

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Plaintiffs,

v.

DOMTAR PAPER COMPANY
LLC,

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. _____

CONSENT DECREE FOR RD/RA FOR OU-4

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I. BACKGROUND

A. The United States of America (“United States”), on behalf of the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), filed a complaint in this matter pursuant to Sections 106 and 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (“CERCLA”), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606, 9607.

B. The United States in its complaint seeks, inter alia: (1) reimbursement of costs incurred by EPA and the Department of Justice for response actions at the Domtar Paper Company LLC (formerly Weyerhaeuser Company) Site in Martin County, North Carolina; and (2) performance of studies and response work by the defendant at OU-4 consistent with the National Contingency Plan, 40 C.F.R. Part 300 (as amended) (“NCP”).

C. In accordance with the NCP and Section 121(f)(1)(F) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9621(f)(1)(F), EPA notified the State of North Carolina (the “State”) on November 8, 2007, of negotiations with the potentially responsible party regarding the implementation of the remedial design and remedial action for Welch Creek, and EPA has provided the State with an opportunity to participate in such negotiations and be a party to this Consent Decree.

D. In accordance with Section 122(j)(1) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9622(j)(1), EPA notified the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on November 8, 2007 of negotiations with the potentially responsible party regarding the release of hazardous substances that may have resulted in injury to the natural resources under Federal trusteeship and encouraged the trustees to participate in the negotiation of this Consent Decree.

E. The defendant that has entered into this Consent Decree (“Settling Defendant”) does not admit any legal conclusions, fault or liability to the Plaintiff or to any other person or entity arising out of the transactions or occurrences alleged in the complaint, nor does it acknowledge that the release or threatened release of hazardous substances at or from OU-4 constitutes an imminent or substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare or the environment. As to others who are not parties, nothing contained in this Consent Decree shall constitute an admission by Settling Defendant of the facts and conclusions contained herein, and entry into this Consent Decree shall not constitute an admission by Settling Defendant of liability or a waiver of any right, cause of action or defense otherwise available to it. Except as specifically provided otherwise herein, Settling Defendant expressly reserves all rights, causes of action, and defenses available to it.

F. In response to a release or a substantial threat of a release of a hazardous substance(s) at or from the Site, the Settling Defendant, commenced on March 24, 1998, a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (“RI/FS”) for the Site pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 300.430. This RI/FS encompassed three source areas, including: (1) the Former Landfill No. 1, and the soils, groundwater, and surface water impacted by the Former Landfill No. 1, (2) the Former Chlorine Plant, and soils, sediments and groundwater impacted by that plant, and (3) the sediments and surface water contained in Welch Creek and associated wetlands. For the purposes of this Consent Decree, these three source areas will be considered three Operable Units (“OUs”), and the sediments and surface water contained in Welch Creek, which is the subject of

this Consent Decree, is termed "OU-4."

G. The Settling Defendant completed the Remedial Investigation ("RI") Report and the Feasibility Study ("FS") for OU-4 on July 31, 2007.

H. Pursuant to Section 117 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9617, EPA published notice of the completion of the FS and of the proposed plan for remedial action for OU-4 on August 8, 2007 in a major local newspaper of general circulation. EPA provided an opportunity for written and oral comments from the public on the proposed plan for remedial action. A copy of the transcript of the public meeting is available to the public as part of the administrative record upon which the Regional Administrator based the selection of the response action.

I. The decision by EPA on the remedial action to be implemented for OU-4 is embodied in a final Record of Decision ("ROD"), executed on September 26, 2007, on which the State has given its concurrence. The ROD includes a responsiveness summary to the public comments. Notice of the final plan was published in accordance with Section 117(b) of CERCLA.

J. Based on the information presently available to EPA, EPA believes that the Work will be properly and promptly conducted by the Settling Defendant if conducted in accordance with the requirements of this Consent Decree and its appendices.

K. Solely for the purposes of Section 113(j) of CERCLA, the Remedial Action selected by the ROD and the Work to be performed by the Settling Defendant shall constitute a response action taken or ordered by the President.

L. The Parties recognize, and the Court by entering this Consent Decree finds, that this Consent Decree has been negotiated by the Parties in good faith and implementation of this Consent Decree will expedite the cleanup of OU-4 and will avoid prolonged and complicated litigation between the Parties, and that this Consent Decree is fair, reasonable, and in the public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby Ordered, Adjudged, and Decreed:

II. JURISDICTION

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345, and 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606, 9607, and 9613(b). This Court also has personal jurisdiction over the Settling Defendant. Solely for the purposes of this Consent Decree and the underlying complaint, Settling Defendant waives all objections and defenses that it may have to jurisdiction of the Court or to venue in this District. Settling Defendant shall not challenge the terms of this Consent Decree or this Court's jurisdiction to enter and enforce this Consent Decree.

III. PARTIES BOUND

2. This Consent Decree applies to and is binding upon the United States and upon Settling Defendant and its successors and assigns. Any change in ownership or corporate status of Settling Defendant including, but not limited to, any transfer of assets or real or personal property, shall in no way alter Settling Defendant's responsibilities under this Consent Decree.

3. Settling Defendant shall provide a copy of this Consent Decree to each contractor hired to perform the Work (as defined below) required by this Consent Decree and to each person representing Settling Defendant with respect to OU-4 or the Work and shall condition all contracts entered into hereunder upon performance of the Work in conformity with the terms of this Consent Decree. Settling Defendant or its contractors shall provide written notice of the Consent Decree to all subcontractors hired to perform any portion of the Work required by this Consent Decree. Settling Defendant shall nonetheless be responsible for ensuring that its contractors and subcontractors perform the Work contemplated herein in accordance with this Consent Decree. With regard to the activities undertaken pursuant to this Consent Decree, each contractor and subcontractor shall be deemed to be in a contractual relationship with the Settling Defendant within the meaning of Section 107(b)(3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(b)(3).

IV. DEFINITIONS

4. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, terms used in this Consent Decree 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 Consent Decree or in the appendices attached hereto and incorporated hereunder, the following definitions shall apply:

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

“Consent Decree” shall mean this Decree and all appendices attached hereto (listed in Section XXIX). In the event of conflict between this Decree and any appendix, this Decree shall control.

“Day” shall mean a calendar day unless expressly stated to be a working day. “Working day” shall mean a day other than a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday. In computing any period of time under this Consent Decree, 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.

“Effective Date” shall be the effective date of this Consent Decree as provided in Paragraph 99.

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

“NCDENR” shall mean the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and any successor departments or agencies of the State.

“Future Response Costs” shall mean all costs, including, but not limited to, direct and indirect costs, that the United States incurs in reviewing or developing plans, reports and other items pursuant to this Consent Decree, verifying the Work, or otherwise implementing, overseeing, or enforcing this Consent Decree, including, but not limited to, payroll costs, contractor costs, travel costs, laboratory costs, the costs incurred pursuant to Sections VII, IX (including, but not limited to, the cost of attorney time and any monies paid to secure access and/or to secure or implement institutional controls including, but not limited to, the amount of just compensation), XV, and Paragraph 82 of Section XXI.

“Interim Response Costs” shall mean all costs, including direct and indirect costs, (a) paid by the United States in connection with OU-4 between March 5, 2007 and the Effective Date, or (b) incurred prior to the Effective Date but paid after that date.

“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.

“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.

“Operation and Maintenance” or “O & M” shall mean all activities required to maintain the effectiveness of the Remedial Action as required under the Performance Standard Verification and Operation and Maintenance Plan approved or developed by EPA pursuant to this Consent Decree and the Statement of Work (SOW).

“Operable Unit 4” or “OU-4” shall mean Welch Creek consisting of a 4.5-mile portion of the lower creek extending upstream from its confluence with the Roanoke River.

“Paragraph” shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified by an arabic numeral or an upper case letter.

“Parties” shall mean the United States and the Settling Defendant.

“Performance Standards” shall mean the cleanup levels and other measures of achievement of the goals of the Remedial Action Objectives, set forth in Sections J and M of the ROD and Section III of the SOW.

“Performance Standard Verification and Operation and Maintenance Plan (PSV/OM Plan)” shall mean the plan providing a mechanism to ensure that both short and long term Performance Standards for the Remedial Action are met and documenting procedures for proper operation, troubleshooting and maintenance of the components of the Remedial Action.

“Plaintiff” shall mean the United States.

“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).

“Record of Decision” or “ROD” shall mean the EPA Record of Decision relating to OU-4 signed on September 26, 2007, by the Regional Administrator, EPA Region 4, or his delegate, and all attachments thereto. The ROD is attached as Appendix A.

“Remedial Action” shall mean those activities, except for Operation and Maintenance, to be undertaken by the Settling Defendant to implement the ROD, in accordance with the SOW and the final Remedial Design and Remedial Action Work Plans and other plans approved by EPA.

“Remedial Action Work Plan” shall mean the document developed pursuant to Paragraph 12 of this Consent Decree and approved by EPA, and any amendments thereto.

“Remedial Design” shall mean those activities to be undertaken by the Settling Defendant to develop the plans and specifications for the Remedial Action.

“Response Costs” shall mean costs incurred by EPA in accordance with CERCLA 42 U.S.C. § 9601, et. seq., as amended.

“Section” shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified by a Roman numeral.

“Settling Defendant” shall mean Domtar Paper Company LLC.

“Site” shall mean the Domtar Paper Company LLC (formerly Weyerhaeuser Company) Plymouth Site.

“State” shall mean the State of North Carolina.

“Statement of Work” or “SOW” shall mean the statement of work for implementation of the Remedial Design, Remedial Action, and Operation and Maintenance at OU-4, as set forth in Appendix B to this Consent Decree and any modifications made in accordance with this Consent Decree.

“Supervising Contractor” shall mean the principal contractor retained by the Settling Defendant to supervise and direct the implementation of the Work under this Consent Decree.

“United States” shall mean the United States of America.

“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), 42 U.S.C. § 9601(33); (3) any “solid waste” under Section 1004(27) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(27).

“Work” shall mean all activities Settling Defendant is required to perform under this Consent Decree, except those required by Section XXV (Retention of Records).

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS

5. **Objectives of the Parties.** The objectives of the Parties in entering into this Consent Decree are to protect public health or welfare or the environment at the Site by the design and implementation of response actions at OU-4 by the Settling Defendant, to reimburse response costs of the Plaintiff, and to resolve the claims of Plaintiff against Settling Defendant as provided in this Consent Decree.

6. **Commitments by Settling Defendant.** Settling Defendant shall finance and perform the Work in accordance with this Consent Decree, the ROD, the SOW, and all work plans and other plans, standards, specifications, and schedules set forth herein or developed by Settling Defendant and approved by EPA pursuant to this Consent Decree. Settling Defendant shall also reimburse the United States for Interim Response Costs and Future Response Costs as provided in this Consent Decree.

7. **Compliance With Applicable Law.** All activities undertaken by Settling Defendant pursuant to this Consent Decree shall be performed in accordance with the

requirements of all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Settling Defendant must also comply with all applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements of all Federal and state environmental laws as set forth in the ROD and the SOW. The activities conducted pursuant to this Consent Decree, if approved by EPA, shall be considered to be consistent with the NCP.

8. Permits.

a. As provided in Section 121(e) of CERCLA and Section 300.400(e) of the NCP, no permit shall be required for any portion of the Work conducted entirely on-site (i.e., within the areal extent of contamination or in very close proximity to the contamination and necessary for implementation of the Work). Where any portion of the Work that is not on-site requires a federal or state permit or approval, Settling Defendant shall submit timely and complete applications and take all other actions necessary to obtain all such permits or approvals.

b. The Settling Defendant may seek relief under the provisions of Section XVIII (Force Majeure) of this Consent Decree for any delay in the performance of the Work resulting from a failure to obtain, or a delay in obtaining, any permit required for the Work.

c. This Consent Decree is not, and shall not be construed to be, a permit issued pursuant to any federal or state statute or regulation.

