# H. R. 4161

To amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to make comprehensive improvements in provisions relating to liability, State implementation, remedy selection, and funding.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 1994

Mr. Zeliff introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Public Works and Transportation, and Ways and Means

June 21, 1994

Additional sponsors: Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Shuster, Mr. Ewing, Mr. Clinger, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Barrett of Nebraska, Mrs. Johnson of Connecticut, Mr. Petri, Mr. Mica, and Mr. Emerson

## A BILL

To amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to make comprehensive improvements in provisions relating to liability, State implementation, remedy selection, and funding.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Comprehensive
- 5 Superfund Improvement Act".

### 1 SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

### 2 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.

### TITLE I—LIABILITY

- Sec. 101. Release of evidence.
- Sec. 102. Elimination of retroactive liability.
- Sec. 103. Limitation on liability of certain owners and operators.
- Sec. 104. Contribution protection.
- Sec. 105. Contiguous properties.
- Sec. 106. Lender and fiduciary liability.
- Sec. 107. Definitions.
- Sec. 108. Assignment of shares of liability for costs of response actions at national priority list sites.
- Sec. 109. Enforcement of response actions through joint and several liability.
- Sec. 110. Establishment of binding allocation of responsibility process.
- Sec. 111. Site redevelopment.
- Sec. 112. Liability of response action contractors.

#### TITLE II—STATE IMPLEMENTATION

- Sec. 201. State authority.
- Sec. 202. Transfer of authorities.
- Sec. 203. EPA oversight costs.

#### TITLE III—REMEDY SELECTION

- Sec. 301. Immediate risk reduction measures.
- Sec. 302. Site scoring.
- Sec. 303. Long-term response plan.
- Sec. 304. Long-term response selection.
- Sec. 305. Periodic review.
- Sec. 306. Delisting of facilities and sites.

#### TITLE IV—FUNDING

- Sec. 401. 5-year extension of Hazardous Substance Superfund.
- Sec. 402. Increase in environmental income tax.
- Sec. 403. Environmental fees and assessments on insurance companies.
- Sec. 404. Retroactive Liability Fund.

### 3 TITLE I—LIABILITY

### 4 SEC. 101. RELEASE OF EVIDENCE.

- 5 (a) Timely Access to Information Furnished
- 6 Under Section 104(e).—Section 104(e)(7)(A) of the
- 7 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation,
- 8 and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(e)(7)(A)) is

- 1 amended by inserting after "shall be available to the pub-
- 2 lic" the following: "not later than 14 days after the
- 3 records, reports, or information is obtained".
- 4 (b) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE PRPS EVIDENCE OF
- 5 Liability.—(1) Subsection (a) of section 106 of the Com-
- 6 prehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and
- 7 Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9607(a)) is amended by
- 8 adding at the end the following: "In any case in which
- 9 the President issues an order to a person under this sub-
- 10 section, the President shall provide information concerning
- 11 the evidence that indicates that each element of liability
- 12 contained in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section
- 13 107(a)(1) is present.".
- 14 (2) Section 122(e)(1) of such Act is amended by in-
- 15 serting after subparagraph (C) the following:
- 16 "(D) For each potentially responsible
- party, the evidence that indicates that each ele-
- ment of liability contained in subparagraph (A),
- 19 (B), (C), or (D) of section 107(a)(1) is
- present.".
- 21 SEC. 102. ELIMINATION OF RETROACTIVE LIABILITY.
- Section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
- 23 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
- 24 U.S.C. 9607(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
- 25 lowing new subsection:

1	"(n) Retroactive Liability Cut-Off Date; Cost
2	REIMBURSEMENT PROVISIONS.—
3	"(1) In general.—Subject to the provisions in
4	this subsection, a person is liable under this section
5	only for actions occurring after December 11, 1980.
6	The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to
7	actions occurring before December 11, 1980 which
8	were contrary to law at the time of the actions. Re-
9	imbursement or payment from the Retroactive Li-
10	ability Fund (established by section 9512 of the In-
11	ternal Revenue Code of 1986) shall be made pursu-
12	ant to section 508.
13	"(2) Pre-1981 sites.—With respect to sites or
14	facilities with respect to which all actions for which
15	liability arising under this Act occurred before De-
16	cember 11, 1980, the following rules apply:
17	"(A) Construction completed.—For
18	such sites or facilities where the construction of
19	the response action has been completed by Jan-
20	uary 1, 1994, no reimbursement may be made
21	from the Retroactivity Liability Fund to the po-
22	tentially responsible parties concerned for costs
23	incurred for such construction. If a potentially

responsible party is conducting operation and

maintenance related to the response action at

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the site or facility as of January 1, 1994, the President shall assume the future costs of such operation and maintenance and shall reimburse the party for such costs incurred.

