

FPS 110009297402

UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Mills Gap Road Groundwater  
Contamination Site,  
Near Skyland, Buncombe County, North  
Carolina

CTS Corporation, and  
Mills Gap Road Associates  
  
Respondents.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON  
CONSENT FOR REMOVAL ACTION**

U.S. EPA Region 4  
CERCLA Docket No. CER-04-2004-3755

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

**I. JURISDICTION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. This Administrative Order on Consent ("Order") is entered into voluntarily by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), CTS Corporation, and Mills Gap Road Associates, ("Respondents"). This Order 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 property located on Mills Gap Road near Skyland, Buncombe County, North Carolina (the "Mills Gap Road Groundwater Contamination Site," or the "Site.")

2. This Order 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 North 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 Order has been negotiated in good faith and that the actions undertaken by Respondents in accordance with this Order 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 Order, the validity of the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and determinations of this Order. Respondents agree to comply with and be bound by the terms of this Order and further agree that they will not contest the basis or validity of this Order or its terms in proceedings brought by EPA to implement or enforce this Order.

## **II. PARTIES BOUND**

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

6. Respondents are jointly and severally liable for carrying out all activities required by this Order. If any other potentially responsible parties ("PRPs") are identified, and any PRP, including any of the Respondents, becomes insolvent or otherwise fails to implement the requirements of this Order, the remaining PRP or PRPs shall complete all such requirements.

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

## **III. DEFINITIONS**

8. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, terms used in this Order 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 Order or in the appendix attached hereto and incorporated hereunder, the following definitions shall apply:

a. "Action Memorandum" shall mean the EPA Action Memorandum relating to the Site signed on April 4, 2002, by the Regional Administrator, EPA Region 4, or his/her delegate, and all attachments thereto.

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. Except in cases involving emergency response and release notifications (Section XIII), in computing any period of time under this Order, 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 non-holiday, Monday through Friday, working day.

d. "Effective Date" shall be the effective date of this Order as provided in Section XXXII.

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

f. "NCDENR" shall mean the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources 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 May 13, 2003, in reviewing or developing plans, reports and other items pursuant to this Order, verifying the Work, or otherwise implementing, overseeing, or enforcing this Order, including but not limited to, payroll costs, contractor costs, travel costs, laboratory costs, the costs incurred pursuant to Paragraph 25 (costs and attorneys fees and any monies paid to secure access, including the amount of just compensation), Paragraph 35 (emergency response), and Paragraph 61 (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. "Order" shall mean this Administrative Order on Consent and all appendices attached hereto (listed in Section XXXI). In the event of conflict between this Order and any appendix, this Order shall control.

k. "Paragraph" shall mean a portion of this Order 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 May 13, 2003, plus Interest on all such costs through such 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 CTS Corporation and Mills Gap Road Associates.

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

q. "Site" shall mean the Mills Gap Road Groundwater Contamination Site, encompassing approximately nine (9) acres, of which a portion has been enclosed and used for industrial purposes, located on Mills Gap Road near Skyland, Buncombe County, North Carolina.

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

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

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); (3) any "solid waste" under Section 1004(27) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(27); and (4) any "hazardous material" under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

u. "Work" shall mean all activities Respondents are required to perform under this Order.

#### **IV. FINDINGS OF FACT**

9. For the purposes of this Order, EPA finds that:

a. The Mills Gap Road Groundwater Contamination Site (the "Site") consists of approximately nine (9) acres, a portion of which has been enclosed and used for industrial purposes, located on Mills Gap Road, approximately 1 mile east of Skyland, Buncombe County, North Carolina, at approximately 35°29'26"W latitude and 82°29'45"N longitude.

b. The Mills Gap Road Groundwater Contamination Site is currently owned by Mills Gap Road Associates and was purchased by Mills Gap Road Associates from CTS Corporation ("CTS") in approximately 1987. CTS of Asheville, Inc. a corporation once owned by and once a

subsidiary of CTS Corporation, owned the Site and also operated an electroplating facility on the Site from approximately 1959 until 1986.