9. Notice to Successors-in-Title.

a. With respect to any property owned or controlled by the Owner Settling Defendant that is located within the Site, within thirty (30) days after the entry of this Consent Decree, the Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA for review and approval a notice to be filed with the office of the Register of Deeds, in the county where the property is located, State of North Carolina, which shall provide notice to all successors-in-title that OU-4 is part of the Site, that EPA selected a remedy for OU-4 on September 26, 2007, and that the potentially responsible party has entered into a Consent Decree requiring implementation of the remedy. Such notice(s) shall identify the United States District Court in which the Consent Decree was filed, the name and civil action number of this case, and the date the Consent Decree was entered by the Court. The Settling Defendant shall record the notice(s) within thirty (30) days of EPA's approval of the notice(s). The Settling Defendant shall provide EPA with a certified copy of the recorded notice(s) within twenty (20) days of recording such notice(s).

b. At least thirty (30) days prior to the conveyance of any interest in property located within OU-4 including, but not limited to, fee interests, leasehold interests, and mortgage interests, the Settling Defendant shall give the grantee written notice of (i) this Consent Decree, (ii) any instrument by which an interest in real property has been conveyed that confers a right of access to OU-4 (hereinafter referred to as "access easements") pursuant to Section IX (Access and Institutional Controls), and (iii) any instrument by which an interest in real property has been conveyed that confers a right to enforce restrictions on the use of such property (hereinafter referred to as "restrictive easements") pursuant to Section IX (Access and Institutional Controls). At least thirty (30) days prior to such conveyance, the Settling Defendant shall also give written notice to EPA and the State of the proposed conveyance, including the name and address of the grantee, and the date on which notice of the Consent Decree, access easements, and/or restrictive easements was given to the grantee.

c. In the event of any such conveyance, the Settling Defendant's obligations under this Consent Decree, including, but not limited to, its obligation to provide or secure access and institutional controls, as well as to abide by such institutional controls, pursuant to Section IX (Access and Institutional Controls) of this Consent Decree, shall continue to be met by the Settling Defendant. In no event shall the conveyance release or otherwise affect the liability of the Settling Defendant to comply with all provisions of this Consent Decree, absent the prior written consent of EPA. If the United States approves, the grantee may perform some or all of the Work under this Consent Decree.

VI. PERFORMANCE OF THE WORK BY SETTLING DEFENDANT

10. Selection of Supervising Contractor.

a. All aspects of the Work to be performed by Settling Defendant pursuant to Sections VI (Performance of the Work by Settling Defendant), VII (Remedy Review), VIII (Quality Assurance, Sampling and Data Analysis), and XV (Emergency Response) of this Consent Decree shall be under the direction and supervision of the Supervising Contractor, the selection of which shall be subject to disapproval by EPA. Within ten (10) days after the lodging of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall notify EPA in writing of the name, title, and qualifications of any contractor proposed to be the Supervising Contractor. With respect to any contractor proposed to be Supervising Contractor, Settling Defendant shall demonstrate that the proposed contractor has a quality system that complies with ANSI/ASQC E4-1994, "Specifications and Guidelines for Quality Systems for Environmental Data Collection and Environmental Technology Programs," (American National Standard, January 5, 1995), by submitting a copy of the proposed contractor's Quality Management Plan (QMP). The QMP should be prepared in accordance with "EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans (QA/R-2)" (EPA/240/B-01/002, March 2001) or equivalent documentation as determined by EPA. EPA will issue a notice of disapproval or an authorization to proceed. If at any time thereafter, Settling Defendant proposes to change a Supervising Contractor, Settling Defendant shall give such notice to EPA and must obtain an authorization to proceed from EPA before the new Supervising Contractor performs, directs, or supervises any Work under this Consent Decree.

b. If EPA disapproves a proposed Supervising Contractor, EPA will notify Settling Defendant in writing. Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA a list of contractors, including the qualifications of each contractor, that would be acceptable to them within thirty (30) days of receipt of EPA's disapproval of the contractor previously proposed. EPA will provide written notice of the names of any contractor(s) that it disapproves and an authorization to proceed with respect to any of the other contractors. Settling Defendant may select any contractor from that list that is not disapproved and shall notify EPA of the name of the contractor selected within thirty (30) days of EPA's authorization to proceed.

c. If EPA fails to provide written notice of its authorization to proceed or disapproval as provided in this Paragraph and this failure prevents the Settling Defendant from meeting one or more deadlines in a plan approved by the EPA pursuant to this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant may seek relief under the provisions of Section XVIII (Force Majeure) hereof.

11. Remedial Design.

a. Within ninety (90) days after EPA's issuance of an authorization to proceed pursuant to Paragraph 10, Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA and the State a work plan for the design of the Remedial Action at OU-4 ("Remedial Design Work Plan" or "RD Work Plan"). The Remedial Design Work Plan shall provide for design of the remedy set forth in the ROD, in accordance with the SOW and for achievement of the Performance Standards and other requirements set forth in the ROD, this Consent Decree and/or the SOW. Upon its approval by EPA, the Remedial Design Work Plan shall be incorporated into and become enforceable under this Consent Decree.

b. The Remedial Design Work Plan shall include plans and schedules for implementation of all remedial design and pre-design tasks identified in the SOW, including, but not limited to, plans and schedules for the completion of: (1) Baseline Monitoring Plan; (2) design Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) (including, but not limited to, a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) in accordance with Section VIII (Quality Assurance, Sampling and Data Analysis)); (3) a Health and Safety Plan; (4) a conceptual design submittal; and (5) a pre-final/final design submittal. In addition, the Remedial Design Work Plan shall include a schedule for completion of the Remedial Action Work Plan. The Baseline Monitoring Plan, Sampling and Analysis Plan, and the Health and Safety Plan shall be submitted concurrently with the draft Remedial Design Work Plan. The Health and Safety Plan shall conform to the applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration and EPA requirements including, but not limited to, 29 C.F.R. § 1910.120.

c. Upon approval of the Remedial Design Work Plan by EPA, after a reasonable opportunity for review and comment by the State, and submittal of the Health and Safety Plan for all field activities to EPA and the State, Settling Defendant shall implement the Remedial Design Work Plan. The Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA and the State all plans, submittals and other deliverables required under the approved Remedial Design Work Plan in accordance with the approved schedule for review and approval pursuant to Section XI (EPA Approval of Plans and Other Submissions). Unless otherwise directed by EPA, Settling Defendant shall not commence further Remedial Design activities at OU-4 prior to approval of the Remedial Design Work Plan.

d. The conceptual design submittal shall include, at a minimum, the following: (1) results of additional field sampling and pre-design work, if any; (2) design criteria; (3) basis of design; and (4) plans for satisfying permitting requirements.

e. The pre-final/final design submittal shall include, at a minimum, the following: (1) complete design analyses; (2) final plans and specifications; and (3) construction schedule. Any value engineering proposals must be identified and evaluated during this review.

12. Remedial Action.

a. Within sixty (60) days after the approval of the prefinal/final design, Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA and the State a draft work plan for the performance of the Remedial Action at OU-4 ("Remedial Action Work Plan"). The Remedial Action Work Plan shall provide for construction and implementation of the remedy set forth in the ROD and achievement of the Performance Standards in accordance with this Consent Decree, the ROD, the

SOW, and the design plans and specifications developed in accordance with the Remedial Design Work Plan and approved by EPA. Upon its approval by EPA, the Remedial Action Work Plan shall be incorporated into and become enforceable under this Consent Decree.

b. The Remedial Action Work Plan shall include the following: (1) description of tasks and deliverables with a schedule for completion of the Remedial Action; (2) strategy for project delivery; (3) construction management plan, including the project management team; (4) capping operations plan; (5) a construction quality assurance plan, including relevant portions of the performance standards verification plan; and (6) a construction health and safety plan/contingency plan. The Remedial Action Work Plan also shall include the methodology for implementation of the Construction Quality Assurance Plan and a schedule for implementation of all Remedial Action tasks identified in the final design submittal and shall identify the initial formulation of the Settling Defendant's Remedial Action Project Team (including, but not limited to, the Supervising Contractor). Additional details are included in the Statement of Work.. The CQAPP, which shall detail the approach to quality assurance during construction activities at OU-4, shall specify a quality assurance official ("QA Official"), independent of the Supervising Contractor, to conduct a quality assurance program during the construction phase of the project. The Health and Safety Plan shall conform to the applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration and EPA requirements including, but not limited to, 29 C.F.R. § 1910.120.

c. Settling Defendant shall submit a Performance Standard Verification and Operation and Maintenance Plan ("PSV/OM Plan") 45 days after EPA approval of the RA workplan. The plan shall address compliance with performance standards and remedial action objectives noted in the ROD. Additional details are included in the Statement of Work.

13. The Settling Defendant shall continue to implement the Remedial Action and O&M until the Performance Standards are achieved and for so long thereafter as is otherwise required under this Consent Decree.

14. Modification of the SOW or Related Work Plans.

a. If EPA determines that modification to the work specified in the SOW and/or in work plans developed pursuant to the SOW is necessary to achieve and maintain the Performance Standards or to carry out and maintain the effectiveness of the remedy set forth in the ROD, EPA may require that such modification be incorporated in the SOW and/or such work plans, provided, however, that a modification may only be required pursuant to this Paragraph to the extent that it is consistent with the "scope of the remedy selected in the ROD".

b. For the purposes of this Paragraph 14 and Paragraph 47 only, the "scope of the remedy selected in the ROD" is: Institutional Controls restricting development at the portion of Welch Creek within OU-4, placement of a thin layer of sand over the contaminated sediments in the upstream portion of Welch Creek and monitoring the sediment mobility in the midstream sediments, and long term maintenance and monitoring of the remedy.

c. If Settling Defendant objects to any modification determined by EPA to be necessary pursuant to this Paragraph, it may seek dispute resolution pursuant to Section XIX (Dispute Resolution), Paragraph 65 (record review). The SOW and/or related work plans shall be modified in accordance with final resolution of the dispute.

d. Settling Defendant shall implement any work required by any modifications incorporated in the SOW and/or in work plans developed pursuant to the SOW in accordance with this Paragraph.

e. Nothing in this Paragraph shall be construed to limit EPA's authority to require performance of further response actions as otherwise provided in this Consent Decree.

15. Settling Defendant acknowledges and agrees that nothing in this Consent Decree, the SOW, the Remedial Design submittal, or the Remedial Action Work Plan constitutes a warranty or representation of any kind by Plaintiff that compliance with the work requirements set forth in the SOW and the Work Plans will achieve the Performance Standards.

16. a. Settling Defendant shall, prior to any off-site shipment of Waste Material from OU-4 to an out-of-state waste management facility, provide written notification to the appropriate state environmental official in the receiving facility's state and to the EPA Project Coordinator of such shipment of Waste Material. However, this notification requirement shall not apply to any such off-site shipments when the total volume of all such shipments will not exceed ten (10) cubic yards.

(1) The Settling Defendant shall include in the written notification the following information, where available: (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. The Settling Defendant 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.

(2) The identity of the receiving facility and state will be determined by the Settling Defendant following the award of the contract for Remedial Action construction. The Settling Defendant shall provide the information required by Paragraph 16.a as soon as practicable after the award of the contract and before the Waste Material is actually shipped.

b. Before shipping any hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants from OU-4 to an off-site location, Settling Defendant shall obtain EPA's certification that the proposed receiving facility is operating in compliance with the requirements of CERCLA Section 121(d)(3) and 40 C.F.R. 300.440. Settling Defendant shall only send hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants from OU-4 to an off-site facility that complies with the requirements of the statutory provision and regulations cited in the preceding sentence.

