

States under CERCLA Sections 107 or 113 related to the Site,] or

c. Any claims arising out of response activities at the Site, including claims based on EPA's [and the State's] selection of response actions, oversight of response activities or approval of plans for such activities.

88. The Settling Defendants reserve, and this Consent Decree is without prejudice to, claims against the United States, subject to the provisions of Chapter 171 of Title 28 of the United States Code, for money damages for injury or loss of property or personal injury or death caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any employee of the United States while acting within the scope of his office or employment under circumstances where the United States, if a private person, would be liable to the claimant in accordance with the law of the place where the act or omission occurred. However, any such claim shall not include a claim for any damages caused, in whole or in part, by the act or omission of any person, including any contractor, who is not a federal employee as that term is defined in 28 U.S.C. 2671; nor shall any such claim include a claim based on EPA's selection of response actions, or the oversight or approval of the Settling Defendants' plans or activities. The foregoing applies only to claims which are brought pursuant to any statute other than CERCLA and for which the waiver of sovereign immunity is found in a statute other than CERCLA;

89. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be deemed to constitute 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).

[90. Settling Defendants agree to waive all claims or causes of action that they may have for all matters relating to the Site, including for contribution, against the following persons:

a. Any person (i) whose liability to Settling Defendants with respect to the Site is based solely on CERCLA Section 107(a) (3) or (4), (ii) who arranged for the disposal, treatment, or transport for disposal or treatment, or accepted for transport for disposal or treatment, of only Municipal Solid Waste or Sewage Sludge owned by such person, and (iii) who is a Small Business, a Small Non-profit Organization, or the Owner, Operator, or Lessee of Residential Property; and

b. Any person (i) whose liability to Settling Defendants with respect to the Site is based solely on CERCLA § 107(a) (3) or (4), and (ii) who arranged for the disposal, treatment, or transport for disposal or treatment, or accepted for

transport for disposal or treatment, of 55 gallons or less of liquid materials containing hazardous substances, or 100 pounds or less of solid materials containing hazardous substances, except where EPA has determined that such material contributed or could contribute significantly to the costs of response at the Site.

[Note: provision relating to *de minimis* parties, if appropriate, may be inserted here.]

XXIII. Effect of Settlement; Contribution Protection

91. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be construed to create any rights in, or grant any cause of action to, any person not a Party to this Consent Decree. The preceding sentence shall not be construed to waive or nullify any rights that any person not a signatory to this decree may have under applicable law. Each of the Parties expressly reserves any and all rights (including, but not limited to, any right to contribution), defenses, claims, demands, and causes of action which each Party may have with respect to any matter, transaction, or occurrence relating in any way to the Site against any person not a Party hereto.

92. The Parties agree, and by entering this Consent Decree this Court finds, that the Settling Defendants are entitled, as of the effective date of this Consent Decree, to protection from contribution actions or claims as provided by CERCLA Section 113(f)(2), 42 U.S.C. 9613(f)(2) for matters addressed in this Consent Decree. ["Matters addressed" should be defined explicitly in appropriate cases, e.g., where the scope of contribution protection may otherwise be unclear under the circumstances of the case.]

93. The Settling Defendants agree that with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought by them for matters related to this Consent Decree they will notify the United States [and the State] in writing no later than 60 days prior to the initiation of such suit or claim.

94. The Settling Defendants also agree that with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought against them for matters related to this Consent Decree they will notify in writing the United States [and the State] within 10 days of service of the complaint on them. In addition, Settling Defendants shall notify the United States [and the State] 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.

95. In any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding initiated by the United States [or the State] for

injunctive relief, recovery of response costs, or other appropriate relief relating to the Site, Settling Defendants 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 by the United States [or the State] 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 covenants not to sue set forth in Section XXI (Covenants Not to Sue by Plaintiff[s]).

XXIV. Access to Information

96. Settling Defendants shall provide to EPA [and the State], upon request, copies of all documents and information within their possession or control or that of their contractors or agents relating to activities at the Site or to the implementation of this Consent Decree, 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. Settling Defendants 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.

97. a. Settling Defendants may assert business confidentiality claims covering part or all of the documents or information submitted to Plaintiff[s] under this Consent Decree to the extent permitted by and in accordance with Section 104(e)(7) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9604(e)(7), and 40 CFR 2.203(b). Documents or information determined to be confidential by EPA will be afforded the protection specified in 40 CFR 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 Settling Defendants that the documents or information are not confidential under the standards of Section 104(e)(7) of CERCLA, the public may be given access to such documents or information without further notice to Settling Defendants.

b. The Settling Defendants may assert that certain documents, records and other information are privileged under the attorney-client privilege or any other privilege recognized by federal law. If the Settling Defendants assert such a privilege in lieu of providing documents, they shall provide the