c. International Resistance Corporation ("IRC") owned the Site and also operated an electroplating facility on the Site from approximately 1952 until 1959. IRC was merged into TRW, Inc. pursuant to an Agreement of Merger dated November 28, 1967, which was subsequently merged into Northrop Grumman Space & Mission System Corp., and thereby became a successor to IRC.

d. A single-story building, approximately 95,000 square feet in size, is located on the Site, a portion of which housed the electroplating operation.

e. The chemical compound trichloroethylene (a.k.a. trichloroethene or "TCE") was employed by IRC and CTS to clean and/or degrease metal objects prior to electroplating.

f. In July 1999, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality ("NCDENR") was contacted regarding oily leachate in a ditch located at 273 Mills Gap Road, Asheville, North Carolina, near the Mills Gap Road Groundwater Contamination Site.

g. Subsequent investigation by NCDENR resulted in the identification of two springs located on properties neighboring the 273 Mills Gap Road property that were contaminated with chlorinated solvents, including trichloroethylene, and petroleum constituents.

h. One of these springs served as the primary potable water supply for residents of 275 Mills Gap Road, Asheville, North Carolina and 277 Mills Gap Road, Asheville, North Carolina.

i. Additional investigation by NCDENR resulted in the identification of one water well located at 10 Concord Road, Asheville, North Carolina, that was contaminated with trichloroethylene and which served as the potable water source for two households.

j. On August 16, 1999, NCDENR referred the Mills Gap Road Groundwater Contamination Site to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Emergency Response and Removal Branch ("ERRB") for immediate removal evaluation.

k. On August 20, 1999, an ERRB On-Scene Coordinator ("OSC") performed a removal site evaluation of the affected springs and water well in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan ("NCP"), 40 CFR Part 300.410.

l. On August 20, 1999, the OSC determined that conditions at the Site met criteria set forth under Section 300.415 of the NCP and pursuant to Section 104 of CERCLA for initiating an immediate removal action.

m. Pursuant to Delegation 14-1-A authority, the OSC authorized immediate CERCLA funding to mitigate the threat to public health, welfare, and the environment posed by the Site. These actions included providing bottled water to the affected residents as an interim measure, and arranging for connection of the affected residences to a public water supply system.

n. On August 16, 2000, EPA Response Engineering and Analytical Contract ("REAC") contractors, under the direction of the U.S. EPA Environmental Response Team ("ERT"), collected water samples from the two contaminated springs identified by NCDENR in July 1999.

o. Analysis of the samples resulted in the identification of organic compounds including trichloroethylene, 2-methylnaphthalene, and petroleum hydrocarbons up to 11,000 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ), 72  $\mu\text{g/l}$ , and 200,000  $\mu\text{g/l}$ , respectively.

p. During the week of May 7, 2001, EPA REAC contractors, under the direction of the ERT, collected soil and weathered rock (a.k.a. saprolite) samples from beneath the concrete slab floor of the former plant building at the Mills Gap Road Groundwater Contamination Site.

q. Analysis of the samples resulted in measurable concentrations of a number of chemical compounds including trichloroethylene, 2-methylnaphthalene, and total petroleum hydrocarbons up to 830,000  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ , 270,000  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ , and 16,000  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ , respectively.

r. The two contaminated springs identified by NCDENR and EPA-ERRB are topographically downgradient from and less than 300 feet southeast of the former plant building on the Mills Gap Road Groundwater Contamination Site.

## **V. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DETERMINATIONS**

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

a. The Mills Gap Road Groundwater Contamination 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, and including but not limited to TCE, includes "hazardous substances" 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. Respondent, CTS Corporation, was a former "owner" and "operator" of the facility and Site property, as defined by Section 101(20) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(20), and within the meaning of Section 107(a)(2) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a)(2). Respondent, Mills Gap Road Associates, is a current owner of Site property, as defined by Section 101(20) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(20), and within the meaning of Section 107(a)(1) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a)(1).