VII. REMEDY REVIEW

17. **Periodic Review.** Settling Defendant shall conduct any studies and investigations as requested by EPA, in order to permit EPA to conduct reviews of whether the Remedial Action is protective of human health and the environment at least every five years as required by Section 121(c) of CERCLA and any applicable regulations.

18. **EPA Selection of Further Response Actions.** In accordance with Section 121(c) of CERCLA, if EPA determines, at any time, that the Remedial Action is not protective of human health and the environment, EPA may select further response actions for OU-4 in accordance with the requirements of CERCLA and the NCP.

19. Opportunity To Comment. Settling Defendant and, if required by Sections 113(k)(2) or 117 of CERCLA, the public, will be provided with an opportunity to comment on any further response actions proposed by EPA as a result of the review conducted pursuant to Section 121(c) of CERCLA and to submit written comments for the record during the comment period.

VIII. QUALITY ASSURANCE, SAMPLING, AND DATA ANALYSIS

20. Settling Defendant shall use quality assurance, quality control, and chain of custody procedures for all design, compliance and monitoring samples in accordance with "EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QA/R5)" (EPA/240/B-01/003, March 2001) "Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QA/G-5)" (EPA/600/R-98/018, February 1998), and subsequent amendments to such guidelines upon notification by EPA to Settling Defendant of such amendment. Amended guidelines shall apply only to procedures conducted after such notification. Prior to the commencement of any monitoring project under this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA for approval, after a reasonable opportunity for review and comment by the State, a Quality Assurance Project Plan ("QAPP") that is consistent with the SOW, the NCP and with the Region 4 Environmental Compliance Branch Standard Operating Procedures and Quality Assurance Manual. If relevant to the proceeding, the Parties agree that validated sampling data generated in accordance with the QAPP(s) and reviewed and approved by EPA shall be admissible as evidence, without objection, in any proceeding under this Decree. Settling Defendant shall ensure that EPA personnel and its authorized representatives are allowed access at reasonable times to all laboratories utilized by Settling Defendant in implementing this Consent Decree. In addition, Settling Defendant shall ensure that such laboratories shall analyze all samples submitted by EPA pursuant to the QAPP for quality assurance monitoring. Settling Defendant shall ensure that the laboratories it utilizes for the analysis of samples taken pursuant to this Decree perform all analyses according to accepted EPA methods. Accepted EPA methods consist of those methods which are documented in the "Contract Lab Program Statement of Work for Inorganic Analysis" and the "Contract Lab Program Statement of Work for Organic Analysis," dated February 1988, and any amendments made thereto during the course of the implementation of this Decree; however, upon approval by EPA, after opportunity for review and comment by the State, the Settling Defendant may use other analytical methods which are as stringent as or more stringent than the CLP- approved methods. Settling Defendant shall ensure that all laboratories it uses for analysis of samples taken pursuant to this Consent Decree participate in an EPA or EPA-equivalent QA/QC program. Settling Defendant shall only use laboratories that have a documented Quality System which complies with ANSI/ASQC E4-1994, "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. Settling Defendant shall ensure that all field methodologies utilized in collecting samples for subsequent analysis pursuant to this Decree will be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in the QAPP approved by EPA.

21. Upon request, the Settling Defendant shall allow split or duplicate samples to be taken by EPA or its authorized representatives. Settling Defendant shall notify EPA not less than

twenty-one (21) days in advance of any sample collection activity unless shorter notice is agreed to by EPA. In addition, EPA shall have the right to take any additional samples that EPA deems necessary and EPA will endeavor to provide seven (7) days notice to Settling Defendant in advance of any such sample collection activity. Upon request, EPA shall allow the Settling Defendant to take split or duplicate samples of any samples it takes as part of the Plaintiff's oversight of the Settling Defendant's implementation of the Work. EPA will make available to Settling Defendant a copy of the validated results of any analysis made of such samples and the associated data validation package.

22. Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA one (1) copy of the results of all validated analytical data generated by the Settling Defendant with respect to the implementation of this Consent Decree unless EPA agrees otherwise, and shall submit these results quarterly as provided in Section X.

23. Notwithstanding any provision of this Consent Decree, the United States hereby retains all of its information gathering and inspection authorities and rights, including enforcement actions related thereto, under CERCLA, RCRA and any other applicable statutes or regulations.

IX. ACCESS AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTROLS

24. If OU-4, or any other property where access and/or land/water use restrictions are needed to implement this Consent Decree, is owned or controlled by the Settling Defendant, Settling Defendant shall:

a. commencing on the date of lodging of this Consent Decree, provide access to the United States and its representatives, including EPA and its contractors, each endeavoring to provide five (5) days notice to Settling Defendant, and with the presence of representatives of Settling Defendant, and which representatives shall be made available at EPA's request at all reasonable times to OU-4, or such other property, for the purpose of conducting any activity related to this Consent Decree including, but not limited to, the following activities:

- (1) Monitoring the Work;
- (2) Verifying any data or information submitted to the United States;
- (3) Conducting investigations relating to contamination at or near OU-4;
- (4) Obtaining samples;
- (5) Assessing the need for, planning, or implementing additional response actions at or near OU-4;
- (6) Assessing implementation of quality assurance and quality control practices as defined in the approved Quality Assurance Project Plans;
- (7) Implementing the Work pursuant to the conditions set forth in Paragraph 82 of this Consent Decree;
- (8) Inspecting and copying records, operating logs, contracts, or other documents maintained or generated by Settling Defendant or its agents, consistent with Section

XXIV (Access to Information);

(9) Assessing Settling Defendant's compliance with this Consent Decree; and

(10) Determining whether OU-4 or other property is being used in a manner that is prohibited or restricted, or that may need to be prohibited or restricted, by or pursuant to this Consent Decree;

b. Commencing on the date of lodging of this Consent Decree, refrain from using OU-4 or such other property, in any manner that would interfere with or adversely affect the implementation, integrity, or protectiveness of the remedial measures to be performed pursuant to this Consent Decree. Such restrictions include, but are not limited to: prohibition against activities that would result in damaging the sediment cap in Welch Creek and construction on or wharfing out into Welch Creek. Additionally, the owner of OU-4 must annually submit a notarized Land Use Restrictions Update that certifies that the Land Use Restrictions Document remains recorded at the office of the Register of Deeds in its original form and place, and that the land use restrictions contained therein are being complied with; and

c. Settling Defendant shall execute and record in the office of the Register of Deeds, in the county where the property is located, State of North Carolina, an easement, running with the land, that (i) grants a right of access for the purpose of conducting any activity related to this Consent Decree including, but not limited to, those activities listed in Paragraph 24.a of this Consent Decree, and (ii) grants the right to enforce the land/water use restrictions listed in Paragraph 24.b of this Consent Decree, or other restrictions that EPA determines are necessary to implement, ensure non-interference with, or ensure the protectiveness of the remedial measures to be performed pursuant to this Consent Decree. Settling Defendant shall grant the access rights and the rights to enforce the land/water use restrictions to (i) the United States, on behalf of EPA, and its representatives, (ii) the State and its representatives, (iii) one or more of the following grantees, as determined by EPA: USFWS and NOAA. Settling Defendant shall, within sixty (60) days of EPA's request, submit to EPA for review and approval with respect to such property:

(1) a draft easement, in substantially the form to be provided by EPA, that is enforceable under the laws of the State of North Carolina, and

(2) a current title insurance commitment or some other evidence of title acceptable to EPA, which shows title to the land described in the easement to be free and clear of all prior liens and encumbrances (except when those liens or encumbrances are approved by EPA or when, despite best efforts, Settling Defendant is unable to obtain release or subordination of such prior liens or encumbrances).

Within thirty (30) days of EPA's approval and acceptance of the easement and the title evidence, Settling Defendant shall update the title search and, if it is determined that nothing has occurred since the effective date of the commitment to affect the title adversely, record the easement with the office of the Register of Deeds of Martin County and/or Washington County. Within thirty (30) days of recording the easement, such Settling Defendant shall provide EPA with a final title insurance policy, or other final evidence of title acceptable to EPA, and a certified copy of the original recorded easement showing the clerk's recording stamps. The easement and title

evidence (including final title evidence) shall be prepared in accordance with the U.S. Department of Justice Title Standards 2001, and approval of the sufficiency of title must be obtained as required by 40 U.S.C. § 255.

25. If OU-4, or any other property where access and/or land/water use restrictions are needed to implement this Consent Decree, is owned or controlled by persons other than the Settling Defendant, Settling Defendant shall use best efforts to secure from such persons:

a. an agreement to provide access thereto for Settling Defendant, as well as for the United States on behalf of EPA, and the State, as well as their representatives (including contractors), for the purpose of conducting any activity related to this Consent Decree including, but not limited to, those activities listed in Paragraph 24.a of this Consent Decree;

b. an agreement, enforceable by the Settling Defendant and the United States, to refrain from using OU-4, or such other property, in any manner that would interfere with or adversely affect the implementation, integrity, or protectiveness of the remedial measures to be performed pursuant to this Consent Decree. Such restrictions include, but are not limited to: prohibition against activities that would result in damaging the sediment cap in Welch Creek; construction on or wharfing out into Welch Creek; and

c. the execution and recordation in the office of the Register of Deeds of Martin County and/or Washington County, State of North Carolina, of an easement, running with the land, that (i) grants a right of access for the purpose of conducting any activity related to this Consent Decree including, but not limited to, those activities listed in Paragraph 24.a of this Consent Decree, and (ii) grants the right to enforce the land/water use restrictions listed in Paragraph 24.b of this Consent Decree, or other restrictions that EPA determines are necessary to implement, ensure non-interference with, or ensure the protectiveness of the remedial measures to be performed pursuant to this Consent Decree. The access rights and/or rights to enforce land/water use restrictions shall be granted to (i) the United States, on behalf of EPA, and its representatives, (ii) the State and its representatives, (iii) one or more of the following grantees, as determined by EPA USFWS and NOAA. Within sixty (60) days after it is determined by Settling Defendant that a property owned or controlled by persons other than the Settling Defendant is needed for the purpose of access and/or land/water use restrictions (such determination to occur no later than the submittal of the results of the Data Acquisition Activities under the Statement of Work), Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA for review and approval with respect to such property:

(1) a draft easement, in substantially the form to be provided by EPA, that is enforceable under the laws of the State of North Carolina, and

(2) a current title insurance commitment, or some other evidence of title acceptable to EPA, which shows title to the land described in the easement to be free and clear of all prior liens and encumbrances (except when those liens or encumbrances are approved by EPA or when, despite best efforts, Settling Defendant is unable to obtain release or subordination of such prior liens or encumbrances)

Within thirty (30) days of EPA's approval and acceptance of the easement and the title evidence, Settling Defendant shall update the title search and, if it is determined that nothing has occurred since the effective date of the commitment to affect the title adversely, the easement shall be

recorded with the office of the Register of Deeds of Martin County and/or Washington County. Within thirty (30) days of the recording of the easement, Settling Defendant shall provide EPA with a final title insurance policy, or other final evidence of title acceptable to EPA, and a certified copy of the original recorded easement showing the clerk's recording stamps. The easement and title evidence (including final title evidence) shall be prepared in accordance with the U.S. Department of Justice Title Standards 2001, and approval of the sufficiency of title must be obtained as required by 40 U.S.C. § 255.

