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EPA REGION VIII  
HEARING CLERK

UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
	)	FOR RECOVERY
	)	OF PAST RESPONSE COSTS
Colorado Bumper Exchange	)	
Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado	)	U.S. EPA Region 8
	)	CERCLA Docket No. <b>CERCLA-08-2010-0002</b>
Colorado Bumper Exchange, Inc.	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	
SETTLING PARTY	)	PROCEEDING UNDER SECTION
	)	122(h)(1) OF CERCLA
_____	)	42 U.S.C. § 9622(h)(1)

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## **I. JURISDICTION**

1. This Settlement Agreement is entered into pursuant to the authority vested in the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) by Section 122(h)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (“CERCLA”), 42 U.S.C. § 9622(h)(1), which authority has been delegated to the Regional Administrators of the EPA by EPA Delegation No. 14-14-D.

2. This Settlement Agreement is made and entered into by EPA and Colorado Bumper Exchange, Inc. (“Settling Party”). For purposes of enforcement of this Settlement Agreement, the Settling Party consents to and will not contest EPA’s authority to enter into this Settlement Agreement or to implement or enforce its terms.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

3. This Settlement Agreement concerns the Colorado Bumper Exchange Site (“Site”) located at 4804 Dillon Drive, Pueblo, Colorado. EPA alleges that the Site is a “facility” as defined by Section 101(9) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9).

4. In response to the release or threatened release of hazardous substances at or from the Site, EPA undertook response actions at the Site pursuant to Section 104 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9604. Specifically, TCLP chromium was found at the Site. Based on the Available Information presently in its possession, EPA does not believe there is a need to take further response action at the Site.

5. In performing response actions, EPA has incurred response costs at or in connection with the Site.

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

7. EPA has determined that the total past and projected response costs of the United States at or in connection with the Site will not exceed \$100,000, excluding interest.

8. EPA and the Settling Party recognize that this Settlement Agreement has been negotiated in good faith and that this Settlement Agreement is entered into without the admission or adjudication of any issue of fact or law. The Settling Party does not agree with all of the findings of fact contained in this Section II.

## **III. PARTIES BOUND**

9. This Settlement Agreement shall be binding upon EPA and the Settling Party, Colorado Bumper Exchange, Inc, and its successors and assigns. Any change in ownership or corporate or other legal status of the Settling Party, including but not limited to, any transfer of assets or real or personal property, shall in no way alter the Settling Party’s responsibilities under

this Settlement Agreement. Each signatory to this Settlement Agreement certifies that he or she is authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement and to bind legally the Settling Party represented by him or her.

#### **IV. DEFINITIONS**

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

- a. "Settlement Agreement" shall mean this Settlement Agreement.
- b. "CERCLA" shall mean the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9601, et seq.
- c. "Day" shall mean a calendar day. In computing any period of time under this Settlement Agreement, where the last day would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, the period shall run until the close of business of the next working day.
- d. "EPA" shall mean the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any successor departments, agencies or instrumentalities of the United States.
- e. "Effective Date" shall mean the effective date of this Settlement Agreement as provided by Section XV.
- f. "Available Information" shall mean all information in EPA's possession as of the Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement.
- g. "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.
- h. "Paragraph" shall mean a portion of this Settlement Agreement identified by an Arabic numeral or a lower case letter.
- i. "Parties" shall mean EPA and the Settling Party.
- j. "Past Response Costs" shall mean all costs, including but not limited to direct and indirect costs, that EPA or the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of EPA has paid at or in connection with the Site through the Effective Date, plus accrued Interest on all such costs through such date.

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

l. "Settling Party" shall mean Colorado Bumper Exchange, Inc.

m. "Site" shall mean the Colorado Bumper Exchange Superfund Site, located at 4804 Dillon Drive, Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado.

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

#### **V. PAYMENT OF RESPONSE COSTS**

11. Within 30 days of the Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement, the Settling Party shall pay to EPA \$18,000.00 in Past Response Costs. Payment shall be made by certified or cashier's check made payable to "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund." Each check, or a letter accompanying each check, shall identify the name and address of the party making payment, the Site name, the EPA Region and Site ID Number 08JG, and the EPA docket number for this action. The Settling Party shall send the check(s) to:

**REGULAR MAIL:** US Environmental Protection Agency  
Superfund Payments  
Cincinnati Finance Center  
PO Box 979076  
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

**OVERNIGHT MAIL:** U.S. Bank  
Government Lockbox 979077  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Superfund Payments  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL  
St. Louis, MO 63101

**WITH A COPY TO:** Judith Binegar, 8ENF-RC  
US EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129

12. At the time of payment, the Settling Party shall also send notice that payment has been made to EPA by sending an e-mail to [accountsreceivable.cinwf@epa.gov](mailto:accountsreceivable.cinwf@epa.gov) and in accordance with Section XII (Notices and Submissions). Such notice shall reference the EPA Region and Site ID Number 08JG.

