UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 7 11201 RENNER BLVD. LENEXA, KANSAS 66219

| IN THE MATTER OF: | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| |) |
| | ĺ |
| BEATRICE FORMER MANUFACTURED | , |
| GAS PLANT SUPERFUND SITE |) |
| | , |
| Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska |) |
| NEN000704084 |) |
| SSID NO. A72R |) |
| |) Docket No. CERCLA-07-2017-0004 |
| CITY OF BEATRICE, NEBRASKA and |) |
| CENTEL CORPORATION |) PROCEEDING UNDER |
| OBIVIDE COM OIGHTON | , |
| |) SECTION 122(h)(1) OF CERCLA |
| SETTLING PARTIES |) 42 U.S.C. § 9622(h)(1) |
| |) |
| |) |

ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FOR RECOVERY OF RESPONSE COSTS

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I. JURISDICTION

- 1. This Administrative Settlement Agreement for Recovery of Response Costs ("Settlement Agreement") is entered into pursuant to the authority vested in the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by Section 122(h)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (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 (Cost Recovery Non-Judicial Agreements and Administrative Consent Orders) and redelegated to the Director of the Superfund Division, EPA, Region 7, by Regional Delegation No. R7-14-014-D.
- 2. This Settlement Agreement is made and entered into by EPA, and Centel Corporation and the City of Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska ("Settling Parties"). Each 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 Beatrice Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site ("Site") located in Beatrice, Nebraska. 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, and incurred Response Costs.
- 5. EPA alleges that the Settling Parties are responsible parties pursuant to Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a), and are jointly and severally liable for Response Costs incurred at or in connection with the Site.
- 6. EPA and the Settling Parties 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 actions undertaken by the Settling Parties in accordance with this Settlement Agreement do not constitute an admission of any liability by any Settling Party. The Settling Parties do not admit, and retain 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 this Section.

III. PARTIES BOUND

7. This Settlement Agreement shall be binding upon EPA and upon the Settling Parties and their successors, and assigns. Any change in ownership or corporate or other legal status of a Settling Party, including but not limited to, any transfer of assets or real or personal property, shall in no way alter such 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 party represented by him or her.

IV. DEFINITIONS

8. Unless otherwise expressly provided in this Settlement Agreement, 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 or its appendices, the following definitions shall apply:

"CERCLA" shall mean the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601-9675.

"Day" or "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 or State holiday, the period shall run until the close of business of the next working day.

"DOJ" shall mean the U.S. Department of Justice and its successor departments, agencies and instrumentalities.

"Effective Date" shall mean the effective date of this Settlement Agreement as provided by Section XVII.

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

"EPA Hazardous Suhstance Superfund" shall mean the Hazardous Suhstance Superfund established by the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 9507.

"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. Rates are available online at http://www2.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-interest-rates.

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

"Parties" shall mean the United States and Settling Parties.

"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 from October 1, 1980 through the Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement, plus accrued Interest on all such costs through such Effective Date.

"RCRA" shall mean the Solid Waste Disposal Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6901-6992 (also known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act).

"Settling Parties" shall mean Centel Corporation and the City of Beatrice, Nebraska.

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

"Settlement Agreement" shall mean this Administrative Settlement Agreement for Recovery of Response Costs.

"Site" shall mean the Beatrice Former Manufactured Gas Plant Superfund Site located at the southwest corner of First and Market Streets, in Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska, and generally designated by the following property description: Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, Block 71, original town, now City of Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska.

"State" shall mean the State of Nebraska.

"United States" shall mean the United States of America and each department, agency, and instrumentality of the United States, including EPA.