- "(B) Construction ongoing.—For such sites or facilities where the construction of the response action has not been completed by January 1, 1994, reimbursement may be made to the potentially responsible parties concerned for costs incurred for such construction, but only after the construction is completed. After construction is complete, the President shall assume future costs for any operation and maintenance related to the response action.
- "(C) DISCOVERY AFTER JANUARY 1, 1994.—For such sites or facilities that are discovered after January 1, 1994, the President shall use amounts from the Retroactive Liability Fund to pay for all costs of the response action. Such costs shall not include attorney's fees or other costs associated with litigation related to the response action.
- "(3) STRADDLE SITES.—With respect to sites or facilities with respect to which actions for which liability arising under this Act occurred both before

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and after December 11, 1980, the following rules apply:

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED.—For such sites or facilities where the construction of the response action has been completed by January 1, 1994, no reimbursement may be made from the Retroactive Liability Fund to the potentially responsible parties concerned for costs incurred for such construction. If a potentially responsible party is conducting operation and maintenance related to the response action at the site or facility as of January 1, 1994, the potentially responsible party may, within 90 days after the date of enactment of the Comprehensive Superfund Improvement Act, petition the President for an allocation (in accordance with title V) of the operation and maintenance costs. The allocation shall determine which portion of the operation and maintenance costs are attributable to actions occurring before December 11, 1980, and which are attributable to actions occurring after such date, and shall provide for the reimbursement of the potentially responsible party, from the Retroactive Liability Fund, of those costs attributable to actions occurring before December 11, 1980.

> "(B) Construction ongoing.—For such sites or facilities where the construction of the response action has not been completed by January 1, 1994, the potentially responsible parties concerned shall complete construction and conduct any required operation and maintenance. A potentially responsible party may, with 90 days after construction of the response action is complete, petition the President for an allocation (in accordance with title V) of both the construction and operation and maintenance costs. The allocation shall determine which portion of the construction and operation and maintenance costs are attributable to actions occurring before December 11, 1980, and which are attributable to actions occurring after such date, and shall provide for the reimbursement of the potentially responsible party, from the Retroactive Liability Fund, of those costs attributable to actions occurring before December 11, 1980.

> "(C) DISCOVERY AFTER JANUARY 1, 1994.—For such sites or facilities that are dis-

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1	covered after January 1, 1994, the President
2	shall use amounts from the Retroactive Liabil-
3	ity Fund to pay for costs of the response action,
4	including construction and operation and main-
5	tenance, attributable to actions occurring before
6	December 11, 1980.
7	"(4) Definitions.—In this subsection:
8	"(A) The term 'actions' includes ownership or
9	operation of a facility at which hazardous substances
10	were disposed of, disposal of hazardous substances,
11	arrangement with a transporter for transport for
12	disposal or treatment of a hazardous substance, and
13	any other activities described in subsection (a).
14	"(B) The term 'person' has the meaning pro-
15	vided in section $101(21)$ but does not include the
16	United States Government.".
17	SEC. 103. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY OF CERTAIN OWNERS
18	AND OPERATORS.
19	(a) Exemption for Grantees of Certain Ease-
20	MENTS.—Subsection (a) of section 107 of the Comprehen-
21	sive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liabil-
22	ity Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9607(a)) is amended—
23	(1) in paragraph (4), by striking out "shall be
24	liable for—" and inserting in lieu thereof "shall be

1	liable, except as provided in paragraph (4), for the
2	costs and damages set forth in paragraph (2).";
3	(2) by inserting before subparagraph (A) the
4	following:
5	"(2) The costs and damages for which persons de-
6	scribed in paragraph (1) shall be liable are—'';
7	(3) by aligning the margins of subparagraphs
8	(A), (B), (C), and (D) so as to be cut in two ems;
9	(4) by inserting "(1)" before "Notwithstanding
10	any other provision or rule of law,";
11	(5) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3),
12	and (4) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D), re-
13	spectively;
14	(6) by inserting "(3)" before the text beginning
15	with "The amounts recoverable in an action under
16	this section" (and aligning such text as a paragraph
17	below paragraphs (1) and (2) (as redesignated)) and
18	in that text—
19	(A) by inserting "of paragraph (2)" after
20	"subparagraphs (A) through (D)";
21	(B) by striking out "(i)" and inserting in
22	lieu thereof "(A)"; and
23	(C) by striking out "(ii)" and inserting in
24	lieu thereof "(B)"; and