26. For purposes of Paragraphs 24 and 25 of this Consent Decree, "best efforts" includes the payment of reasonable sums of money in consideration of access, access easements, land/water use restrictions, restrictive easements, and/or an agreement to release or subordinate a prior lien or encumbrance. If (a) any access or land/water use restriction agreements required by this Consent Decree are not obtained: (i) under Paragraph 25.a, within sixty (60) days of the date of entry of this Consent Decree; or (ii) under Paragraph 25.b., within sixty (60) days of Settling Defendant's determination that access or land/water use restrictions are required for property owned or controlled by persons other than the Settling Defendant, (b) any access easements or restrictive easements required by Paragraph 25.c of this Consent Decree are not submitted to EPA in draft form within sixty (60) days of the date of EPA's request, or (c) Settling Defendant is unable to obtain an agreement pursuant to Paragraph 24.c.(1) or Paragraph 25.c.(1) from the holder of a prior lien or encumbrance to release or subordinate such lien or encumbrance to the easement being created pursuant to this consent decree within sixty (60) days of the date of entry of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall promptly notify the United States in writing, and shall include in that notification a summary of the steps that Settling Defendant has taken to attempt to comply with Paragraph 24 or 25 of this Consent Decree. The United States may, as it deems appropriate, assist Settling Defendant in obtaining access or land/water use restrictions, either in the form of contractual agreements or in the form of easements running with the land, or in obtaining the release or subordination of a prior lien or encumbrance. Settling Defendant shall reimburse the United States in accordance with the procedures in Section XVI (Reimbursement of Response Costs), for all costs incurred, direct or indirect, by the United States in obtaining such access, land/water use restrictions, and/or the release/subordination of prior liens or encumbrances including, but not limited to, the cost of attorney time and the amount of monetary consideration paid or just compensation.

27. If EPA determines that land/water use restrictions in the form of state or local laws, regulations, ordinances or other governmental controls are needed to implement the remedy selected in the ROD, ensure the integrity and protectiveness thereof, or ensure non-interference therewith, Settling Defendant shall cooperate with EPA's and the State's efforts to secure such governmental controls.

28. Notwithstanding any provision of this Consent Decree, the United States retains all of its access authorities and rights, as well as all of its rights to require land/water use restrictions, including enforcement authorities related thereto, under CERCLA, RCRA and any other applicable statute or regulation.

X. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

29. In addition to any other requirement of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA one (1) copy of written quarterly progress reports that: (a) describe the

actions which have been taken toward achieving compliance with this Consent Decree during the previous quarter; (b) include a summary of all results of sampling and tests and all other validated data received or generated by Settling Defendant or its contractors or agents in the previous quarter; (c) identify all work plans, plans and other deliverables required by this Consent Decree completed and submitted during the previous quarter; (d) describe all actions, including, but not limited to, data collection and implementation of work plans, which are scheduled for the next three (3) months and provide other information relating to the progress of construction, including, but not limited to, critical path diagrams, Gantt charts and Pert charts; (e) include information regarding percentage of completion, unresolved delays encountered or anticipated that may affect the future schedule for implementation of the Work, and a description of efforts made to mitigate those delays or anticipated delays; (f) include any modifications to the work plans or other schedules that Settling Defendant has proposed to EPA or that have been approved by EPA; and (g) describe all activities undertaken in support of the Community Relations Plan during the previous quarter and those to be undertaken in the next three (3) months. Settling Defendant shall submit these progress reports to EPA and the State by the fifteenth (15th) day of the next quarter following the lodging of this Consent Decree until EPA notifies the Settling Defendant pursuant to Paragraph 47 of Section XIV (Certification of Completion) or until EPA notifies Settling Defendant that less frequent reporting is appropriate. If requested by EPA, Settling Defendant shall also provide briefings for EPA to discuss the progress of the Work.

30. The Settling Defendant shall notify EPA of any change in the schedule described in the quarterly progress report for the performance of any activity, including, but not limited to, data collection and implementation of work plans, no later than seven (7) days prior to the performance of the activity.

31. Upon the occurrence of any event during performance of, and related to, the Work that Settling Defendant is required to report pursuant to Section 103 of CERCLA or Section 304 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act (EPCRA), Settling Defendant shall within twenty-four (24) hours of the onset of such event orally notify the EPA Project Coordinator or the Alternate EPA Project Coordinator (in the event of the unavailability of the EPA Project Coordinator), or, in the event that neither the EPA Project Coordinator or Alternate EPA Project Coordinator is available, the Emergency Response Section, Region 4, United States Environmental Protection Agency. These reporting requirements are in addition to the reporting required by CERCLA Section 103 or EPCRA Section 304.

32. Within thirty (30) days of the onset of such an event, Settling Defendant shall furnish to Plaintiff a written report, signed by the Settling Defendant's Project Coordinator, setting forth the events which occurred and the measures taken, and to be taken, in response thereto. Within forty-five (45) days of the conclusion of such an event, Settling Defendant shall submit a report setting forth all actions taken in response thereto.

33. Settling Defendant shall submit copies of all plans, reports, and data required by the SOW, the Remedial Action Work Plan, or any other approved plans to EPA in accordance with the schedules set forth in such plans. The number of copies to be submitted to EPA for each document is indicated in the SOW. Settling Defendant shall simultaneously submit one (1) copy of all such plans, reports and data to the State. Upon request by EPA Settling Defendant shall submit in electronic form all portions of any report or other deliverable Settling Defendant is

required to submit pursuant to the provisions of this Consent Decree.

34. All reports and other documents submitted by Settling Defendant to EPA (other than the quarterly progress reports referred to above) which purport to document Settling Defendant's compliance with the terms of this Consent Decree shall be signed by an authorized representative of the Settling Defendant.

XI. EPA APPROVAL OF PLANS AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS

35. After review of any plan, report or other item which is required to be submitted for approval pursuant to this Consent Decree, EPA, after reasonable opportunity for review and comment by the State, shall: (a) approve, in whole or in part, the submission; (b) approve the submission upon specified conditions after verbal notification of such conditions to Settling Defendant; (c) modify the submission to cure the deficiencies; (d) disapprove, in whole or in part, the submission, directing that the Settling Defendant modify the submission; or (e) any combination of the above. However, EPA shall not modify a submission without first providing Settling Defendant at least one notice of deficiency and an opportunity to resolve or cure within sixty (60) days, except where to do so would cause serious disruption to the Work or where previous submission(s) have been disapproved due to material defects and the deficiencies in the submission under consideration indicate a bad faith lack of effort to submit an acceptable deliverable.

36. In the event of approval, approval upon conditions, or modification by EPA, pursuant to Paragraph 35(a), (b), or (c), Settling Defendant shall proceed to take any action required by the plan, report, or other item, as approved or modified by EPA subject only to its right to invoke the Dispute Resolution procedures set forth in Section XIX (Dispute Resolution) with respect to the modifications or conditions made by EPA. In the event that EPA modifies the submission to cure the deficiencies pursuant to Paragraph 35(c) and the submission has a material defect, EPA retains its right to seek stipulated penalties, as provided in Section XX (Stipulated Penalties).

37. Resubmission of Plans.

a. Upon receipt of a notice of disapproval pursuant to Paragraph 35(d), Settling Defendant shall, within forty-five (45) days or such longer time as specified by EPA in such notice, correct the deficiencies and resubmit the plan, report, or other item for approval. Any stipulated penalties applicable to the submission, as provided in Section XX, shall accrue during the forty-five (45) day period or otherwise specified period but shall not be payable unless the resubmission is disapproved or modified due to a material defect as provided in Paragraphs 38 and 39.

b. Notwithstanding the receipt of a notice of disapproval pursuant to Paragraph 35(d), Settling Defendant shall proceed, at the direction of EPA, to take any action required by any non-deficient portion of the submission. Implementation of any non-deficient portion of a submission shall not relieve Settling Defendant of any liability for stipulated penalties under Section XX (Stipulated Penalties) for deficient items.

38. In the event that a resubmitted plan, report or other item, or portion thereof, is disapproved by EPA, EPA may again require the Settling Defendant to correct the deficiencies, in accordance with the preceding Paragraphs. EPA also retains the right to modify or develop the

plan, report or other item. Settling Defendant shall implement any such plan, report, or item as modified or developed by EPA, subject only to its right to invoke the procedures set forth in Section XIX (Dispute Resolution).

39. If upon resubmission, a plan, report, or item is disapproved or modified by EPA due to a material defect, Settling Defendant shall be deemed to have failed to submit such plan, report, or item timely and adequately unless the Settling Defendant invokes the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section XIX (Dispute Resolution) and EPA's action is overturned pursuant to that Section. The provisions of Section XIX (Dispute Resolution) and Section XX (Stipulated Penalties) shall govern the implementation of the Work and accrual and payment of any stipulated penalties during Dispute Resolution. If EPA's disapproval or modification is upheld, stipulated penalties shall accrue for such violation from the date on which the initial submission was originally required, as provided in Section XX.

40. All plans, reports, and other items required to be submitted to EPA under this Consent Decree shall, upon approval or modification by EPA, be enforceable under this Consent Decree. In the event EPA approves or modifies a portion of a plan, report, or other item required to be submitted to EPA under this Consent Decree, the approved or modified portion shall be enforceable under this Consent Decree.

XII. PROJECT COORDINATORS

41. Within twenty (20) days of lodging this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant and EPA will notify each other, in writing, of the name, address and telephone number of their respective designated Project Coordinators and Alternate Project Coordinators. If a Project Coordinator or Alternate Project Coordinator initially designated is changed, the identity of the successor will be given to the other Parties at least five (5) working days before the changes occur, unless impracticable, but in no event later than the actual day the change is made. The Settling Defendant's Project Coordinator shall be subject to disapproval by EPA and shall have the technical expertise sufficient to adequately oversee all aspects of the Work. The Settling Defendant's Project Coordinator shall not be an attorney in this matter. He or she may assign other representatives, including other contractors, to serve as a representative for oversight of performance of daily operations during remedial activities at OU-4.

42. Plaintiff may designate other representatives, including, but not limited to, EPA and State employees, and federal contractors and consultants, to observe and monitor the progress of any activity undertaken pursuant to this Consent Decree. EPA's Project Coordinator and Alternate Project Coordinator shall have the authority lawfully vested in a Remedial Project Manager (RPM) and an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) by the National Contingency Plan, 40 C.F.R. Part 300. In addition, EPA's Project Coordinator or Alternate Project Coordinator shall have authority, consistent with the National Contingency Plan, to halt any Work required by this Consent Decree and to take any necessary response action when s/he determines that conditions at OU-4 constitute an emergency situation or may present an immediate threat to public health or welfare or the environment due to release or threatened release of Waste Material.

XIII. ASSURANCE OF ABILITY TO COMPLETE WORK

43. Within thirty (30) days of entry of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall establish and maintain financial security in the amount of \$ 9,600,000.00, in one or more of the

following forms:

- a. A surety bond or payment bond guaranteeing performance of the Work;
- b. One or more irrevocable letters of credit equaling the total estimated cost of the Work;
- c. A fully funded trust fund.

The financial security mechanisms created pursuant to a-c above must be in form and substance satisfactory to the United States. The commencement of any Work Takeover pursuant to Paragraph 82 of this Consent Decree shall trigger EPA's right to receive the benefit of any Performance Guarantee provided pursuant to Paragraph 43, and at such time EPA shall have immediate access to resources guaranteed under any such Performance Guarantee, whether in cash or in kind, as needed to continue and complete the Work assumed by EPA under the Work Takeover. If for any reason EPA is unable to promptly secure the resources guaranteed under any such Performance Guarantee, whether in cash or in kind, necessary to continue and complete the Work assumed by EPA under the Work Takeover, Settling Defendant shall immediately upon written demand from EPA deposit into an account specified by EPA, in immediately available funds and without setoff, counterclaim, or condition of any kind, a cash amount up to but not exceeding the estimated cost of the remaining Work to be performed as of such date, as determined by EPA.

44. In the event that EPA determines at any time that the financial assurances provided pursuant to this Section are inadequate, Settling Defendant shall, within thirty (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 43 of this Consent Decree. Settling Defendant's inability to demonstrate financial ability to complete the Work shall not excuse performance of any activities required under this Consent Decree.