V. PAYMENT OF RESPONSE COSTS

- Payment by Settling Parties for Response Costs. Within 7 days after the Settling Parties receive notice from EPA that this Settlement Agreement has been signed by EPA and approved by the Attomey General or his or her designee, the Settling Parties shall deposit \$186,273 into an interest-bearing escrow account in a duly chartered bank or trust company that is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as final payment of Response Costs through the Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement. If the Settlement Agreement is not made effective after public comment, the monies place in escrow, together with accrued interest thereon, shall be returned to the Settling Parties. If the Settlement Agreement is made effective after public comment, the Settling Parties shall, within 15 days after the Effective Date, cause the monies in the Escrow Account, together with accrued interest thereon, to be paid to EPA in accordance with Paragraphs 11 (Deposit of Payment) and 13 (Interest on Late Payments) below.
- 10. The Settling Parties shall make payment to EPA by Fedwire Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York

ABA = 021030004

Account = 68010727

SWIFT address = FRNYUS33

33 Liberty Street

New York, NY 10045

Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read "D 68010727

Environmental Protection Agency"

Such payment shall reference Site/Spill I.D. Number A72R and the EPA docket number for this action.

- 11. <u>Deposit of Payment</u>. The total amount to be paid by the Settling Parties pursuant to Paragraph 9 (Payment by Settling Parties for Response Costs) of this Settlement Agreement shall be deposited by EPA in the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund.
- 12. <u>Notice of Payment</u>. At the time of payment, the Settling Parties shall send notice that payment has been made to EPA in accordance with Section XIII (Notices and Submissions), and to the EPA Cincinnati Finance Center (CFC) by email or by regular mail at:

EPA CFC by email: cinwd acctsreceivable@epa.gov

EPA CFC by regular mail: EPA Cincinnati Finance Center

26 W. Martin Luther King Drive

Cincinnati, Ohio 45268

Such notice shall reference Site/Spill ID Number A72R and the EPA docket number for this action.

VI. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

13. <u>Interest on Late Payments</u>. If the Settling Parties fail to make any payment required by Paragraph 9 (Payment by Settling Parties for Response Costs) by the required due date, Interest shall continue to accrue on the unpaid balance through the date of payment.

14. Stipulated Penalty.

- a. If any amounts due to EPA under Paragraph 9 (Payment by Settling Parties for Response Costs) are not paid by the required date, the Settling Parties shall be in violation of this Settlement Agreement and shall pay to EPA, as a stipulated penalty, in addition to the Interest required by Paragraph 13 (Interest on Late Payments), \$200 per day that such payment is late.
- b. Stipulated penalties are due and payable within 30 days after the date of demand for payment of the penalties by EPA. The Settling Parties shall identify all payments to EPA under this Paragraph as "Stipulated Penalties," shall reference Site/Spill ID Number A72R and the EPA docket number for this action, and shall make payment by Fedwire Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York

ABA = 021030004

Account = 68010727

SWIFT address = FRNYUS33

33 Liberty Street

New York, NY 10045

Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read "D 68010727

Environmental Protection Agency"

- c. At the time of payment, the Settling Parties shall send notice that payment has been made as provided in Paragraph 12 (Notice of Payment).
- d. Penalties shall accrue as provided in this Paragraph regardless of whether EPA has notified the Settling Parties 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 in this Settlement Agreement shall prevent the simultaneous accrual of separate penalties for separate violations of this Settlement Agreement.
- 15. 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 Parties' failure to comply with the requirements of this Settlement Agreement, any 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 Parties shall reimburse the United States for all costs of such action, including but not limited to costs of attorney time.
- 16. The obligations of the Settling Parties to pay amounts owed to EPA under this Settlement Agreement are joint and several. In the event of the insolvency of any Settling Party or the failure by any Settling Party to make the payments required under this Settlement Agreement, the remaining Settling Party shall be responsible for such payments.
- 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 Parties from payment as required by Section V (Payment of Response Costs) or from performance of any other requirements of this Settlement Agreement.

VII. COVENANT BY EPA

18. Covenant for Settling Parties by EPA. Except as specifically provided in Section VIII (Reservations of Rights by EPA), the United States covenants not to sue or take administrative action against the Settling Parties pursuant to Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a), to recover Response Costs. This covenant shall take effect upon the Effective Date. This covenant is conditioned upon the satisfactory performance by the Settling Parties of their obligations under this Settlement Agreement. This covenant extends only to Settling Parties and does not extend to any other person.