- 1 (7) by adding at the end the following new
- 2 paragraph:
- 3 "(4) In the case of a person who is a qualified organi-
- 4 zation under section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue
- 5 Code of 1986 and who is the grantee of a conservation
- 6 easement with respect to real property on which a facility
- 7 is located, the person shall not be considered an owner
- 8 or operator of the facility under subparagraph (A) or (B)
- 9 of paragraph (1) unless the person, by any act or omis-
- 10 sion, causes or contributes to the release or threatened re-
- 11 lease of a hazardous substance that causes the incurrence
- 12 of response costs. For purposes of this paragraph, the
- 13 term "conservation easement" means a restriction on the
- 14 use of land for purposes of protecting in perpetuity a con-
- 15 servation purpose listed in section 170(h)(4) of the Inter-
- 16 nal Revenue Code of 1986.".
- 17 (b) SAFE HARBOR FOR INNOCENT LANDOWNER DE-
- 18 FENSE.—(1) Section 101(35) of the Comprehensive Envi-
- 19 ronmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of
- 20 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) is amended by redesignat-
- 21 ing subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and
- 22 (E), respectively and inserting after subparagraph (B),
- 23 the following:
- 24 "(C)(i) A defendant who has acquired real
- property shall have established a rebuttable pre-

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sumption that he has made all appropriate inquiry within the meaning of subparagraph (B) if he establishes that, immediately prior to or at the time of acquisition, he obtained an environmental assessment of the real property which meets the requirements of this subparagraph.

"(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'environmental professional' means an individual, or an entity managed or controlled by such individual who, through academic training, occupational experience and reputation (such as engineers, environmental consultants and attorneys), can objectively conduct one or more aspects of an environmental assessment. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'environmental assessment' means an investigation of the real property, conducted by environmental professionals, to determine or discover the likelihood of the presence or substantial reason to suspect the presence of a release or threatened release of hazardous substances on the real property and which consists of a review of each of the following sources of information concerning the previous ownership and uses of the real property:

"(I) Recorded chain of title documents regarding the real property, including all deeds,

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easements, leases, restrictions, and covenants for a period of 50 years.

"(II) Aerial photographs which may reflect prior uses of the real property and which are reasonably accessible through State or local government agencies.

"(III) Determination of the existence of recorded environmental cleanup liens against the real property which have arisen pursuant to Federal, State, and local statutes.

Reasonably "(IV) obtainable Federal, State, and local government records of sites or facilities where there has been a release of hazardous substances and which are likely to cause or contribute to a release or threatened release of hazardous substances on the real property, including investigation reports for such sites or facilities; reasonably obtainable Federal, State, and local government environmental records of activities likely to cause or contribute to a release or a threatened release of hazardous substances on the real property, including landfill and other disposal location records, underground storage tank records, hazardous waste handler and generator records and spill report-

ing records; and such other reasonably obtainable Federal, State, and local government environmental records which report incidents or activities which are likely to cause or contribute to a release or threatened release of hazardous substances on the real property. A record is considered to be reasonably obtainable for purposes of this subclause if a copy or reasonable facsimile of the record is obtainable from the government agency by request.

- "(V) A visual site inspection of the real property and all facilities and improvements on the real property, and a visual inspection of immediately adjacent properties from the real property, including an investigation of any chemical use, storage, treatment and disposal practices on the property.
- "(iii) No presumption shall arise under clause
  (i) unless the defendant has maintained a compilation of the information reviewed in the course of the
  environmental assessment.
- "(iv) Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, if the environmental assessment discloses the presence or likely presence of a release or threatened release of hazardous substances on the

- 1 real property to be acquired, no presumption shall
- 2 arise under clause (i) with respect to such release or
- 3 threatened release unless the defendant has taken
- 4 reasonable steps, in accordance with current tech-
- 5 nology available, existing regulations, and generally
- 6 acceptable engineering practices, as may be nec-
- 7 essary to confirm the absence of such release or
- 8 threatened release.".
- 9 (2) Subparagraph (C) of section 101(35) of the Com-
- 10 prehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and
- 11 Liability Act of 1980, as added by paragraph (1), shall
- 12 take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.
- 13 SEC. 104. CONTRIBUTION PROTECTION.
- Section 113(f)(2) of the Comprehensive Environ-
- 15 mental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of
- 16 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9613(f)(2)) is amended in the first sen-
- 17 tence by inserting "or cost recovery" after "contribution".
- 18 SEC. 105. CONTIGUOUS PROPERTIES.
- 19 Section 107(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental
- 20 Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
- 21 U.S.C. 9607(a)), as amended by section 103(a), is further
- 22 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
- 23 graph:
- 24 "(5) A person who owns or operates real prop-
- 25 erty that is contiguous to or otherwise situated with

- 1 respect to real property on which there has been a
- 2 release of a hazardous substance and that is or may
- 3 be contaminated by such release shall not be consid-
- 4 ered an owner or operator of a facility under para-
- 5 graph (1)(A) solely by reason of such contamination.
- 6 The President may issue assurances of no enforce-
- 7 ment action under this Act to any such person and
- 8 may grant any such person protection against cost
- 9 recovery and contribution actions pursuant to sec-
- 10 tion 113(f)(2).".

