 15, \$500 per day that such payment is late.

b. Stipulated penalties are due and payable within 30 days of the date of demand for payment of the penalties by EPA. All payments to EPA under this Paragraph shall be identified as "stipulated penalties" and shall be made payable to "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund." The check, or a letter accompanying the check, shall reference the name and address of the party making payment, the Site name, the EPA Region and Site Spill ID Number, and the EPA docket number for this action. Settling Party shall send the check (and any accompanying

letter) to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati Accounting Operations
Mellon lockbox 371099M
Pittsburgh, PA 15251-7099

c. At the time of each payment, Settling Party shall also send notice that payment has been made to EPA in accordance with Section XII (Notices and Submissions). Such notice shall identify the EPA Region and Site Spill ID Number A43H and the EPA docket number for this action.

d. Penalties shall accrue as provided in this Paragraph regardless of whether EPA has notified Settling Party of the violation or made a demand for payment, but need only be paid upon demand. All penalties shall begin to accrue on the day after payment is due and shall continue to accrue through the date of payment. Nothing herein shall prevent the simultaneous accrual of separate penalties for separate violations of this Agreement.

18. In addition to the Interest and Stipulated Penalty payments required by this Section and any other remedies or sanctions available to EPA by virtue of Settling Party's failure to comply with the requirements of this Agreement, any Settling Party who fails or refuses to comply with the requirements of this Agreement shall be subject to enforcement action pursuant to Section 122(h)(3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9622(h)(3). If the United States, on behalf of EPA, brings an action to enforce this Agreement, Settling Party shall reimburse the United States for all costs of such action, including but not limited to costs of attorney time.

19. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, EPA may, in its unreviewable discretion, waive payment of any portion of the stipulated penalties that have accrued pursuant to this Agreement. Payment of stipulated penalties shall not excuse Settling Party from payment as required by Section V or from performance of any other requirements of this Agreement.

VII. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY EPA

20. Covenant Not to Sue by EPA. Except as specifically provided in Section VIII (Reservations of Rights by EPA), EPA covenants not to sue or take administrative action against Settling Party pursuant to Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a), to recover Past Response Costs. This covenant shall take effect upon receipt by EPA of all amounts required by Section V (Payment of Response Costs) and any amounts due under Section VI (Failure to Comply with Agreement). This covenant not to sue is conditioned upon the satisfactory performance by Settling Party of its obligations under this Agreement. This covenant not to sue extends only to Settling Party and does not extend to any other person.

VIII. RESERVATIONS OF RIGHTS BY EPA

21. EPA reserves, and this Agreement is without prejudice to, all rights against Settling Party with respect to all matters not expressly included within the Covenant Not to Sue by EPA in Paragraph 19. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, EPA reserves all rights against Settling Party with respect to:

- a. liability for failure of Settling Party to meet a requirement of this Agreement;
- b. liability for costs incurred or to be incurred by the United States that are not within the definition of Past Response Costs;
- c. liability for injunctive relief or administrative order enforcement under Section 106 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9606;
- d. criminal liability; and
- e. liability for damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources, and for the costs of any natural resource damage assessments.

22. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to be nor shall it be construed as a release, covenant not to sue, or compromise of any claim or cause of action, administrative or judicial, civil or criminal, past or future, in law or in equity, which the United States may have against any person, firm, corporation or other entity not a signatory to this Agreement.

IX. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY SETTLING PARTY

23. Settling Party covenants not to sue and agrees not to assert any claims or causes of action against the United States, or its contractors or employees, with respect to Past Response Costs or this Agreement, including but not limited to:

- a. any direct or indirect claim for reimbursement from the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund 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 claims arising out of the response actions at the Site for which the Past Response Costs were incurred, including any claim under the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of South Carolina, 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; and
- c. any claim against the United States pursuant to Sections 107 and 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607 and 9613, relating to Past Response Costs.

24. 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).

X. EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT/CONTRIBUTION PROTECTION

25. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any rights in, or grant any cause of action to, any person not a Party to this Agreement. The Parties expressly reserve any and all rights (including, but not limited to, any right to contribution), defenses, claims, demands, and causes of action that they may have with respect to any matter, transaction, or occurrence relating in any way to the Site against any person not a Party hereto.

26. EPA and Settling Party agree that the actions undertaken by Settling Party in accordance with this Agreement do not constitute an admission of any liability by Settling Party. Settling Party does not admit, and retains the right to controvert in any subsequent proceedings other than proceedings to implement or enforce this Agreement, the validity of the facts or allegations contained in Section II of this Agreement.