Northrop Grumman Space & Mission System Corp. is an "owner or operator" as defined by Section 101(20) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(20), since its predecessor, IRC, owned and operated the electroplating facility and the Site from 1952 through 1959.

e. The conditions described in the Findings of Fact above constitute an actual or threatened "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 Order is necessary to protect the public health, welfare, or the environment and, if carried out in compliance with the terms of this Order, will be considered consistent with the NCP, as provided in Section 300.700(c)(3)(ii) of the NCP.

## **VI. 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 each Respondent shall comply with all provisions of this Order, including, but not limited to, all attachments to this Order and all documents incorporated by reference into this Order.

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

11. Within fifteen (15) days after the Effective Date, Respondents shall jointly designate a Project Coordinator who shall be responsible for administration of all actions by Respondents required by this Order 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 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 Order shall constitute receipt by each Respondent.

12. Respondents shall perform the removal themselves or retain one or more contractors to perform the Work and shall notify EPA of the name(s) and qualifications of such contractor(s) within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date. Respondents shall also 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.

13. EPA has designated Dr. James Webster of the Emergency Response and Removal Branch ("ERRB"), Region 4, as its On-Scene Coordinator ("OSC"). Except as otherwise provided in this Order, Respondents shall direct all submissions required by this Order to the OSC via certified mail or overnight delivery at:

James Webster, Ph.D.  
On-Scene Coordinator  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center  
ERRB, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
61 Forsyth Street SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303.

14. EPA and Respondents shall have the right, subject to Paragraph 11, 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 followed by a written notice within five (5) days from the time of the initial, oral notification.

### **VIII. WORK TO BE PERFORMED**

15. The overall purpose of the removal action required by this Order is to take such actions necessary to mitigate any current or potential threat to human health, welfare, or the environment stemming from the release or threatened release of hazardous substances at the Site. Respondents shall perform, at a minimum, all actions necessary to implement the Scope of Work, attached hereto as Appendix A.

#### **16. Work Plan and Implementation.**

a. Respondents shall submit a Sampling and Analysis Plan, Removal Action Plan, and Waste Characterization and Disposal Plan as specified within the Scope of Work.



b. EPA may approve, disapprove, require revisions to, or modify any work plan or report in whole or in part. If EPA requires revisions, Respondents shall submit a revised draft Work Plan within fourteen (14) days of receipt of EPA's notification of the required revisions. Respondents shall implement the Work Plan as approved in writing by EPA in accordance with the schedule approved by EPA. 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 Order.

c. Respondents shall not commence any Work except in conformance with the terms of this Order. Respondents shall not commence implementation of the Work Plan developed hereunder until receiving written EPA approval pursuant to Paragraph 16(b).

17. Health and Safety Plan. Within forty-five (45) days after the Effective Date, Respondents shall submit for EPA review and comment a plan that ensures the protection of the public health and safety during performance of on-Site work under this Order. This plan shall be prepared in accordance with EPA's Standard Operating Safety Guide (PUB 9285.1-03, PB 92-963414, June 1992). In addition, the plan shall comply with all currently applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") regulations found at 29 C.F.R. Part 1910. If EPA determines that it is appropriate, the plan shall also include contingency planning. Respondents shall incorporate all changes to the plan recommended by EPA and resubmit the plan for approval within fourteen (14) days of receipt of EPA's comments. Respondents shall implement the plan during the pendency of the removal action.

18. Quality Assurance and Sampling.

a. All sampling and analyses performed pursuant to this Order 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); "Compendium of ERT Procedures," OSWER Directives Numbered 9360.4-04 through 9360.4-08; Environmental Investigations Standard Operating Procedures and Quality Assurance Manual," (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, August 2001), 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)," 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 thirty (30) 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.

19. Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondents shall submit a QAPP for conducting the sampling and analysis pursuant to this Order. The QAPP shall be developed in accordance with "EPA Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans," EPA QA/G-5.

20. Post-Removal Site Control. In accordance with the Removal Action Plan schedule, or as otherwise directed by EPA, Respondents shall submit a proposal for post-removal site control consistent with Section 300.415(l) 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.