### 11 SEC. 106. LENDER AND FIDUCIARY LIABILITY.

- 12 (a) Rulemaking Authority for Security Inter-
- 13 EST EXEMPTION.—Section 115 of the Comprehensive En-
- 14 vironmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of
- 15 1980 (15 U.S.C. 9615) is amended—
- 16 (1) by redesignating the text of the section as
- subsection (a); and
- 18 (2) by adding at the end the following:
- 19 "(b)(1) Pursuant to the authority conferred by this
- 20 section, the President shall issue, within 30 days after the
- 21 date of enactment of the Comprehensive Superfund Im-
- 22 provement Act, regulations to define the terms of this Act
- 23 as they apply to lenders and other financial services pro-
- 24 viders. These regulations shall clarify the definition of the

1	term 'owner or operator' contained in section 101(20)(A)
2	by—
3	"(A) defining the terms 'indicia of ownership'
4	'security interest', 'primarily to protect a security in-
5	terest', and 'participation in management'; and
6	"(B) specifying the types of activities that may
7	be undertaken without voiding the exemption to li-
8	ability provided by section 101(20)(A).
9	"(2) The following clarifications shall be included
10	among the provisions in the regulations issued under para-
11	graph (1):
12	"(A) The term 'participation in management
13	does not include—
14	"(i) the mere capacity to influence, or abil-
15	ity to influence, or the unexercised right to con-
16	trol facility operations; or
17	"(ii) any act of the security interest holder
18	to require another person or itself, to comply
19	with applicable laws or to respond lawfully to
20	disposal of any hazardous substance.
21	"(B) A security interest holder will not be
22	deemed to be participating in management of a facil-
23	ity unless the security interest holder—

- "(i) has undertaken responsibility for the 1 2 facility's hazardous substance handling or disposal practices; or 3 "(ii) has undertaken overall management 4 of the facility encompassing day-to-day deci-5 sionmaking over either environmental compli-6 7 ance or over the operational, as opposed to financial and administrative, aspects of the facil-8 9 ity. "(C) Legal or equitable title acquired by a secu-10 rity interest holder through foreclosure or its equiva-11 12 lents will be deemed to be held primarily to protect a security interest provided that the holder under-13 takes to sell, re-lease, or otherwise divest the prop-14 15 erty in a reasonably expeditious manner on commer-16 cially reasonable terms.". 17 (b) Protection for Fiduciaries From Individ-UAL LIABILITY.—(1) Section 101(20) of the Comprehen-18 sive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liabil-19 ity Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601(20)) is amended by add-20 ing at the end the following new subparagraph: 21 22 23
  - "(E)(i) The term 'owner or operator' does not include a fiduciary who holds legal title to, is the mortgagee or secured party with respect to, controls, or manages, directly or indirectly, any facility or ves-

1	sel for purposes of administering an estate or trust
2	of which such facility or vessel is a part.
3	"(ii) For purposes of clause (i), the term 'fidu-
4	ciary' means a person who is acting in any of the
5	following representative capacities, but only to the
6	extent such person is acting in such representative
7	capacity:
8	"(I) An executor or administrator of an es-
9	tate, including a voluntary executor or a vol-
10	untary administrator.
11	''(II) A guardian.
12	"(III) A conservator.
13	"(IV) A trustee under a will under which
14	the trustee takes title to, or otherwise controls
15	or manages, property for the purpose of pro-
16	tecting or conserving such property under the
17	ordinary rules applied in State courts.
18	"(V) A court-appointed receiver.
19	"(VI) A trustee appointed in proceedings
20	under Federal bankruptcy laws.
21	"(VII) An assignee or a trustee acting
22	under an assignment made for the benefit of
23	creditors.
24	"(VIII) A trustee, or any successor there-
25	to, pursuant to an indenture agreement, trust