45. If Settling Defendant can show that the estimated cost to complete the remaining Work has diminished below the amount set forth in Paragraph 43 above after entry of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant may, on any anniversary date of entry of this Consent Decree, 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. Settling Defendant 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, Settling Defendant may reduce the amount of the security in accordance with the final administrative or judicial decision resolving the dispute.

46. Settling Defendant 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, Settling Defendant may change the form of the financial assurance only in accordance with the final administrative or judicial decision resolving the dispute.

XIV. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION

47. **Completion of the Work.**

- a. Within ninety (90) days after Settling Defendant concludes that all phases

of the Work (including O & M), have been fully performed, Settling Defendant shall schedule and conduct a pre-certification inspection to be attended by Settling Defendant and EPA. If, after the pre-certification inspection, the Settling Defendant still believes that the Work has been fully performed, Settling Defendant shall submit a written report by a registered professional engineer stating that the Work has been completed in full satisfaction of the requirements of this Consent Decree. The report shall contain the following statement, signed by a responsible corporate official of Settling Defendant or the Settling Defendant's Project Coordinator:

To the best of my knowledge, after thorough investigation, I certify that the information contained in or accompanying this submission 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.

If, after review of the written report, EPA, after reasonable opportunity to review and comment by the State, determines that any portion of the Work has not been completed in accordance with this Consent Decree, EPA will notify Settling Defendant in writing of the activities that must be undertaken by Settling Defendant pursuant to this Consent Decree to complete the Work, provided, however, that EPA may only require Settling Defendant to perform such activities pursuant to this Paragraph to the extent that such activities are consistent with the "scope of the remedy selected in the ROD," as that term is defined in Paragraph 14.b. EPA will set forth in the notice a schedule for performance of such activities consistent with the Consent Decree and the SOW or require the Settling Defendant to submit a schedule to EPA for approval pursuant to Section XI (EPA Approval of Plans and Other Submissions). Settling Defendant shall perform all activities described in the notice in accordance with the specifications and schedules established therein, subject to its right to invoke the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section XIX (Dispute Resolution).

b. If EPA concludes, based on the initial or any subsequent request for Certification of Completion by Settling Defendant and after a reasonable opportunity for review and comment by the State, that the Work has been performed in accordance with this Consent Decree, EPA will so notify the Settling Defendant in writing.

XV. EMERGENCY RESPONSE

48. In the event of any action or occurrence during the performance of the Work which causes or threatens a release of Waste Material from OU-4 that constitutes an emergency situation or may present an immediate threat to public health or welfare or the environment, Settling Defendant shall, subject to Paragraph 49, immediately take all appropriate action to prevent, abate, or minimize such release or threat of release, and shall immediately notify the EPA's Project Coordinator, or, if the Project Coordinator is unavailable, EPA's Alternate Project Coordinator. Settling Defendant shall notify the State in accordance with applicable state and federal law. If neither EPA official is available, the Settling Defendant shall notify the EPA Emergency Response Unit, Region 4. Settling Defendant shall take such actions in consultation with EPA's Project Coordinator or other available authorized EPA officer, and in accordance with all applicable provisions of the Health and Safety Plans, the Contingency Plans, and any other applicable plans or documents developed pursuant to the SOW. Settling Defendant shall consult the State in accordance with applicable state and federal law. In the event that Settling

Defendant fails to take appropriate response action as required by this Section, and EPA takes such action instead, Settling Defendant shall reimburse EPA for all costs of the response action not inconsistent with the NCP pursuant to Section XVI (Payments for Response Costs).

49. Nothing in the preceding Paragraph or in this Consent Decree shall be deemed to limit any authority of the United States or the State a) to take all appropriate action to protect human health and the environment or to prevent, abate, respond to, or minimize an actual or threatened release of Waste Material on, at, or from OU-4, or b) to direct or order such action, or seek an order from the Court, to protect human health and the environment or to prevent, abate, respond to, or minimize an actual or threatened release of Waste Material on, at, or from OU-4, subject to Section XXI (Covenants Not to Sue by Plaintiff).

XVI. PAYMENTS FOR RESPONSE COSTS

50. Payments for Interim Response Costs.

a. Settling Defendant shall pay to EPA all Interim Response Costs not inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan. The United States will send Settling Defendant a bill requiring payment that includes a full accounting supporting the bill, including an EPA SCORPIOS Report and the DOJ-prepared cost summary which reflects costs incurred by DOJ and its contractors. If Settling Defendant has specific questions with regard to the bill, Settling Defendant may request in writing copies of vouchers and other documents evidencing expenditures and materials acquired in connection with expenditures at OU-4 which are the basis of the demand ("supporting documentation"). EPA will produce such supporting documentation, in response to a request regarding a specific question Settling Defendant has with the bill. Settling Defendant shall make all payments within thirty (30) days of Settling Defendant's receipt of each bill requiring payment, or in the event supporting documentation is requested, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the supporting documentation, except as otherwise provided in Paragraph 53. Payment shall be made by FedWire Electronic Funds Transfer ("EFT") to the U.S. EPA account in accordance with current EFT procedures, referencing USAO File Number _____, EPA Site/Spill ID Number 041B, and DOJ Case Number _____. Payment shall be made in accordance with instructions provided to the Settling Defendant by the EPA. Any payments received by the EPA after 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) will be credited on the next business day.

b. At the time of payment, Settling Defendant shall send notice that payment has been made to the United States, to EPA and to the Superfund Enforcement and Information Management Branch, in accordance with Section XXVI (Notices and Submissions).

c. The total amount to be paid by Settling Defendant pursuant to Subparagraph 50.a shall be deposited in the Domtar Paper Company LLC (formerly Weyerhaeuser Company) Plymouth 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.

51. Payments for Future Response Costs.

a. Settling Defendant shall pay to EPA all Future Response Costs not inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan. On an annual basis the United States will send Settling Defendant a bill requiring payment that includes a full accounting supporting the bill,

including an EPA SCORPIOS Report and the DOJ-prepared cost summary which reflects costs incurred by DOJ and its contractors. Failure to submit a bill in one fiscal year does not prevent EPA from submitting an accounting for that year in a subsequent fiscal year. If Settling Defendant has specific questions with regard to the bill, Settling Defendant may request in writing copies of vouchers and other documents evidencing expenditures and materials acquired in connection with expenditures at OU-4 which are the basis of the demand (“supporting documentation”). EPA will produce such supporting documentation, in response to a request regarding a specific question Settling Defendant has with the bill. Settling Defendant shall make all payments within thirty (30) days of Settling Defendant’s receipt of each bill requiring payment, or in the event supporting documentation is requested, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the supporting documentation, except as otherwise provided in Paragraph 53. Settling Defendant 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 party making the payment, EPA Site/Spill ID Number 041B, and DOJ Case Number _____. Settling Defendant shall send the check(s) to: U.S. EPA, Superfund Payments-Region 4, Cincinnati Finance Center, P.O. Box 979076, Saint Louis, MO 63197-9000.

b. At the time of payment, Settling Defendant shall send notice that payment has been made to the United States, to EPA and to the Superfund Enforcement and Information Management Branch, in accordance with Section XXVI (Notices and Submissions).

c. The total amount to be paid by Settling Defendant pursuant to Paragraph 51 shall be deposited in the Domtar Paper Company LLC (formerly Weyerhaeuser Company) Plymouth 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.

52. Settling Defendant may contest payment of any Interim Response Costs under Paragraph 50 or Future Response Costs under Paragraph 51, respectively, if it determines that the United States has made an accounting error or if it alleges that a cost item that is included represents costs that are outside the scope or terms of this Consent Decree or are inconsistent with the NCP. Such objection shall be made in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of the bill or the supporting documentation and must be sent to the United States pursuant to Section XXVI (Notices and Submissions). Any such objection shall specifically identify the contested Interim or Future Response Costs and the basis for objection. In the event of an objection, the Settling Defendant shall within the 30 day period pay all uncontested Interim or Future Response Costs to the United States in the manner described in Paragraph 50 or 51. Simultaneously, the Settling Defendant shall establish an interest-bearing escrow account in a federally-insured bank duly chartered in the State of North Carolina and remit to that escrow account funds equivalent to the amount of the contested Interim or Future Response Costs. The Settling Defendant shall send to the United States, as provided in Section XXVI (Notices and Submissions), a copy of the transmittal letter and check paying the uncontested Interim or Future Response Costs, and a copy of the correspondence that establishes and funds the escrow account, including, but not limited to, information containing the identity of the bank and bank account under which the escrow account is established as well as a bank statement showing the initial balance of the escrow account. Simultaneously with establishment of the escrow account, the Settling Defendant shall

initiate the Dispute Resolution procedures in Section XIX (Dispute Resolution). If the United States prevails in the dispute, within five (5) days of the resolution of the dispute, the Settling Defendant shall pay the sums due (with accrued interest) to the United States in the manner described in the applicable Paragraph 50 or 51. If the Settling Defendant prevails concerning any aspect of the contested costs, the Settling Defendant shall pay that portion of the costs (plus associated accrued interest) for which it did not prevail to the United States in the manner described in the applicable Paragraph 50 or 51; Settling Defendant shall be disbursed any balance of the escrow account. The dispute resolution procedures set forth in this Paragraph in conjunction with the procedures set forth in Section XIX (Dispute Resolution) shall be the exclusive mechanisms for resolving disputes regarding the Settling Defendant's obligation to reimburse the United States for its Interim Response Costs and Future Response Costs.

53. In the event that the payments required by Paragraphs 50 and 51 are not made within thirty (30) days of Settling Defendant's receipt of the bill or supporting documentation, Settling Defendant shall pay Interest on the unpaid balance. The Interest to be paid shall begin to accrue on the thirtieth (30th) day after Settling Defendant's receipt of the bill, or thirty (30) days after Settling Defendant received the requested supporting documentation. The Interest shall accrue through the date of the Settling Defendant's payment. Payments of Interest made under this Paragraph shall be in addition to such other remedies or sanctions available to Plaintiff by virtue of Settling Defendant's failure to make timely payments under this Section including, but not limited to, payment of stipulated penalties pursuant to Paragraph 68. The Settling Defendant shall make all payments required by this Paragraph in the manner described in the applicable Paragraph 50 or 51.

54. Balance of Special Account Funds. After EPA notifies Settling Defendant in writing that the Work has been performed in accordance with this Consent Decree, if any funds remain in the Domtar Paper Company LLC (formerly Weyerhaeuser Company) Plymouth Site Special Account, EPA may transfer such funds to the Hazardous Substance Superfund. Any transfer of funds to the Hazardous Substance Superfund shall not be subject to challenge by Settling Defendant pursuant to the dispute resolution provisions of this Consent Decree or in any other forum.

XVII. INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE

55. Settling Defendant's Indemnification of the United States .

a. The United States does not assume any liability by entering into this agreement or by virtue of any designation of Settling Defendant as EPA's authorized representative under Section 104(e) of CERCLA. Settling Defendant shall indemnify, save and hold harmless the United States and its officials, agents, employees, contractors, subcontractors, or representatives for or from any and all claims or causes of action to the extent they arise from, or on account of, negligent or other wrongful acts or omissions of Settling Defendant, its officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, subcontractors, and any persons acting on its behalf or under their control, in carrying out activities pursuant to this Consent Decree, including, but not limited to, any claims to the extent they arise from any designation of Settling Defendant as EPA's authorized representatives under Section 104(e) of CERCLA. Further, the Settling Defendant agrees to pay the United States all costs it incurs 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 Settling Defendant, its officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, subcontractors, and any persons acting on its behalf or under its control, in carrying out activities pursuant to this Consent Decree. The United States shall not be held out as a party to any contract entered into by or on behalf of Settling Defendant in carrying out activities pursuant to this Consent Decree. Neither the Settling Defendant nor any such contractor shall be considered an agent of the United States.

b. The United States shall give Settling Defendant notice of any claim for which the United States plans to seek indemnification pursuant to Paragraph 55, and shall consult with Settling Defendant prior to settling such claim.