21. Reporting.

a. Respondents shall submit written progress reports to EPA concerning actions undertaken pursuant to this Order in accordance with requirements specified in the SOW (Appendix A), 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 to EPA three (3) copies of all plans, reports or other submissions required by this Order, the Scope of Work, or any approved work plan. Upon request by EPA, Respondents shall submit such documents in electronic form.

c. If Respondent(s) own or control property at the Site, Respondent(s) shall, at least thirty (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 Order and written notice to EPA and the State of the proposed conveyance, including the name and address of the transferee. If Respondent(s) own or

control property at the Site, Respondent(s) also agrees to require that their successors comply with the immediately preceding sentence and Sections IX (Site Access) and X (Access to Information).

22. Final Reports. Respondents shall submit final reports of various phases of the removal as specified in the SOW. Within thirty (30) days after completion of all Work required by this Order, Respondents shall submit for EPA review and approval an overall final report summarizing the actions taken to comply with this Order. 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 Order, 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.*

23. Off-Site Shipments.

a. All hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants removed off-site pursuant to this Order for treatment, storage, or disposal shall be treated, stored, or disposed of at a facility in compliance, as determined by EPA, pursuant to Section 121(d)(3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §9621(d)(3), and 40 C.F.R. §300.440.

b. 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. 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 23(a) and 23(b) as soon as practicable after the award of the contract and before the Waste Material is actually shipped.

C. 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**

24. If the Site, or any other property where access is needed to implement this Order, is owned or controlled by a Respondent, or the tenants of a Respondent, that Respondent shall, commencing on the Effective Date, provide EPA, the State, the other Respondent(s) 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 required by or related to this Order, including the Work.

25. Where any action under this Order is to be performed in areas owned by or in possession of someone other than a Respondent, or tenants of a Respondent, Respondents shall use their best efforts to obtain all necessary access agreements within thirty (30) 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 Respondents are unable to obtain the necessary access agreements. For purposes of this Paragraph, "best efforts" includes the payment of reasonable sums of money to the owner or to those in possession of such property 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 Work described herein, 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 terms and procedures in Section XV, Paragraph 32 (Payment of Future Response Costs).

26. Notwithstanding any provision of this Order, 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 and/or deed restrictions, including enforcement authorities related thereto, under CERCLA, RCRA, and any other applicable statutes or regulations.

## **X. ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

27. Subject to the provisions of Paragraphs 21 and 22, Respondents shall provide to EPA and the State, upon written request, copies of all documents and information within their possession or control or that of their contractors or agents relating to Work at the Site or to the implementation of this Order, 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.

28. A Respondent or the Respondents may assert business confidentiality claims covering part or all of the documents or information submitted to EPA and the State under this Order 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 a Respondent or the 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 a Respondent or the Respondents.

29. A Respondent 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 a Respondent asserts such a privilege in lieu of providing documents, it 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 a Respondent. However, no documents, reports or other information required by the terms of this Order shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged.

30. No claim of 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**

31. Until ten (10) years after Respondents' receipt of EPA's notification pursuant to Section XXIX (Notice of Completion of Work), Respondents shall preserve and retain all non-identical copies of records and documents (including records or documents in electronic form) now in their possession or control or which come into their 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 ten (10) years after Respondents' receipt of EPA's notification pursuant to Section XXIX (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.

32. 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, subject to the provisions of Paragraphs 21 and 22. A Respondent 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 a Respondent asserts such a privilege, it 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 a Respondent. However, no documents, reports or other information required by the terms of this Order shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged.

33. Each Respondent hereby certifies 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 notification of potential liability by EPA or the State or the filing of suit against them 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, subject to such limitations and qualifications as each Respondent may have stated in its respective responses to such EPA requests for information.

## **XII. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS**

34. Respondents shall perform all actions required pursuant to this Order in accordance with all applicable local, 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 Order 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**

35. 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 which 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 Order, 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 at (404) 562-8769 or, in the event of his/her unavailability, the Regional Duty Officer at (404) 562-8705 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, subject to Paragraph 34, reimburse EPA all costs of the response action not inconsistent with the NCP pursuant to Paragraph 39, Payment of Response Future Costs.