- agreement, lease, or similar financing agreement, for debt securities, certificates of interest of participation in any such debt securities, or
- other forms of indebtedness as to which it is not, in its capacity as trustee, the lender.".
- 6 (2) Section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental
- 7 Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
- 8 U.S.C. 9607), as amended by sections 102 and 103, is
- 9 further amended by adding at the end the following new
- 10 subsection:
- 11 "(m) FIDUCIARY LIABILITY.—(1) Except as provided
- 12 in paragraph (3), a fiduciary (as defined in section
- 13 101(20)) shall not be liable in its individual capacity under
- 14 this section.
- 15 "(2) Nothing in this paragraph may be construed as
- 16 preventing claims under this Act against—
- 17 "(A) the assets of the estate or trust adminis-
- tered by a fiduciary; or
- 19 "(B) non-employee agents or independent con-
- tractors retained by a fiduciary.
- "(3) Nothing in this paragraph may be construed as
- 22 preventing claims under this Act against a fiduciary in its
- 23 individual capacity whose negligent acts or intentional
- 24 misconduct caused a release or threatened release of haz-
- 25 ardous substances at a facility or vessel. A fiduciary shall

- 1 not be attributed with the negligence or intentional mis-
- 2 conduct of non-employee agents or independent contrac-
- 3 tors if the fiduciary has conducted itself without neg-
- 4 ligence or intentional misconduct with regard to its rela-
- 5 tionship with such agents or contractors.".

### 6 SEC. 107. DEFINITIONS.

- 7 Section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
- 8 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
- 9 U.S.C. 9601), is amended by adding at the end the
- 10 following:
- 11 "(39) The term 'potentially responsible party'
- means any person identified as potentially liable
- under section 107, potentially responsible to perform
- any response action under sections 104 or 106, or
- potentially liable for contribution under section 113.
- 16 "(40) The term 'de micromis party' means a
- potentially responsible party who is a generator or
- transporter who contributed less than one hundred
- 19 pounds or one hundred liters of material containing
- 20 hazardous substances at a facility, or such greater
- or lesser amount as the Administrator may deter-
- 22 mine by regulation.
- 23 "(41) The term 'de minimis party' means a lia-
- ble party whose assigned share of liability is deter-

- 1 mined to be 1.0 percent or less in a final binding allocation of responsibility decision under title V.
  - "(42) The term 'liable party' means any potentially responsible party determined by an allocation panel or a court to be liable under section 107, responsible to perform any action under sections 104 or 106, or liable for contribution under section 113.
    - "(43) The term 'assigned share' means the percentage of liability assigned, in accordance with the factors set forth in section 503(g)(2), to a liable party by an allocation panel in a binding allocation of responsibility or by a court of law.
  - "(44) The term 'orphan party' means a liable party at a site who is defunct, unknown, insolvent, or whose assigned share has been subject to discharge or limitation in bankruptcy, or who is otherwise financially unable to pay all or part of its assigned share.
  - "(45) The term 'creditor party' means the Administrator, a State, or any person who is determined to be a liable party with respect to a National Priority List site and who incurs or has incurred costs with respect to the site that are not inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan.

1	"(46) The term 'debtor party' means the Haz-
2	ardous Substance Superfund and any person who is
3	determined to be a liable party with respect to a Na-
4	tional Priority List site.
5	"(47) The term 'binding allocation of respon-
6	sibility' means a final binding determination by an
7	allocation panel pursuant to title V.
8	"(48) The term 'orphan share' means the total
9	of the assigned shares of all orphan parties at a site,
10	including all shares eligible for reimbursement or
11	payment pursuant to section 107(n).
12	"(49) The term 'guardian of the fund' or
13	'guardian' means the person appointed by the Ad-
14	ministrator to represent the Environmental Protec-
15	tion Agency in a binding allocation of responsibility
16	proceeding.
17	"(50) The term 'National Priority List site'
18	means any site or facility that the Administrator has
19	listed on, or proposed for listing on, the list estab-
20	lished pursuant to section 105(a)(8)(B).".
21	SEC. 108. ASSIGNMENT OF SHARES OF LIABILITY FOR
22	COSTS OF RESPONSE ACTIONS AT NATIONAL
23	PRIORITY LIST SITES.
24	Section 107(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental
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- 1 U.S.C. 9607(a)), is amended by inserting before the
- 2 phrase "The amounts recoverable" the following: "With
- 3 respect to any National Priority List site, each liable party
- 4 who accepts the results of the allocation of responsibility
- 5 process under title V or who successfully appeals the re-
- 6 sults of such process shall be liable only for its assigned
- 7 share of the costs incurred pursuant to subparagraphs
- 8 (A), (B), and (D) of this section. The orphan share of
- 9 a National Priority List site shall be paid out of the Haz-
- 10 ardous Substance Superfund or the Retroactive Liability
- 11 Fund or any combination thereof, as determined by final
- 12 binding allocation of liability.".
- 13 SEC. 109. ENFORCEMENT OF RESPONSE ACTIONS
- 14 THROUGH JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY.
- 15 Section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
- 16 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
- 17 U.S.C. 9607) is amended by adding at the end the follow-
- 18 ing:
- 19 "(n) Joint and Several Liability of Parties
- 20 Who Fail To Perform Response Actions.—In any
- 21 case in which no liable party or potentially responsible
- 22 party agrees to perform a response action at a National
- 23 Priority List site, or a liable party or potentially respon-
- 24 sible party agrees to perform a response action but the
- 25 party fails to perform such response action, as determined