27. The Parties agree that Settling Party is entitled, as of the effective date of this Agreement, 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), for "matters addressed" in this Agreement. The "matters addressed" in this Agreement are Past Response Costs. As such, Settling Party is not liable for claims or actions for Past Response Costs by any person not a Party to this Agreement.

28. Settling Party agrees that with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought by it for matters related to this Agreement, it will notify EPA in writing no later than 60 days prior to the initiation of such suit or claim. Settling Party also agrees that, with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought against it for matters related to this Agreement, it will notify EPA in writing within 10 days of service of the complaint or claim upon it. In addition, Settling Party 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 Agreement.

29. 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, Settling Party 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 not to sue by EPA set forth in Section VII.

XI. RETENTION OF RECORDS

30. Until 10 years after the effective date of this Agreement, Settling Party shall preserve and retain all records, reports, or information (hereinafter referred to as "records") now in its possession or control, or which come into its possession or control, that relate in any manner to response actions taken at the Site or to the liability of any person under CERCLA with respect to the Site.

31. After the conclusion of the 10-year document retention period in the preceding paragraph, Settling Party shall notify EPA at least 90 days prior to the destruction of any such records and, upon request by EPA, Settling Party shall deliver any such records to EPA. Settling Party may assert that certain records are privileged under the attorney-client privilege or any other privilege recognized by federal law. If Settling Party asserts such a privilege, it shall provide EPA with the following: 1) the title of the record; 2) the date of the record; 3) the name, title, affiliation (*e.g.*, company or firm), and address of the author of the record; 4) the name and title of each addressee and recipient; 5) a description of the subject of the record; and 6) the privilege asserted. If a claim of privilege applies only to a portion of a record, the record shall be provided to EPA in redacted form to mask the privileged information only. Settling Party shall retain all records that they claim to be privileged until EPA has had a reasonable opportunity to dispute the privilege claim and any such dispute has been resolved in Settling Party's favor. However, no records created or generated pursuant to the requirements of this or any other settlement with the EPA pertaining to the Site shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged.

32. Settling Party 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, reports, or information relating to its potential liability regarding the Site since notification of potential liability by the United States 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. NOTICES AND SUBMISSIONS

33. Whenever, under the terms of this Agreement, notice is required to be given or a document is required to be sent by one Party to another, it shall be directed to the individuals at the addresses specified below, unless those individuals or their successors give notice of a change to the other Parties in writing. Written notice as specified herein shall constitute complete satisfaction of any written notice requirement of this Agreement with respect to EPA and Settling Party.

As to EPA:

Colleen E. Michuda
Associate Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth St., S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Paula V. Batchelor
SEIMB, Environmental Protection Specialist
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth St., S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

As to Settling Party:

William H. Chandler, Esq.
 Askins, Chandler & Askins
 307 East Broad Street
 Hemingway, SC 29554

XIII. INTEGRATION/APPENDICES

34. This Agreement and its appendix constitute the final, complete and exclusive agreement and understanding among the Parties with respect to the settlement embodied in this Agreement. The Parties acknowledge that there are no representations, agreements or understandings relating to the settlement other than those expressly contained in this Agreement. The following appendix is attached to and incorporated into this Agreement: "Appendix A" is a map of the Site.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

35. This Agreement shall be subject to a public comment period of not less than 30 days pursuant to Section 122(i) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9622(i). In accordance with Section 122(i)(3) of CERCLA, EPA may modify or withdraw its consent to this Agreement if comments received disclose facts or considerations which indicate that this Agreement is inappropriate, improper or inadequate.

XV. EFFECTIVE DATE

36. The effective date of this Agreement shall be the date upon which EPA issues written notice that the public comment period pursuant to Paragraph 34 has closed and that comments received, if any, do not require modification of or EPA withdrawal from this Agreement.

IT IS SO AGREED:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By:



Rosalind Brown
 Chief, Superfund Enforcement and Information
 Management Branch
 Waste Management Division

6-15-06
 Date

THE UNDERSIGNED SETTLING PARTY enters into this Agreement in the matter of [insert U.S. EPA docket number], relating to the Henry Wood Preserving Superfund Site, Hemingway, South Carolina:

FOR SETTLING PARTY: Ann Rodgers T. Chandler

Ann Rogers T. Chandler
[Address]

By: Ann Rodgers T. Chandler 5/25/06
[Name] [Date]