13. The total amount to be paid pursuant to Paragraph 11 shall be deposited in the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund.

## VI. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

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

15. Stipulated Penalty.

a. In addition to the Interest required by Paragraph 14, if any amounts due to EPA under Paragraph 11 are not paid by the required due date, the Settling Party shall be in violation of this Settlement Agreement and the following stipulated penalties shall accrue per violation per day as set forth below:

Penalty Per Violation Per Day	Period of Noncompliance
\$500	1st through 14th day
\$1,000	15th through 30th day
\$37,500	31st day and beyond

b. Stipulated penalties are due and payable within 30 days of the date of demand for payment of the penalties by EPA. All payments to EPA under this Paragraph shall be identified as "stipulated penalties" and shall be made payable to "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund." The check, or a letter accompanying the check, shall reference the name and address of the Settling Party making payment, the Site name, the EPA Region and Site ID Number 08JG. The Settling Party shall send the check (and any accompanying letter) to:

**REGULAR MAIL:**

US Environmental Protection Agency  
Fines and Penalties  
Cincinnati Finance Center  
PO Box 979076  
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

**OVERNIGHT MAIL:**

U.S. Bank  
Government Lockbox 979077  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Fines and Penalties  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
314-418-1028

**WITH A COPY TO:**

Judith Binegar, 8ENF-RC  
US EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129

c. At the time of each payment, the Settling Party shall also send notice that payment has been made to EPA in accordance with Paragraph 12 and Section XII (Notices and Submissions). Such notice shall identify the EPA Region and Site ID Number 08JG and the EPA Docket Number for this action.

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

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

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

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

18. Except as specifically provided in Section VIII (Reservations of Rights by EPA), and in consideration of the payment to be made by the Settling Party as provided in Paragraph 11 of Section V, EPA covenants not to sue or take administrative action against the Settling Party pursuant to Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a), to recover Past Response Costs. This covenant shall take effect upon receipt by EPA of all amounts required by Section V (Payment of Response Costs) and any amounts due under Section VI (Failure to Comply with Settlement Agreement). This covenant not to sue is conditioned upon the satisfactory performance by the Settling Party of its obligations under this Settlement Agreement. This covenant not to sue extends only to the Settling Party and does not extend to any other person.

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

19. EPA reserves, and this Settlement Agreement is without prejudice to, all rights against the Settling Party with respect to all matters not expressly included within the Covenant Not to Sue by EPA in Paragraph 18. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Settlement Agreement, EPA reserves all rights against the Settling Party with respect to:

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

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

#### **IX. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY THE SETTLING PARTY**

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

- a. any direct or indirect claim for reimbursement from the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund based on Sections 106(b)(2), 107, 111, 112, or 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606(b)(2), 9607, 9611, 9612, or 9613, or any other provision of law;
- b. any claims arising out of the response actions at the Site for which the Past Response Costs were incurred, including any claim under the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Colorado, the Tucker Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1491, the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, as amended, or at common law; and
- c. any claim against the United States pursuant to Sections 107 and 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607 and 9613, relating to Past Response Costs.

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

#### **X. EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT/CONTRIBUTION**

23. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed to create any rights in, or grant any cause of action to, any person not a Party to this Settlement Agreement. The Parties

expressly reserve any and all rights (including, but not limited to, any right to contribution), defenses, claims, demands, and causes of action that they may have with respect to any matter, transaction, or occurrence relating in any way to the Site against any person not a Party hereto. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement diminishes the right of the United States, pursuant to Section 113(f)(2) and (3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(f)(2)-(3), to pursue any such persons to obtain additional response costs or response action and to enter into settlements that give rise to contribution protection pursuant to Section 113(f)(2).