56. Settling Defendant 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 the Settling Defendant and any person for performance of Work on or relating to OU-4, including, but not limited to, claims on account of construction delays. In addition, Settling Defendant 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 the Settling Defendant and any person for performance of Work on or relating to OU-4, including, but not limited to, claims on account of construction delays.

57. Settling Defendant shall secure, or shall require that its Supervising Contractor and its primary construction contractor acquire and maintain, until the completion of the construction of the remedy, comprehensive general liability insurance with limits of one million dollars (\$1,000,000), combined single limit, and automobile liability insurance with limits of one million dollars (\$1,000,000), combined single limit, naming the United States as an additional insured. In addition, for the duration of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall satisfy, or shall ensure that its 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 Settling Defendant in furtherance of this Consent Decree. Prior to commencement of the Work under this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall provide to EPA certificates of such insurance and a copy of each insurance policy. Settling Defendant shall resubmit such certificates and copies of policies within thirty (30) days of any substantial or material change in such policy. Settling Defendant shall provide any portion of the insurance described above which is not maintained by the Supervising Contractor and its primary construction contractor.

XVIII. FORCE MAJEURE

58. "Force majeure," for purposes of this Consent Decree, is defined as any event arising from causes beyond the control of the Settling Defendant, of any entity controlled by Settling Defendant, or of Settling Defendant's contractors, that delays or prevents the performance of any obligation under this Consent Decree despite Settling Defendant's best efforts to fulfill the obligation. The requirement that the Settling Defendant exercise "best efforts to fulfill the obligation" includes using best efforts to anticipate any potential force majeure event and best efforts to address the effects of any potential force majeure event (1) as it is occurring and (2) following the potential force majeure event, such that the delay is minimized to the greatest extent possible. "Force Majeure" does not include financial inability to complete the Work or a failure to attain the Performance Standards.

59. If any event occurs or has occurred that may delay the performance of any obligation under this Consent Decree, whether or not caused by a force majeure event, the Settling Defendant shall notify orally EPA's Project Coordinator or, in his or her absence, EPA's Alternate Project Coordinator or, in the event both of EPA's designated representatives are unavailable, the Director of the Waste Management Division, EPA Region 4, within ten (10) days of when Settling Defendant first knew that the event might cause a delay. Within ten (10) days thereafter, Settling Defendant shall provide in writing to EPA 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; the Settling Defendant's rationale for attributing such delay to a force majeure event if it intends to assert such a claim; and a statement as to whether, in the opinion of the Settling Defendant, such event may cause or contribute to an endangerment to public health, welfare or the environment. The Settling Defendant shall include with any notice all available documentation supporting its claim that the delay was attributable to a force majeure. Failure to comply with the above requirements shall preclude Settling Defendant 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. Settling Defendant shall be deemed to know of any circumstance of which Settling Defendant, any entity controlled by Settling Defendant, or Settling Defendant's contractors knew or should have known.

60. 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 Consent Decree that are affected by the force majeure event will be extended by EPA for such time as is necessary to complete those obligations. EPA will consider extending the delay of the performance of the obligations affected by the force majeure event by not less than the actual duration of the delay caused by the force majeure event. 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 the Settling Defendant in writing of its decision. If EPA agrees that the delay is attributable to a force majeure event, EPA will notify the Settling Defendant in writing of the length of the extension, if any, for performance of the obligations affected by the force majeure event.

61. If the Settling Defendant elects to invoke the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section XIX (Dispute Resolution), it shall do so no later than twenty (20) days after receipt of EPA's notice. In any such proceeding, Settling Defendant shall have the burden of demonstrating by a preponderance of the evidence that the delay or anticipated delay has been or will be caused by a force majeure event, that the duration of the delay or the extension sought was or will be warranted under the circumstances, that best efforts were exercised to avoid and mitigate the effects of the delay, and that Settling Defendant complied with the requirements of Paragraphs 58 and 59, above. If Settling Defendant carries this burden, the delay at issue shall be deemed not to be a violation by Settling Defendant of the affected obligation of this Consent Decree identified to EPA and the Court.

XIX. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

62. Unless otherwise expressly provided for in this Consent Decree, the dispute resolution procedures of this Section shall be the exclusive mechanism to resolve disputes arising under or with respect to this Consent Decree. However, the procedures set forth in this Section shall not apply to actions by the United States to enforce obligations of the Settling Defendant that have not been disputed in accordance with this Section.

63. Any dispute which arises under or with respect to this Consent Decree shall in the first instance be the subject of informal negotiations between the parties to the dispute. The period for informal negotiations shall not exceed thirty (30) days from the time the dispute arises, unless it is modified by written agreement of the parties to the dispute. The dispute shall be considered to have arisen when one party sends the other party a written Notice of Dispute.

64. Statements of Position.

a. In the event that the parties cannot resolve a dispute by informal negotiations under the preceding Paragraph, then the position advanced by EPA shall be considered binding unless, within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the informal negotiation period, Settling Defendant invokes the formal dispute resolution procedures of this Section by serving on the United States a written Statement of Position on the matter in dispute, including, but not limited to, any factual data, analysis or opinion supporting that position and any supporting documentation relied upon by the Settling Defendant. The Statement of Position shall specify the Settling Defendant's position as to whether formal dispute resolution should proceed under Paragraph 65 or Paragraph 66.

b. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of Settling Defendant's Statement of Position, EPA will serve on Settling Defendant its Statement of Position, including, but not limited to, any factual data, analysis, or opinion supporting that position and all supporting documentation relied upon by EPA. EPA's Statement of Position shall include a statement as to whether formal dispute resolution should proceed under Paragraph 65 or 66. Within twenty (20) days after receipt of EPA's Statement of Position, Settling Defendant may submit a Reply.

c. If there is disagreement between EPA and the Settling Defendant as to whether dispute resolution should proceed under Paragraph 65 or 66, the parties to the dispute shall follow the procedures set forth in the paragraph determined by EPA to be applicable. However, if the Settling Defendant ultimately appeals to the Court to resolve the dispute, the Court shall determine which paragraph is applicable in accordance with the standards of applicability set forth in Paragraphs 65 and 66.

65. Formal dispute resolution for disputes pertaining to the selection or adequacy of any response action and all other disputes that are accorded review on the administrative record under applicable principles of administrative law shall be conducted pursuant to the procedures set forth in this Paragraph. For purposes of this Paragraph, the adequacy of any response action includes, without limitation: (1) the adequacy or appropriateness of plans, procedures to implement plans, or any other items requiring approval by EPA under this Consent Decree; and (2) the adequacy of the performance of response actions taken pursuant to this Consent Decree. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be construed to allow any dispute by Settling Defendant regarding the validity of the ROD's provisions.

a. An administrative record of the dispute shall be maintained by EPA and shall contain all statements of position, including supporting documentation, submitted pursuant to this Section. Where appropriate, EPA may allow submission of supplemental statements of position by the parties to the dispute.

b. The Director of the Waste Management Division, EPA Region 4, will issue a final administrative decision resolving the dispute based on the administrative record described in Paragraph 65.a. This decision shall be binding upon the Settling Defendant, subject only to the right to seek judicial review pursuant to Paragraph 65.c and d.

c. Any administrative decision made by EPA pursuant to Paragraph 65.b shall be reviewable by this Court, provided that a motion for judicial review of the decision is filed by the Settling Defendant with the Court and served on all Parties within fourteen (14) days of receipt of EPA's decision. The motion shall include a description of the matter in dispute, the efforts made by the parties to resolve it, the relief requested, and the schedule, if any, within which the dispute must be resolved to ensure orderly implementation of this Consent Decree. The United States may file a response to Settling Defendant's motion.

d. In proceedings on any dispute governed by this Paragraph, Settling Defendant shall have the burden of demonstrating that the decision of the Waste Management Division Director is arbitrary and capricious or otherwise not in accordance with law. Judicial review of EPA's decision shall be on the administrative record compiled pursuant to Paragraph 65.a.

66. Formal dispute resolution for disputes that neither pertain to the selection or adequacy of any response action nor are otherwise accorded review on the administrative record under applicable principles of administrative law, shall be governed by this Paragraph.

a. Following receipt of Settling Defendant's Statement of Position submitted pursuant to Paragraph 64, the Director of the Waste Management Division, EPA Region 4, will issue a final decision resolving the dispute. The Waste Management Division Director's decision shall be binding on the Settling Defendant unless, within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the decision, the Settling Defendant files with the Court and serves on the parties a motion for judicial review of the decision setting forth the matter in dispute, the efforts made by the parties to resolve it, the relief requested, and the schedule, if any, within which the dispute must be resolved to ensure orderly implementation of the Consent Decree. The United States may file a response to Settling Defendant's motion.

b. Notwithstanding Paragraph K of Section I (Background) of this Consent Decree, judicial review of any dispute governed by this Paragraph shall be governed by applicable principles of law.

67. The invocation of formal dispute resolution procedures under this Section shall not extend, postpone or affect in any way any obligation of the Settling Defendant under this Consent Decree, not directly in dispute, unless EPA or the Court agrees otherwise. Stipulated penalties with respect to the disputed matter shall continue to accrue but payment shall be stayed pending resolution of the dispute as provided in Paragraph 76. Notwithstanding the stay of payment, stipulated penalties shall accrue from the first day of noncompliance with any applicable provision of this Consent Decree. In the event that the Settling Defendant does not

prevail on the disputed issue, stipulated penalties shall be assessed and paid as provided in Section XX (Stipulated Penalties).

XX. STIPULATED PENALTIES

68. Settling Defendant shall be liable for stipulated penalties in the amounts set forth in Paragraphs 69 and 70 to the United States for failure to comply with the requirements of this Consent Decree specified below, unless excused under Section XVIII (Force Majeure). "Compliance" by Settling Defendant shall include completion of the activities under this Consent Decree or any work plan or other plan approved under this Consent Decree identified below in accordance with all applicable requirements of law, this Consent Decree, the SOW, and any plans or other documents approved by EPA pursuant to this Consent Decree and within the specified time schedules established by and approved under this Consent Decree.

69. Stipulated Penalty Amounts - Work.

a. The following stipulated penalties shall accrue per violation per day for any noncompliance identified in Subparagraph 69.b:

<u>Penalty Per Violation Per Day</u>	<u>Period of Noncompliance</u>
\$ 1,250.00	1st through 14th day
\$ 2,500.00	15th through 44th day
\$ 5,000.00	45th day and beyond

b. Compliance Milestones.

- (1) Submittal and, if necessary, modification of any and all draft and final Remedial Action Work Plans;
- (2) Submittal and, if necessary, modification of any significant deliverables as identified in the EPA approved Remedial Action Work Plan;
- (3) Implementation of the approved Remedial Action Work Plan;
- (4) Completion of the Remedial Action required under this Consent Decree and the SOW;
- (5) Submittal and, if necessary, modification of Remedial Action Reports as required by SOW Tasks III E and F;
- (6) Submittal and, if necessary, modification of the Performance Standard Verification and Operation and Maintenance Plan;
- (7) Establishment of financial assurance as required by Paragraphs 43 and 44;
- (8) Procurement or proof of insurance;
- (9) Submittal and, if necessary, modification of any Work Plan(s) for further response actions and additional Work pursuant to Sections VI, VII, VIII, or IX, hereof;

(10) Implementation of further response actions and additional Work pursuant to Sections VI, VII, VIII, or IX, hereof;

(11) Payment of all monies required to be paid pursuant to Section XVI;

(12) Recording of Consent Decree, applicable Deed Restrictions and Notices required in Section V, Paragraph 9, and Section IX.