36. In addition, in the event of any future release of a hazardous substance from the Site exceeding a reportable quantity not previously described in this: (a) Order; (b) the investigations and reports previously performed or directed by EPA and the State at the Site; or (c) the Action Memorandum, Respondents shall immediately notify the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802 and the Region 4, Emergency Response Duty OSC at (404) 562-8705. Respondents shall submit a written report to EPA within seven (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**

37. The OSC shall be responsible for overseeing Respondents' implementation of this Order. 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 Order, 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**

### **38. Payment of Past Response Costs.**

This Order does not address costs incurred through May 13, 2003.

### **39. Payments for Future Response Costs.**

a. Respondents shall pay EPA all Future Response Costs not inconsistent with the NCP, which also includes all direct and indirect costs of EPA's oversight arrangement for the removal, including, but not limited to, time and travel costs of EPA personnel and associated indirect costs, contractor costs, compliance monitoring, including the collection and analysis of split samples, inspection of removal activities, site visits, interpretation of Consent Order provisions, discussions regarding disputes that may arise as a result of this Consent Order, review and approval or disapproval of reports, the costs of redoing any of Respondents tasks, and any assessed interest. On a periodic basis, EPA will send Respondents a bill requiring payment that includes an itemized Superfund Cost Recovery Package Imaging and Online System ("SCORPIOS") Report. Respondents shall make all payments within thirty (30) days of receipt of each bill requiring payment, except as otherwise provided in Paragraph 41 of this Order.

b. Respondents shall make all payments required by this Paragraph by a certified or cashier's check or checks made payable to "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund," referencing the name and address of the parties making payment, the name of the Site, and the EPA Site/Spill ID number A4P5. Respondents shall send the check(s) to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4  
Superfund Accounting  
Post Office Box 100142  
Atlanta, GA 30384  
Attention: Collection Officer in Superfund

A copy of the payment shall be forwarded to:

Ms. Paula Batchelor  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
CERCLA Program Services Branch  
CERCLA Enforcement Section  
61 Forsyth Street S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303.



c. At the time of payment, Respondents shall also send notice that such payment has been made to:

Mary C. Johnson  
Associate Regional Counsel, Office of CERCLA/WATER Legal Support  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4  
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Building  
EAD, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
61 Forsyth St. S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303.

d. The total amount to be paid by Respondents pursuant to Paragraph 39(a) shall be deposited in the Mills Gap Road Groundwater Contamination Site Special Account within the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund to be retained and used to conduct or finance response actions at or in connection with the Site, or to be transferred by EPA to the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund.

40. In the event that the payments for Future Response Costs are not made within thirty (30) days of Respondents' receipt of a bill, Respondents shall pay Interest on the unpaid balance. Interest on Future Response Costs shall begin to accrue on the date of the bill 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.

41. Respondents may dispute all or part of a bill for Future Response Costs submitted under this Order, if Respondents allege that: (a) EPA has made an accounting error; (b) that a cost item is inconsistent with the NCP; or (c) that a cost item is not within the definition of Future Response Costs described in Paragraph 8(g) of this Order. If any dispute over costs is resolved before payment is due, the amount due will be adjusted as necessary. If the dispute is not resolved before payment is due, Respondents shall pay the full amount of the uncontested costs to EPA as specified in Paragraph 39 on or before the due date. Within the same time period, Respondents shall pay the full amount of the contested costs into an interest-bearing escrow account. Respondents shall simultaneously transmit a copy of both checks to the persons listed in Paragraph 39(c) above. Respondents shall ensure that the

prevailing party or parties in the dispute shall receive the amount upon which they prevailed from the escrow funds plus interest within thirty (30) days after the dispute is resolved.

#### **XVI. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

42. Unless otherwise expressly provided for in this Order, the dispute resolution procedures of this Section shall be the exclusive mechanism for resolving disputes arising under this Order. The Parties shall attempt to resolve any disagreements concerning this Order expeditiously and informally.