- 1 by the Administrator or the State in which the site is
- 2 located, the following provisions apply:
- 3 "(1) The party is considered to have not re-
- 4 solved its liability to the United States, notwith-
- 5 standing the party's acceptance of the results of the
- 6 binding allocation of responsibility process under
- 7 title V or the party's successful appeal of the results
- 8 of such process.
- 9 "(2) The party is subject to civil action under
- section 106, subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D) of
- subsection (a) of this section, and section 113 for
- the response action and all costs of the response ac-
- tion with respect to the National Priority List site.
- 14 "(0) Payment of Certain Response Costs by
- 15 Fund.—A potentially responsible party who performs and
- 16 pays for a response action at a National Priority List site
- 17 shall be reimbursed by the Hazardous Substance
- 18 Superfund.
- 19 "(p) AUTHORITY TO COLLECT RESPONSE COSTS
- 20 FROM OTHERS.—A liable party who performs and pays
- 21 for a response action at a National Priority List site is
- 22 a creditor party under section 508 with respect to the site
- 23 and may recover its response costs in accordance with that
- 24 section.".

### SEC. 110. ESTABLISHMENT OF BINDING ALLOCATION OF

- 2 **RESPONSIBILITY PROCESS.**
- 3 The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Com-
- 4 pensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et
- 5 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new
- 6 title:

### 7 "TITLE V—BINDING ALLOCA-

### 8 TION OF RESPONSIBILITY

- "Sec. 501. General rules governing binding allocations of responsibility.
- "Sec. 502. Qualifications and powers of administrative law judges and allocation panels.
- "Sec. 503. Specific rules and procedures.
- "Sec. 504. Duty to answer information requests and requests for production of documents.
- "Sec. 505. Civil and criminal penalties.
- "Sec. 506. Document repository; confidentiality; no waiver.
- "Sec. 507. Final agency action and judicial review.
- "Sec. 508. Collection, enforcement, and implementation.
- "Sec. 509. Transition provisions.
- "Sec. 510. Voluntary settlements.
- "Sec. 511. New binding allocations of responsibility.

### 9 "SEC. 501. GENERAL RULES GOVERNING BINDING ALLOCA-

- 10 TIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY.
- 11 "(a) Allocation Panels.—The Administrator shall
- 12 appoint panels of administrative law judges to perform ex-
- 13 pedited administrative proceedings, to be known as 'bind-
- 14 ing allocations of responsibility', for purposes of determin-
- 15 ing the liability of potentially responsible parties at Na-
- 16 tional Priority List sites. Each such panel shall be com-
- 17 posed of three administrative law judges appointed by the
- 18 Administrator under section 3105 of title 5, United States
- 19 Code, and shall be known as an 'allocation panel'.

- "(b) RULES OF DECISION.—The decisions of alloca-1 tion panels under this title shall be rendered based on the provisions of this Act and the court decisions interpreting 3 such provisions. 5 "(c) Relationship to Natural Resources Dam-AGE.—Binding allocations of responsibility shall not address or affect the liability of any person with respect to damage to natural resources under section 107(a)(1)(C). 8 "SEC. 502. QUALIFICATIONS AND POWERS OF ALLOCATION 10 PANELS. 11 "(a) QUALIFICATIONS.—An administrative law judge may not be appointed to an allocation panel under section 501 unless the judge completes at least 40 hours of edu-13 cation and training, as specified by the Administrator, in 14 the following subject areas: 15 "(1) The operation of this Act and the regula-16 17 tions promulgating this Act. 18 "(2) The science of soil and groundwater con-
- 19 tamination and the technology for treating such con-20 tamination.
- "(b) GENERAL POWERS.—An allocation panel shall 21
- have the power and authority to perform all functions nec-
- essary to administer and perform the binding allocations 23
- of responsibility, including the power to—