70. Stipulated Penalty Amounts - Reports.

a. The following stipulated penalties shall accrue per violation per day for failure to submit timely or adequate reports or other written documents pursuant to this Consent Decree:

<u>Penalty Per Violation Per Day</u>	<u>Period of Noncompliance</u>
\$ 500.00	1st through 14th day
\$ 1500.00	15th through 44th day
\$ 3000.00	45th day and beyond

71. In the event that EPA assumes performance of a portion or all of the Work pursuant to Paragraph 82 of Section XXI (Covenants Not to Sue by Plaintiff), Settling Defendant shall be liable for a stipulated penalty in the amount of \$25,000.00.

72. All penalties shall begin to accrue on the day after the complete performance is due or the day a violation occurs, and shall continue to accrue through the final day of the correction of the noncompliance or completion of the activity. However, stipulated penalties shall not accrue: (1) with respect to a deficient submission under Section XI (EPA Approval of Plans and Other Submissions), during the period, if any, beginning on the 31st day after EPA's receipt of such submission until the date that EPA notifies Settling Defendant of any deficiency; (2) with respect to a decision by the Director of the Waste Management Division, EPA Region 4, under Paragraph 65 or 66 of Section XIX (Dispute Resolution), during the period, if any, beginning on the 21st day after the date that Settling Defendant's reply to EPA's Statement of Position is received until the date that the Director issues a final decision regarding such dispute; or (3) with respect to judicial review by this Court of any dispute under Section XIX (Dispute Resolution), during the period, if any, beginning on the 31st day after the Court's receipt of the final submission regarding the dispute until the date that the Court issues a final decision regarding such dispute. Nothing herein shall prevent the simultaneous accrual of separate penalties for separate violations of this Consent Decree.

73. Following EPA's determination that Settling Defendant has failed to comply with a requirement of this Consent Decree, EPA may give Settling Defendant written notification of the same and describe the noncompliance. EPA may send the Settling Defendant a written demand for the payment of the penalties. However, penalties shall accrue as provided in the preceding Paragraph regardless of whether EPA has notified the Settling Defendant of a violation.

74. All penalties accruing under this Section shall be due and payable to the United

States within thirty (30) days of the Settling Defendant's receipt from EPA of a demand for payment of the penalties, unless Settling Defendant invokes the Dispute Resolution procedures under Section XIX (Dispute Resolution). All payments to the United States 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. EPA, Region 4, Superfund Account Box 100142, Atlanta, GA 30384, Attn Superfund Collections Office, shall indicate that the payment is for stipulated penalties, and shall reference the EPA Region and Site/Spill ID #04B1, the DOJ Case Number _____, and the name and address of the party making payment. Copies of check(s) paid pursuant to this Section, and any accompanying transmittal letter(s), shall be sent to the United States as provided in Section XXVI (Notices and Submissions), and to Ms. Paula V. Batchelor, Waste Management Division, U.S. EPA, Region 4, 61 Forsyth St., S.W. Atlanta, GA 30303.

75. The payment of penalties shall not alter in any way Settling Defendant's obligation to complete the performance of the Work required under this Consent Decree.

76. Penalties shall continue to accrue as provided in Paragraph 72 during any dispute resolution period, but need not be paid until the following:

a. If the dispute is resolved by agreement or by a decision of EPA that is not appealed to this Court, accrued penalties determined to be owing shall be paid to EPA within thirty (30) days of the agreement or the receipt of EPA's decision or order;

b. If the dispute is appealed to this Court and the United States prevails in whole or in part, Settling Defendant shall pay all accrued penalties determined by the Court to be owed to EPA within 60 days of receipt of the Court's decision or order, except as provided in Subparagraph c below;

c. If the District Court's decision is appealed by any Party, Settling Defendant shall pay all accrued penalties determined by the District Court to be owing to the United States into an interest-bearing escrow account within sixty (60) days of receipt of the Court's decision or order. Penalties shall be paid into this account as they continue to accrue, at least every sixty (60) days. Within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the final appellate court decision, the escrow agent shall pay the balance of the account to EPA or to Settling Defendant to the extent that they prevail.

77. If Settling Defendant fails to pay stipulated penalties when due, the United States may institute proceedings to collect the penalties, as well as interest. Settling Defendant shall pay Interest on the unpaid balance, which shall begin to accrue on the date of demand made pursuant to Paragraph 74.

78. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be construed as prohibiting, altering, or in any way limiting the ability of the United States to seek any other remedies or sanctions available by virtue of Settling Defendant's violation of this Decree or of the statutes and regulations upon which it is based, including, but not limited to, penalties pursuant to Section 122(l) of CERCLA, provided, however, that the United States shall not seek civil penalties pursuant to Section 122(l) of CERCLA for any violation for which a stipulated penalty is provided herein, except in the case of a willful violation of the Consent Decree.

79. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, the United States may, in its unreviewable discretion, waive any portion of stipulated penalties that have accrued pursuant to

this Consent Decree.

XXI. COVENANTS NOT TO SUE BY PLAINTIFF

80. In consideration of the actions that will be performed and the payments that will be made by the Settling Defendant under the terms of the Consent Decree, and except as specifically provided in Paragraph 81 of this Section, the United States covenants not to sue or to take administrative action against Settling Defendant pursuant to Sections 106 and 107(a) of CERCLA for performance of the Work and for recovery of Interim Response Costs and Future Response Costs. These covenants not to sue shall take effect upon the receipt by EPA of the payments required by Paragraph 50.a of Section XVI (Payments for Response Costs). These covenants not to sue are conditioned upon the satisfactory performance by Settling Defendant of its obligations under this Consent Decree. These covenants not to sue extend only to the Settling Defendant and do not extend to any other person.

81. General reservations of rights. The United States reserves, and this Consent Decree is without prejudice to, all rights against Settling Defendant with respect to all matters not expressly included within Plaintiff's covenant not to sue. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Consent Decree, the United States reserves all rights against Settling Defendant with respect to:

- a. claims based on a failure by Settling Defendant to meet a requirement of this Consent Decree;
- b. liability arising from the past, present, or future disposal, release, or threat of release of Waste Material outside of OU-4;
- c. liability based upon the Settling Defendant's ownership or operation of OU-4, or upon the Settling Defendant's transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal, or the arrangement for the transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of Waste Material at or in connection with OU-4, other than as provided in the ROD, the Work, or otherwise ordered by EPA, after signature of this Consent Decree by the Settling Defendant;
- d. liability for damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources, and for the costs of any natural resource damage assessments;
- e. criminal liability;
- f. liability for violations of federal or state law which occur during or after implementation of the Remedial Action; and
- g. liability, prior to Certification of Completion of the Work, for additional response actions that EPA determines are necessary to achieve Performance Standards, but that cannot be required pursuant to Paragraph 14 (Modification of the SOW or Related Work Plans);
- h. previously incurred costs of response above the amounts reimbursed pursuant to Paragraph 50.a;
- i. liability for other operable units at the Site;
- j. liability for costs that the United States will incur related to the Site, but are not within the definition of Future Response Costs;

k. liability for costs incurred or to be incurred by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry related to the Site.

82. Work Takeover. In the event EPA determines that Settling Defendant has ceased implementation of any portion of the Work, is seriously or repeatedly deficient or late in its performance of the Work, or is 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 portions of the Work as EPA determines necessary. Settling Defendant may invoke the procedures set forth in Section XIX (Dispute Resolution), Paragraph 65, 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 Settling Defendant shall pay pursuant to Section XVI (Payment for Response Costs).

83. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Consent Decree, the United States retains all authority and reserves all rights to take any and all response actions authorized by law.

XXII. COVENANTS BY SETTLING DEFENDANT

84. Covenant Not to Sue. Subject to the reservations in Paragraph 85, Settling Defendant hereby covenants not to sue and agrees not to assert any claims or causes of action against the United States with respect to the Work, past response actions, and Interim and Future Response Costs as defined herein or this Consent Decree, including, but not limited to:

- a. any direct or indirect claim related to OU-4 for reimbursement from the Hazardous Substance Superfund (established pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 9507) through CERCLA Sections 106(b)(2), 107, 111, 112, 113 or any other provision of law;
- b. any claims against the United States, including any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States under CERCLA Sections 107 or 113 related to OU-4; or
- c. any claims arising out of response actions at or in connection with OU-4, including any claim under the United States Constitution, the North Carolina 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.

Except as provided in Paragraph 87 (Waiver of Claims Against De Micromis Parties), and Paragraph 92 (waiver of Claim-Splitting Defenses), these covenants not to sue shall not apply in the event that the United States brings a cause of action or issues an order pursuant to the reservations set forth in Paragraph 81 (b) - (d) or 81 (g) - (k), but only to the extent that Settling Defendant's claims arise from the same response action, response costs, or damages that the United States is seeking pursuant to the applicable reservation.

85. The Settling Defendant reserves, 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 Defendant's 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.

86. 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).

87. Settling Defendant agrees not to assert any claims and to waive all claims or causes of action that it may have for all matters relating to OU-4, including for contribution, against any person where the person's liability to Settling Defendant with respect to OU-4 is based solely on having arranged for disposal or treatment, or for transport for disposal or treatment, of hazardous substances at OU-4, or having accepted for transport for disposal or treatment of hazardous substances at OU-4, if:

a. the materials contributed by such person to OU-4 containing hazardous substances did not exceed the greater of (i) 0.002% of the total volume of waste at OU-4, or (ii) 110 gallons of liquid materials or 200 pounds of solid materials.

b. 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 OU-4 by such person contributed or could contribute significantly to the costs of response at OU-4. This waiver also shall not apply with respect to any defense, claim, or cause of action that a Settling Defendant may have against any person if such person asserts a claim or cause of action relating to OU-4 against such Settling Defendant.

XXIII. EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT; CONTRIBUTION PROTECTION

88. Except as provided in Paragraph 87 (Waiver of Claims Against De Micromis Parties), 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. Except as provided in Paragraph 87 (Waiver of Claims Against De Micromis Parties), 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.

89. The Parties agree, and by entering this Consent Decree this Court finds, that the Settling Defendant is entitled, as of the Effective Date, 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. For purposes of this Consent Decree, the "matters addressed" are the Remedial Design and Remedial Action for OU-4 (Welch Creek) and all Interim and Future Costs, as defined herein.

90. The Settling Defendant agrees that with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought by it for matters related to this Consent Decree it will notify the United

States in writing no later than sixty (60) days prior to the initiation of such suit or claim.

91. The Settling Defendant also agrees that with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought against it for matters related to this Consent Decree it will notify in writing the United States within fourteen (14) days of service of the complaint on it. In addition, Settling Defendant shall notify the United States within fourteen (14) days of service or receipt of any Motion for Summary Judgment and within fourteen (14) days of receipt of any order from a court setting a case for trial.

92. In any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding initiated by the United States for injunctive relief, recovery of response costs, or other appropriate relief relating to the Site, Settling Defendant 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 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).

XXIV. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

93. Settling Defendant shall provide to EPA, upon request, copies of all documents and information within its possession or control or that of its contractors or agents relating to activities at OU-4 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 Defendant shall also make available to EPA, for purposes of investigation, information gathering, or testimony, its employees, agents, or representatives with knowledge of relevant facts concerning the performance of the Work.

94. Business Confidential and Privileged Documents.

a. Settling Defendant may assert business confidentiality claims covering part or all of the documents or information submitted to Plaintiff 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 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, or if EPA has notified Settling Defendant 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 Settling Defendant.

b. The Settling Defendant 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 Defendant asserts such a privilege in lieu of providing documents, it shall provide the Plaintiff 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 Settling Defendant. However, no documents, reports or other information

created or generated pursuant to the requirements of the Consent Decree shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged.