43. If Respondents object to any EPA action taken pursuant to this Order, 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 thirty (30) 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. EPA's decision regarding an extension of the Negotiation Period shall not constitute an EPA action subject to dispute resolution or a final agency action giving rise to judicial review.

44. Any agreement reached by the Parties pursuant to this Section shall be in writing and shall, upon signature by the Parties, be incorporated into and become an enforceable part of this Order. If the Parties are unable to reach an agreement within the Negotiation Period, an EPA management official at the 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 Order upon Respondents' receipt of the EPA decision regarding the dispute. Respondents' other obligations under this Order 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**

45. Respondents agree to perform all requirements of this Order within the time limits established under this Order, unless the performance is delayed by a *force majeure*. For purposes of this Order, 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 Order despite Respondents' best efforts to fulfill the obligation. *Force majeure* does not include financial inability to

complete the Work, increased cost of performance, or a failure to attain performance standards and action levels set forth in the Action Memorandum.

46. If any event occurs or has occurred that may delay the performance of any obligation under this Order, whether or not caused by a *force majeure* event, Respondents shall notify EPA orally within twenty-four (24) hours of when Respondents first knew that the event might cause a delay. Within five (5) 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.

47. 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 Order 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**

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

49. Stipulated Penalty Amounts - Work.

a. For each day, or portion thereof, that Respondents fail to perform, fully, any requirement of this Order, unless excused under Section XVII (*Force Majeure*), in accordance with the schedule established pursuant to this Order, Respondents shall accrue the following stipulated penalties:

<u>Penalty Per Violation Per Day</u>	<u>Period of Noncompliance</u>
\$500.00	1st through 14th day
\$1,000.00	15th through 30th day
\$2,500.00	31st day and beyond

50. Stipulated Penalty Amounts - Reports. The following stipulated penalties shall accrue per violation per day for failure to submit timely or adequate reports as required by this Order:

<u>Penalty Per Violation Per Day</u>	<u>Period of Noncompliance</u>
\$500.00	1st through 14th day
\$1,000.00	15th through 30th day
\$2,500.00	31st day and beyond

51. In the event that EPA assumes performance of a portion or all of the Work pursuant to Paragraph 61 of Section XX, Respondents shall be liable for a stipulated penalty in the amount of \$25,000.00.

52. Any stipulated penalty 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 Division Director level or higher, under Paragraph 44 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 herein shall prevent the simultaneous accrual of separate stipulated penalties for separate violations of this Order.

53. Following EPA's determination that Respondents have failed to comply with a requirement of this Order, EPA may give Respondents written notification of the failure and describe the noncompliance. EPA may send Respondents a written demand for payment of the stipulated penalties.

However, stipulated penalties shall accrue as provided in the preceding Paragraph regardless of whether EPA has notified Respondents of a violation. EPA will use its enforcement discretion in determining whether to assess stipulated penalties.

54. All stipulated penalties accruing under this Section shall be due and payable to EPA within thirty (30) days of Respondents' receipt from EPA of a written demand for payment of the stipulated 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  
Region 4  
Superfund Accounting  
Post Office Box 100142  
Atlanta, GA 30384  
Attention: Collection Officer in Superfund

The payment shall indicate that the payment is for stipulated penalties, and shall reference the EPA Region and Site/Spill ID Number A4P5, the EPA docket number #CER-04-2004-3755, 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 13, and to:

Mary C. Johnson  
Associate Regional Counsel, Office of CERCLA/WATER Legal Support  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4  
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Building  
EAD, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
61 Forsyth St. S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303

55. The payment of stipulated penalties shall not alter in any way Respondents' obligation to complete performance of the Work required under this Order.

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

57. If Respondents fail to pay stipulated penalties when due, EPA may institute proceedings to collect the stipulated penalties, as well as Interest. Respondents shall pay Interest on the unpaid balance of the stipulated penalties, which shall begin to accrue on the date of the written demand made pursuant to Paragraph 54. Nothing in this Order 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 Order 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 herein, except in the case of a willful violation of this Order or in the event that EPA assumes performance of a portion or all of the Work pursuant to Section XX, Paragraph 61.