1	"(1) issue information requests and requests for
2	production of documents to any person;
3	"(2) require the Administrator and the State
4	concerned to provide all information relevant to a
5	binding allocation of responsibility, including the
6	production of copies of all documents and informa-
7	tion obtained pursuant to section 104(e) or pursuant
8	to similar State law;
9	"(3) rule upon motions, requests, and offers of
10	proof, dispose of procedural requests, and issue all
11	necessary orders;
12	"(4) administer oaths and affirmations and
13	take affidavits;
14	"(5) examine witnesses and receive documen-
15	tary or other evidence;
16	"(6) grant and manage such discovery by the
17	parties as the allocation panel deems appropriate
18	and consistent with the expedited nature of the bind-
19	ing allocation of responsibility process;
20	"(7) admit or exclude evidence;
21	"(8) hear and decide questions of fact and law;
22	"(9) require the parties, including the State
23	and the guardian of the Fund, to attend conferences
24	for the settlement or simplification of the issues or

the expedition of the proceedings;

"(10) require, at any time, that potentially responsible parties wishing to present similar legal or factual arguments use a common spokesman or consolidated briefing for the presentation of such facts and legal positions;

"(11) obtain or employ such support services as are necessary to conduct the binding allocation of responsibility, including secretarial and clerical services, investigative services, and computer information and database management services;

"(12) establish a document repository where all documents associated with the binding allocation of responsibility shall be maintained and made available to all parties to the binding allocation of responsibility in accordance with section 506; and

"(13) do all other acts and take all measures necessary for the maintenance of order and for the efficient, fair, and impartial adjudication of issues arising in the binding allocation of responsibility.

"(c) Subpoena Power.—Allocation panels shall have the power of subpoena to collect information necessary or appropriate for conducting the binding allocation of responsibility or for otherwise implementing this section. This authority shall include the power to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production

- 1 of reports, papers, documents, answers to questions, and
- 2 other information that the allocation panel deems nec-
- 3 essary. Witnesses shall be paid the same fees and mileage
- 4 that are paid witnesses in the courts of the United States.
- 5 In the event of contumacy or failure or refusal of any per-
- 6 son to obey any such subpoena, any district court of the
- 7 United States in which venue is proper shall have jurisdic-
- 8 tion to order any such person to comply with such
- 9 subpoena.
- 10 "(d) Informal Rules of Evidence.—In conduct-
- 11 ing the binding allocation of responsibility, an allocation
- 12 panel shall not be bound by the Federal Rules of Evidence,
- 13 but shall instead use such informal rules of evidence and
- 14 evidentiary procedures, such as those set forth at sections
- 15 22.22 and 22.23 of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regula-
- 16 tions, as will promote the expeditious completion of the
- 17 proceeding.
- 18 "(e) Nationwide Service of Process.—Any docu-
- 19 ment required to be served on a party under this title may
- 20 be served in any district where the person is found, re-
- 21 sides, transacts business, or has appointed an agent for
- 22 service of process. Any such document is deemed to be
- 23 served on a party if it is mailed to the counsel of record
- 24 for the party or to the address designated by the party
- 25 if the party is not represented by counsel.

### "SEC. 503. SPECIFIC RULES AND PROCEDURES.

2	"(a)	INITIATION OF ALLOCATION PROCESS.—
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- "(1) IN GENERAL.—A binding allocation of responsibility with respect to a National Priority List site shall be initiated by filing a petition with the Office of the Administrative Law Judges of the Environmental Protection Agency. Such a petition may be filed by the Administrator or the State where the National Priority List site is located.
  - "(2) When initiated.—The Administrator or a State shall file a petition to initiate a binding allocation of responsibility at a National Priority List site not later than 30 days after initiating the remedial investigation study (or its equivalent) for the site. In any case where the petition is filed more than 30 days after initiation of the remedial investigation study (or its equivalent), all governmental response costs incurred or contracted for prior to the filing of the petition shall be allocated entirely to the orphan share.
  - "(3) CONTENTS OF PETITION.—The petition to initiate the binding allocation of responsibility proceeding shall identify the petitioner and shall include all relevant information reasonably available concerning—

1	"(A) the identity, location, history, current
2	status, and environmental condition of the Na-
3	tional Priority List site;
1	"(R) the identity and address of each per

- "(B) the identity and address of each person believed by the petitioner to be a liable party and the basis for such belief;
- "(C) any proposed questions and document requests that the petitioner believes should be included in the allocation panel's first information request and document request; and
- "(D) a list of any legal or technical issues that the petitioner believes may be raised in the binding allocation of responsibility.

"(4) SERVICE.—A copy of the petition shall be served by mail, publication, or otherwise on the Administrator, the State where the site is located, and each potentially responsible party identified in the petition. Within 20 days after the filing of the petition, the Hearing Clerk of the Office of Administrative Law Judges shall cause a notice of the filing of the petition, together with a brief description of the site and a list of all potentially responsible parties identified in the petition, to be published in the Federal Register. The petitioner shall cause a similar notice, description, and list to be published in a

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newspaper of general circulation within the State where the site is located.