95. No claim of confidentiality shall be made with respect to any data generated in the performance of this Consent Decree, 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 OU-4.

XXV. RETENTION OF RECORDS

96. Until ten (10) years after the Settling Defendant's receipt of EPA's notification pursuant to Paragraph 47.b of Section XIV (Certification of Completion of the Work), the Settling Defendant shall preserve and retain all records and documents (including records or documents in electronic form unless there is a hard copy of such documents) now in its possession or control or which come into its possession or control that relate in any manner to its liability under CERCLA with respect to OU-4, the performance of the Work, or to the liability of any other person under CERCLA with respect to OU-4. The Settling Defendant must also instruct its contractors and agents to preserve, for the same period of time specified above all documents or records (including documents or records in electronic form unless there is a hard copy of such documents) now in its possession or control or which come into its possession or control that relate in any manner to the performance of the Work. Each of the above record retention requirements shall apply regardless of any corporate retention policy to the contrary.

97. At the conclusion of this document retention period, Settling Defendant shall notify the United States at least ninety (90) days prior to the destruction of any such records or documents, and, upon request by the United States, Settling Defendant shall deliver any such records or documents to EPA. The Settling Defendant 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 Defendant asserts such a privilege, it shall provide the Plaintiff 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 Settling Defendant. However, no documents, reports or other information created or generated pursuant to the requirements of the Consent Decree shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged.

XXVI. NOTICES AND SUBMISSIONS

98. Whenever, under the terms of this Consent Decree, written notice is required to be given or a report or other 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. All notices and submissions shall be considered effective upon receipt, unless otherwise provided. Written notice as specified herein shall constitute complete satisfaction of any written notice requirement of the Consent Decree with respect to the United States, EPA, and the Settling Defendant, respectively.

As to the United States:

Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611
Re: DJ # 90-11-3-07838

and

Franklin Hill, Division Director
Superfund Division
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

As to EPA:

Randy Bryant
Remedial Project Manager
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

As to the Superfund Enforcement and Information Management Branch:

Paula Painter
Superfund Enforcement and Information
Management Branch
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

As to the State:

Nile Testerman
State Project Coordinator
401 Oberlin Road
Suite 150
Raleigh, NC 27605

As to the Settling Defendant:

Secretary
Domtar Paper Company LLC
395 de Maisonneuve Blvd, West
Montreal, CANADA QC H3A IL6

Marcel Sylvestre
Domtar Paper Company LLC
Director-Soil Rehabilitation
395 de Maisonneuve Blvd, West
Montreal, CANADA QC H3A IL6

XXVII. EFFECTIVE DATE

99. The effective date of this Consent Decree shall be the date upon which this Consent Decree is entered by the Court, except as otherwise provided herein.

XXVIII. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

100. This Court retains jurisdiction over both the subject matter of this Consent Decree and the Settling Defendant for the duration of the performance of the terms and provisions of this Consent Decree for the purpose of enabling any of the Parties to apply to the Court at any time for such further order, direction, and relief as may be necessary or appropriate for the construction or modification of this Consent Decree, or to effectuate or enforce compliance with its terms, or to resolve disputes in accordance with Section XIX (Dispute Resolution) hereof.

XXIX. APPENDICES

101. The following appendices are attached to and incorporated into this Consent Decree:

“Appendix A” is the ROD.

“Appendix B” is the SOW.

“Appendix C” is the description and/or map of OU-4.

XXX. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

102. Settling Defendant shall propose to EPA its participation in the community relations plan to be developed by EPA. EPA will determine the appropriate role for the Settling Defendant under the Plan. Settling Defendant shall also cooperate with EPA in providing information regarding the Work to the public. As requested by EPA, Settling Defendant shall participate in the preparation of such information for dissemination to the public and in public meetings which may be held or sponsored by EPA to explain activities at or relating to OU-4.

103. EPA and Settling Defendant previously entered into a Consent Decree for the closure of the Former No. 1 Landfill (hereafter “Consent Decree for OU1”) which was lodged with the Court in Civil Action No. 4:03-CV-90(H)(3), and was entered by the Court on August 18, 2003. The Consent Decree for OU1 sets forth requirements for the creation, funding, and implementation of a Technical Assistance Plan (TAP). The Parties agree that there should be

one TAP for OU1, OU3 and OU-4. To that end, the terms of Paragraph 103 of the Consent Decree for OU1 are incorporated by this reference as if fully set forth, and Settling Defendant shall create, fund, and implement one TAP for OU1, OU3, and OU-4 in accordance therewith.

XXXI. MODIFICATION

104. Schedules specified in this Consent Decree for completion of the Work may be modified by agreement of EPA and the Settling Defendant. All such modifications shall be made in writing.

105. Except as provided in Paragraph 14 (Modification of the SOW or Related Work Plans), no material modifications shall be made to the SOW without written notification to and written approval of the United States, Settling Defendant, and the Court, if such modifications fundamentally alter the basic features of the selected remedy within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. 300.435(c)(2)(B)(ii). Prior to providing its approval to any modification, the United States will provide the State with a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on the proposed modification. Modifications to the SOW that do not materially alter that document, or material modifications to the SOW that do not fundamentally alter the basic features of the selected remedy within the meaning of 40 C.F.R.300.435(c)(2)(B)(ii), may be made by written agreement between EPA, after providing the State with a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on the proposed modification, and the Settling Defendant.

106. Nothing in this Decree shall be deemed to alter the Court's power to enforce, supervise or approve modifications to this Consent Decree.

XXXII. LODGING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

107. This Consent Decree shall be lodged with the Court for a period of not less than thirty (30) days for public notice and comment in accordance with Section 122(d)(2) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9622(d)(2), and 28 C.F.R. § 50.7. The United States reserves the right to withdraw or withhold its consent if the comments regarding the Consent Decree disclose facts or considerations which indicate that the Consent Decree is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. Settling Defendant consents to the entry of this Consent Decree without further notice.

108. If for any reason the Court should decline to approve this Consent Decree in the form presented, this agreement is voidable at the sole discretion of any Party and the terms of the agreement may not be used as evidence in any litigation between the Parties.

XXXIII. AGREEMENT OF PARTIES FOR SUPERFUND ALTERNATIVE SITE

109. Settling Defendant acknowledges and stipulates that for the purposes of 113(g)(1) of CERCLA, it agrees not to assert a challenge to the United States' natural resource damages claims based on the running of the statute of limitations for three (3) years after the completion of the remedial actions, excluding operation and maintenance, taken at the Site.

110. Settling Defendant agrees not to challenge, either directly or indirectly, through an officer, employee, or corporate affiliate, any listing or proposed listing of the Site on the NPL, if EPA has determined that Settling Defendant is in "noncompliance" at OU-4 because Settling Defendant: 1) has ceased implementation of any portion of the Work; 2) is seriously or repeatedly deficient or late in its performance of the Work; or 3) is implementing the Work in a manner which may cause an endangerment to human health or the environment, and which

noncompliance constitutes bad faith on the part of Settling Defendant.

111. If EPA makes a determination of noncompliance pursuant to Paragraph 111, then EPA shall notify Settling Defendant of such determination in writing. EPA's written determination shall be final and unreviewable, unless Settling Defendant invokes dispute resolution pursuant to Section XIX. The dispute shall be limited solely to whether pursuant to Paragraph 111, Settling Defendant is in "noncompliance" at OU-4 and shall be reviewable under Paragraph 66. Dispute resolution pursuant to this Section shall not have any effect on the Settling Defendant's obligations pursuant to this Consent Decree, including but not limited to, Settling Defendant's obligation to perform the Work and reimburse EPA for Interim and Future Response Costs.

112. If EPA proposes the Site for listing or lists the Site on the NPL without first making a determination of noncompliance pursuant to the preceding Paragraph, then Settling Defendant reserves all rights, except as provided in Paragraph 113, that it may have to challenge the listing or proposed listing of the Site on the NPL. EPA's decision to propose the Site for listing or to list the Site on the NPL pursuant to this Section shall not have any effect on the Defendant's obligations pursuant to this Consent Decree.

113. Notwithstanding Paragraphs 111-112, Settling Defendant agrees not to seek judicial review of a decision to list the Site on the NPL, or to submit comments on a proposal to list the Site, directly or indirectly through a third party, anytime after the Effective Date of this Consent Decree, based on a claim that changed conditions at OU-4 that result from this Consent Decree in any way affect the basis for listing the Site on the NPL.

XXXIV. SIGNATORIES/SERVICE

114. Each undersigned representative of the Settling Defendant to this Consent Decree and the Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree and to execute and legally bind such Party to this document.

115. The Settling Defendant hereby agrees not to oppose entry of this Consent Decree by this Court or to challenge any provision of this Consent Decree unless the United States has notified the Settling Defendant in writing that it no longer supports entry of the Consent Decree.

116. The Settling Defendant shall identify, on the attached signature page, the name, address and telephone number of an agent who is authorized to accept service of process by mail on behalf of that Party with respect to all matters arising under or relating to this Consent Decree. Settling Defendant hereby agrees to accept service in that manner and to waive the formal service requirements set forth in Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and any applicable local rules of this Court, including, but not limited to, service of a summons. The parties agree that Settling Defendant need not file an answer to the complaint in this action unless or until the court expressly declines to enter this Consent Decree.

XXXV. FINAL JUDGMENT

117. This Consent Decree and its appendices constitute the final, complete, and exclusive agreement and understanding among the parties with respect to the settlement embodied in the Consent Decree. The parties acknowledge that there are no representations, agreements or understandings relating to the settlement other than those expressly contained in this Consent Decree.

118. Upon approval and entry of this Consent Decree by the Court, this Consent Decree shall constitute a final judgment between and among the United States and the Settling Defendant. The Court finds that there is no just reason for delay and therefore enters this judgment as a final judgment under Fed. R. Civ. P. 54 and 58.

SO ORDERED THIS __ DAY OF _____, 20__.

United States District Judge

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTY enters into this Consent Decree in the matter of United States v. Domtar Paper Company LLC., for Welch Creek (OU-4) of the Domtar (formerly Weyerhaeuser Company) Superfund Site in Plymouth, Martin County, North Carolina.

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

October 6, 2008
Date

Bruce S. Gelber
Section Chief
Environmental Enforcement Section
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

October 6, 2008
Date

Amy R. Gillespie
Environmental Enforcement Section
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611
(202) 616-8754

N.C. Bar No. 20511

George E. B. Holding
United States Attorney

10/20/08
Date

by _____
R.A. Renfer, Jr.
Chief, Civil Division
Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of North Carolina
U.S. Department of Justice
310 New Bern Avenue
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1461

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTY enters into this Consent Decree in the matter of United States v. Domtar Paper LLC., for Welch Creek (OU-4) of the Domtar (formerly Weyerhaeuser Company) Site in, Martin County, North Carolina.

9/10/08
Date

Franklin Hill
Director, Superfund Division
Region 4
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

9/14/08
Date

Kevin T. Beswick
Associate Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTY enters into this Consent Decree in the matter of United States v. Domtar Paper LLC., for Welch Creek (OU-4) of the Domtar (formerly Weyerhaeuser Company) Site in, Martin County, North Carolina.

FOR DOMTAR PAPER COMPANY LLC

6/27/08

Date

Signature: _____

Name (print): Marvin D. Cooper

Title: Executive Vice President & COO

Address: 100 Kingsley Park Drive

Fort Mill, SC 29715

Agent Authorized to Accept Service on Behalf of Above-signed Party:

Name (print): The National Registered Agents, Inc.

Title: Attention: Domtar Paper LLC

Address: 160 Greentree Drive, Suite 101

Dover, Kent County

Delaware 19904

Ph. Number: 800-767-1553