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 Order.

#### **XIX. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY EPA**

58. In consideration of the actions that will be performed and the payments that will be made by Respondents under the terms of this Order, and except as otherwise specifically provided in this Order, 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 performance of the Work and for recovery of Future Response Costs. This covenant not to sue is conditioned upon the complete and satisfactory performance by Respondents of their obligations under this Order, including, but not limited to, payment of Future Response Costs pursuant to Section XV, Paragraph 39, subject to Respondents' right to dispute such Future Response Costs as provided for in this Order. This covenant not to sue extends only to Respondents and does not extend to any other person or entity.

#### **XX. RESERVATIONS OF RIGHTS BY EPA**

59. Except as specifically provided in this Order, nothing herein 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 herein shall prevent EPA from seeking legal or equitable relief to enforce the terms of this Order, 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.

60. 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 Order 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 Order;
- b. liability for costs not included within the definition of Future Response Costs;
- c. liability for performance of response actions 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.

61. Work Takeover. In the event EPA determines that Respondents has 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) subject to Respondents' right to dispute such Future Response Costs as provided for in this Order. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Order, but subject to Section XIX (Covenant Not to Sue by EPA), 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**

62. Each Respondent 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 the Work, Future Response Costs, or this Order, 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, relating to the Site.

Except as provided in Paragraph 64 (Waiver of Claims), these covenants not to sue shall not apply in the event the United States brings a cause of action or issues an order pursuant to the reservations set forth in Paragraphs 60 (b), (c), and (e) - (g), but only to the extent that Respondent's claim arises from the same response action, response costs, or damages that the United States is seeking pursuant to the applicable reservation.

63. 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).

64. Each Respondent agrees not to assert any claims and to waive all claims or causes of action that it 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 the materials contributed by such person to the Site containing hazardous substances did not exceed the greater of i) 0.002% of the total volume of waste at the Site, or ii) 110 gallons of liquid materials or 200 pounds of solid materials.

This waiver shall not apply to any claim or cause of action against any person meeting the above criteria if EPA has determined that the materials contributed to the Site by such person contributed or



officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, or subcontractors, in carrying out actions pursuant to this Order. 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 Order. 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 Order. Neither Respondents nor any such contractor shall be considered an agent of the United States.

70. 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.

71. Each Respondent waives 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 Respondents and any other subsequently identified PRPs 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 Respondents and any other subsequently identified PRP 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**

72. At least seven (7) days prior to commencing any on-Site work under this Order, Respondents shall secure, and shall maintain for the duration of this Order, comprehensive general liability insurance and automobile insurance with limits of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00), combined single limit. Within the same time period, Respondents shall provide EPA with certificates of such insurance and a copy of each insurance policy. In addition, for the duration of the Order, 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 Order. 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. FINANCIAL ASSURANCE**

73. Within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, Respondents shall establish and maintain financial security in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 in one or more of the following forms:

- a. A surety bond guaranteeing performance of the Work;
- b. One or more irrevocable letters of credit equaling the total estimated cost of the Work;
- c. A trust fund;
- d. A guarantee to perform the Work by one or more parent corporations or subsidiaries, or by one or more unrelated corporations that have a substantial business relationship with Respondents; or
- e. A demonstration that Respondents satisfy the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 264.143(f).

74. If Respondents seek to demonstrate the ability to complete the Work through a guarantee by a third party pursuant to Paragraph 73(a) of this Section, Respondents shall demonstrate that the guarantor satisfies the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 264.143(f). If Respondents seek to demonstrate their ability to complete the Work by means of the financial test or the corporate guarantee pursuant to Paragraph 73(d) or (e) of this Section, Respondents shall resubmit sworn statements conveying the information required by 40 C.F.R. Part 264.143(f) annually, on the anniversary of the Effective Date. In the event that EPA determines at any time that the financial assurances provided pursuant to this Section are inadequate, Respondents shall, within 30 days of receipt of notice of EPA's determination, obtain and present to EPA for approval one of the other forms of financial assurance listed in Paragraph 73 of this Section. Respondents' inability to demonstrate financial ability to complete the Work shall not excuse performance of any activities required under this Order.