VIII. RESERVATIONS OF RIGHTS BY EPA

- 19. The EPA reserves, and this Settlement Agreement is without prejudice to, all rights against the Settling Parties with respect to all matters not expressly included within Paragraph 18 (Covenant for Settling Parties by EPA). Notwithstanding any other provision of this Settlement Agreement, the United States reserves, and this Settlement Agreement is without prejudice to, all rights against the Settling Parties with respect to:
- a. liability for failure of the Settling Parties 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 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, that the United States may have against any person, firm, corporation or other entity not a signatory to this Settlement Agreement.

IX. COVENANTS BY SETTLING PARTIES

- 21. Covenants by Settling Parties. The Settling Parties covenant not to sue and agree not to assert any claims or causes of action against the United States, or its contractors or employees, with respect to Response Costs and 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 Response Costs were incurred, including any claim under the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, the Tucker Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1491, the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, or at common law; and
- c. any claim pursuant to Section 107 or 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607 or 9613, Section 7002(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6972(a), or state law for 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. Except as provided in Section IX (Covenants by Settling Parties), each of the Settling Parties expressly reserves any and all rights (including, but not limited to, pursuant to Section 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613), defenses, claims, demands, and causes of action that it 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. The Parties agree that this Settlement Agreement constitutes an administrative settlement pursuant to which each Settling Party has, as of the Effective Date, resolved liability to the United States within the meaning of Sections 113(f)(2) and 122(h)(4) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9613(f)(2) and 9622(h)(4), and 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, or as may be otherwise provided by law, for the "matters addressed" in this Settlement Agreement. The "matters addressed" in this Settlement Agreement are Response Costs.
- 25. The Parties further agree that this Settlement Agreement constitutes an administrative settlement pursuant to which each Settling Party has, as of the Effective Date, resolved hability to the United States within the meaning of Section 113(f)(3)(B) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(f)(3)(B).
- 26. Each Settling Party shall, with respect to any suit or claim brought by it for matters related to this Settlement Agreement, notify EPA in writing no later than 60 days prior to the initiation of such suit or claim. Each Settling Party also shall, with respect to any suit or claim brought against it for matters related to this Settlement Agreement, notify EPA in writing within 10 days after service of the complaint or claim upon it. In addition, each Settling Party shall notify EPA within 10 days after service or receipt of any Motion for Summary Judgment and within 10 days after 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 hehalf of EPA, for injunctive relief, recovery of response costs, or other relief relating to the Site, the Settling Parties 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 hrought in the instant case; provided, however, that nothing in this Paragraph affects the enforceability of the Covenants by EPA set forth in Section VII.
- 28. Effective upon signature of this Settlement Agreement by a Settling Party, such Settling Party agrees that the time period commencing on the date of its signature and ending on the date EPA receives from such Settling Party the payment(s) required by Section V (Payment of Response Costs) and, if any, Section VI (Failure to Comply with Settlement Agreement) shall not be included in computing the running of any statute of limitations potentially applicable to any action brought by the United States related to the "matters addressed" as defined in Paragraph 24, and that, in any action brought by the United States related to the "matters addressed," such Settling Party will not assert, and may not maintain, any defense or claim based upon principles of statute of limitations, waiver, laches, estoppel, or other defense based on the passage of time during such period. If EPA gives notice to Settling Parties that it will not make this Settlement Agreement effective, the statute of limitations shall begin to run again commencing 90 days after the date such notice is sent by EPA.

XI. RETENTION OF RECORDS

- 29. Until 3 years after the Effective Date, each Settling Party shall preserve and retain all non-identical copies of records, reports, documents, and other information (including records, reports, documents, and other information in electronic form) (hereinafter referred to as "Records") now in its possession or control, or that come into its possession or control, that relate in any manner to liability of any person under CERCLA with respect to the Site and to EPA's claim for Response Costs. This record retention requirement shall apply regardless of any Settling Party's document retention policy to the contrary.
- 30. At any time following the Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement, the Settling Parties shall notify EPA at least 90 days prior to the destruction of any such Records and, upon request by EPA, and except as provided in Paragraph 31 (Privileged and Protected Claims), Settling Parties shall deliver any such Records to EPA.