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

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

26. The Settling Party agrees that with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought by it for matters related to this Settlement Agreement, it will notify EPA in writing no later than sixty (60) days prior to the initiation of such suit or claim. The Settling Party also agrees that, with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought against it for matters related to this Settlement Agreement, it will notify EPA in writing within ten (10) days of service of the complaint or claim upon it. In addition, the Settling Party shall notify EPA within ten (10) days of service or receipt of any Motion for Summary Judgment and within ten (10) days of receipt of any order from a court setting a case for trial, for matters related to this Settlement Agreement.

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

## **XI. RETENTION OF RECORDS**

28. Until five (5) years after the Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement, the Settling Party shall preserve and retain all records, reports, or information (hereinafter referred to as "records") now in its possession or control, or which come into its possession or control, that relate in any manner to response actions taken at the Site or to the liability of any person under CERCLA with respect to the Site, regardless of any corporate retention policy to the contrary.

29. After the conclusion of the five (5) year document retention period in Paragraph 28, the Settling Party shall notify EPA at least ninety (90) days prior to the destruction of any such records and, upon request by EPA, the Settling Party shall deliver any such records to EPA. The Settling Party may assert that certain records are privileged under the attorney-client privilege or any other privilege, protection or doctrine recognized by federal law. If the Settling Party asserts such a privilege, it shall provide EPA with the following: 1) the title of the record; 2) the date of the record; 3) the name, title, affiliation (e.g., company or firm), and address of the author of the record; 4) the name and title of each addressee and recipient; 5) a description of the subject of the record; and 6) the privilege asserted. If a claim of privilege applies only to a portion of a record, the record shall be provided to EPA in redacted form to mask the privileged information only. The Settling Party shall retain all records that they claim to be privileged until EPA has had a reasonable opportunity to dispute the privilege claim and any such dispute has been resolved in the Settling Party's favor. However, no records created or generated pursuant to the requirements of this or any other settlement with the EPA pertaining to the Site shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged.

30. The Settling Party hereby certifies individually that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, after thorough inquiry, it has not altered, mutilated, discarded, destroyed or otherwise disposed of any records, reports, or information relating to its potential liability regarding the Site since notification of potential liability by the United States and that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, it has fully complied with any and all EPA requests for information pursuant to Sections 104(e) and 122(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604(e) and 9622(e), and Section 3007 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6927.

## **XII. NOTICES AND SUBMISSIONS**

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

As to EPA:

Judith Binegar  
USEPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street (8ENF-RC)  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129

and

Only for notice required by Paragraphs 12 and 15.c.:

Martha Walker  
USEPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street (8TMS-F)  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129

As to the Settling Party:

Gerald F. Vanner, President  
Colorado Bumper Exchange, Inc.  
c/o Denver Bumper Works  
830 Wyandot Street  
Denver, Colorado 80204

**XIII. INTEGRATION**

32. This Settlement Agreement constitutes the final, complete and exclusive agreement and understanding among the Parties with respect to the settlement embodied in this Settlement Agreement. The Parties acknowledge that there are no representations, agreements or understandings relating to the settlement other than those expressly contained in this Settlement Agreement.

**XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

33. This Settlement Agreement shall be subject to a public comment period of not less than thirty (30) days pursuant to Section 122(I) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9622(I). In accordance with Section 122(i)(3) of CERCLA, EPA may modify or withdraw its consent to this Settlement Agreement if comments received disclose facts or considerations which indicate that this Settlement Agreement is inappropriate, improper or inadequate. If EPA modifies or withdraws its consent to this Settlement Agreement, the Settling Party may also withdraw its consent, and this Settlement Agreement shall be null and void.

**XV. EFFECTIVE DATE**

34. The Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement shall be the date upon which EPA issues written notice that the public comment period pursuant to Paragraph 33 has closed and that comments received, if any, do not require modification of or EPA withdrawal from this Settlement Agreement.

IT IS SO AGREED:

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

By: Matthew Cohn Date: 1/14/10  
Matthew Cohn, Supervisory Attorney  
Legal Enforcement Program  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance and Environmental Justice

By: Kelcey Land Date: 1/22/10  
Kelcey Land, Acting Director  
Technical Enforcement Program  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance and Environmental Justice

THE UNDERSIGNED SETTLING PARTY enters into this Settlement Agreement in the matter of the Colorado Bumper Exchange Site, Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado.

**COLORADO BUMPER EXCHANGE, INC.**

By: Gerald F. Vanner Date: 12-29-09  
Gerald F. Vanner, President  
Colorado Bumper Exchange, Inc.  
c/o Denver Bumper Works  
830 Wyandot Street  
Denver, Colorado 80204