75. If, after the Effective Date, Respondents can show that the estimated cost to complete the remaining Work has diminished below the amount set forth in Paragraph 73 of this Section, Respondents may, on any anniversary date of the Effective Date, or at any other time agreed to by the Parties, reduce

the amount of the financial security provided under this Section to the estimated cost of the remaining Work to be performed. Respondents shall submit a proposal for such reduction to EPA, in accordance with the requirements of this Section, and may reduce the amount of the security upon approval by EPA. In the event of a dispute, Respondents may reduce the amount of the security in accordance with the written decision resolving the dispute.

76. Respondents may change the form of financial assurance provided under this Section at any time, upon notice to and approval by EPA, provided that the new form of assurance meets the requirements of this Section. In the event of a dispute, Respondents may change the form of the financial assurance only in accordance with the written decision resolving the dispute.

#### **XXVII. MODIFICATIONS**

77. The OSC may make modifications to any plan or schedule or Scope 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 Order may be modified in writing by mutual agreement of the Parties. Respondents have the right to dispute any decisions by the OSC, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section XVI (Dispute Resolution).

78. If Respondents seek permission to deviate from any approved work plan or schedule or Scope of Work, 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 78.

79. 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 Order, or to comply with all requirements of this Order, unless it is formally modified.

#### **XXVIII. ADDITIONAL REMOVAL ACTION**

80. 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 thirty (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

Order. 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 XXVII (Modifications). Respondents have the right to dispute any EPA determinations under this Section XXVIII, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section XVI (Dispute Resolution).

#### **XXIX. NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF WORK**

81. When EPA determines, after EPA's review of the Final Report, that all Work has been fully performed in accordance with this Order, with the exception of any continuing obligations required by this Order, including post removal site controls such as maintenance of fences, signs, etc., at and around the contaminated springs, EPA will provide written notice to Respondents. If EPA determines that any such Work has not been completed in accordance with this Order, EPA will notify Respondents, in writing, provide a written 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 Order.

#### **XXX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

82. Final acceptance by EPA of Section XV (Payment of Response Costs) of this Order shall be subject to Section 122(i) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9622(i), which requires EPA to publish notice of the proposed settlement in the Federal Register, to provide persons who are not parties to the proposed settlement an opportunity to comment, solely, on the cost recovery component of the settlement, and to consider comments filed in determining whether to consent to the proposed settlement. EPA may withhold consent from, or seek to modify, all or part of Section XV of this Order if comments received disclose facts or considerations that indicate that Section XV of this Order is inappropriate, improper or inadequate. Otherwise, Section XV shall become effective when EPA issues notice to Respondents that public comments received, if any, do not require EPA to modify or withdraw from Section XV of this Order.

#### **XXXI. SEVERABILITY/INTEGRATION/APPENDICES**

83. If a court issues an order that invalidates any provision of this Order or finds that Respondents have sufficient cause not to comply with one or more provisions of this Order,

Respondents shall remain bound to comply with all provisions of this Order not invalidated or determined to be subject to a sufficient cause defense by the court's order.

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

**XXXII. EFFECTIVE DATE**

85. This Order shall be first signed by the Respondents and become effective three (3) calendar days after the Order is signed by the Regional Administrator or his/her delegate.

The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that it is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Order and to bind the party it represents to this document.

Agreed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of Nov, 2003.

For Respondent, CTS Corporation.

By [Signature]

Title Vice President, Secretary in Charge.

The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies that it is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Order and to bind the party it represents to this document.

Agreed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of DEC., 2003

For Respondent Mills Gap Road Associates

By [Signature]

Title General Partner

By [Signature]

Title General Partner

By Stanley N. Simms

Title General Partner

Mills Gap Road Groundwater Contamination Site -  
Removal Administrative Order on Consent

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It is so ORDERED and Agreed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of 01, 2004.

BY: 

DATE: 01.16.04

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01.22.04