31. Privileged and Protected Claims.

- a. The Settling Parties may assert that all or part of a Record is privileged or protected as provided under federal law, provided they comply with Paragraph 31.b, and except as provided in Paragraph 31.c.
- b. If the Settling Parties assert a claim of privilege or protection, they shall provide EPA with the following information regarding such Record: its title; its date; the name, title, affiliation (e.g., company or firm), and address of the author, each addressee, and of each recipient; a description of the Record's contents; and the privilege or protection asserted. If a claim of privilege or protection applies only to a portion of a Record, the Settling Parties shall provide the Record to EPA in redacted form to mask the privileged or protected information only. The Settling Parties shall retain all Records that they claim to be privileged or protected until the United States has had a reasonable opportunity to dispute the privilege or protection claim and any such dispute has been resolved in the Settling Parties' favor.
- c. The Settling Parties may make no claim of privilege or protection regarding:
 - (1) any data regarding the Site, including but not limited to, all sampling, analytical, monitoring, hydrogeologic, scientific, chemical, radiological, or engineering data, or the portion of any other Record that evidences conditions at or around the Site; or
 - (2) the portion of any Record that the Settling Parties are required to create or generate pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.
- 32. Business Confidential Claims. The Settling Parties may assert that all or part of a Record submitted to EPA under this Section or Section XI (Retention of Records) is business confidential 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). The Settling Parties shall segregate and clearly identify all Records or parts thereof submitted under this Settlement Agreement for which the Settling Parties assert a business confidentiality claim. Records submitted to EPA determined to be confidential by EPA will be accorded the protection specified in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. If no claim of confidentiality accompanies Records when they are submitted to EPA, or if EPA

has notified the Settling Parties that the Records 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 Records without further notice to the Settling Parties.

- 33. Each Settling Party 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 (other than identical copies) relating to its potential liability regarding the Site since notification of potential liability by the United States or the State and that it has fully complied with any and all EPA and State requests for information regarding the Site pursuant to Sections 104(e) and 122(e)(3)(B) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e) and 9622(e)(3)(B), Section 3007 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6927, and state law.
- 34. Notwithstanding any provision of this Settlement Agreement, the United States retains all of it information gathering and inspection authorities and rights, including enforcement actions related thereto, under CERCLA, RCRA, and any other applicable statutes or regulations.

XII. NOTICES AND SUBMISSIONS

35. 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 Parties in writing. Except as otherwise provided, notice by email (if that option is provided below) or by regular mail in accordance with this Section satisfies any notice requirement of this Settlement Agreement regarding such Party.

As to EPA:

Owens Hull Project Manager U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 11201 Renner Blvd. Lenexa, Kansas 66219

As to Settling Parties:

Adam Troutwine Attorney Polsinelli 900 W. 48th Place, Suite 900 Kansas City, Missouri 64112

City Manager City of Beatrice 400 Ella Street Beatrice, Nebraska 68310

XIII. INTEGRATION

36. 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

37. This Settlement Agreement shall be subject to a public comment period of at least 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 that indicate that this Settlement Agreement is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate.

XV. ATTORNEY GENERAL APPROVAL

38. The Attorney General or his or her designee has approved the settlement embodied in this Settlement Agreement in accordance with Section 122(h)(1) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9622(h)(1).

XVI. EFFECTIVE DATE

39. 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 37 has closed and that comments received, if any, do not require modification of or EPA withdrawal from this Settlement Agreement.

IT IS SO AGREED:

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 7

Mary P. Peterson

Director

Superfund Division

Administrative Settlement Agreement For Recovery of Response Costs Beatrice Former Manufactured Gas Plant Superfund Site Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska

FOR CITY OF BEATRICE, NEBRASKA

Mated Dated

[Signature]

[Printed Name]

[Title]

400 Ella Street, Beatrice, NE 69310

Address

Administrative Settlement Agreement For Recovery of Response Costs Beatrice Former Manufactured Gas Plant Superfund Site Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska

FOR CENTEL CORPORATION

| 1 Dec 2016 | Seu BA | |
|------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Dated | [Signature] SRAN C LINDSAY | |
| | [Printed Name] | |
| | St. Counsel | |
| | 1901 CALIFORNIA ST., SMITE 900 | DENUER CO |
| | [Address] | 63202 |