"(5) Prior investigation and search.—The Administrator or the State, as the case may be, shall, prior to filing a petition, conduct a thorough investigation and search, under section 104(e) or any other relevant Federal or State statutory or regulatory authority, for all potentially responsible parties. All information, answers, and documents discovered in such investigation or search and relevant to any aspect of the binding allocation of responsibility shall, simultaneously with the filing of the petition, be filed in the document repository for the binding allocation of responsibility. If the allocation panel determines that the Administrator or the State failed to conduct a diligent search for potentially responsible parties in accordance with this paragraph, and if another party performs additional investigations and successfully identifies additional potentially responsible parties, then the allocation panel shall credit all of the reasonable costs of such additional search against the assigned share, if any, of the party that performed such additional investigation or search.

1 "(6) APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR THE 2 HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SUPERFUND AND THE RET-3 ROACTIVE LIABILITY FUND.—Any petition filed by the Administrator shall include the name and ad-5 dress of the person appointed to serve as the guardian for the Hazardous Substance Superfund and the 6 Retroactive Liability Fund for that binding alloca-7 tion of responsibility. In any case where a petition 8 9 is initiated by a State, the Administrator shall notify the Hearing Clerk of the Office of the Administra-10 11 tive Law Judges within 10 days after the petition is filed of the name and address of the person des-12 ignated by the Administrator as the guardian for the 13 14 Hazardous Substance Superfund and the Retro-15 active Liability Fund. If the Environmental Protec-16 tion Agency is also a potentially responsible party or 17 a liable party with respect to the National Priority 18 List site concerned, then the agency may participate 19 in the binding allocation of responsibility with regard 20 to such liability, but the person designated as the 21 guardian shall not represent the agency with regard 22 to the agency's status as a potentially responsible 23 party or liable party.

"(b) Identification of Potentially Respon-24

SIBLE PARTIES.—

1	"(1) Initial statement.—(A) Not later than
2	30 days after receipt of a copy of a petition or after
3	publication in the Federal Register of a notice of the
4	filing of an initial petition (whichever is earlier)
5	under subsection (a)(4), the guardian, the State and
6	any potentially responsible party may file an initial
7	statement setting forth—
8	"(i) any defenses to liability;
9	"(ii) any equitable considerations pertain-
10	ing to any party's potential liability;
11	"(iii) any additional facts and issues rel-
12	evant to the binding allocation of responsibility;
13	"(iv) any proposed questions or document
14	requests that the person filing the statement
15	believes should be included in the first informa-
16	tion request issued by the allocation panel; and
17	"(v) the name and address of any addi-
18	tional person or persons that the person filing
19	the statement believes may be a liable party at
20	the National Priority List site and all reason-
21	ably available information as to the relationship
22	between each proposed additional party and the
23	site.

- "(B) Any initial statement shall be filed with the Hearing Clerk and served on all parties named in the petition and named in such initial statement.
- "(2) Information requests and requests for production of documents.—(A) Not later than 30 days after the filing of the petition, the allocation panel shall mail initial information requests and requests for production of documents to the guardian, the State, all potentially responsible parties identified in the petition, and all additional parties identified in the initial statements. Responses to such requests shall be made in accordance with this paragraph and section 504.
- "(B) Within 45 days after a person receives any information request or request for production of documents, such person shall file a response with the Hearing Clerk. For good cause shown, the allocation panel may grant a single 45-day extension for the filing of any such response. Each party shall have a continuing obligation to supplement its response upon the receipt of additional relevant information.
- "(3) Additional nominations of potentially responsible parties may identify and nominate additional potentially responsible parties until the expiration of the 120-day pe-

riod beginning on the date of filing of the petition. Any nominations received by the Hearing Clerk after that period may be disregarded by the allocation panel. Each nomination shall include all reasonably available information supporting the assertion that the nominee is a liable party and shall be made at the earliest possible time. Any party making an additional nomination shall serve notice of such nomination on the nominated party and file a copy of such notice with the Hearing Clerk. The nominated party may file its initial response not later than 30 days after receipt of the notice. The allocation panel may issue information requests and requests for the production of documents to any nominated party at any time.

"(4) Initial List of all potentially responsible parties.—Within six months after the filing of the petition, the allocation panel shall cause to be published in the Federal Register and a newspaper of general circulation in the State where the site is located a list identifying all parties that the allocation panel preliminarily deems to be potentially responsible parties with respect to the site. The allocation panel also shall attempt to mail a copy of the list to all parties to the binding allocation of respon-

- sibility. The allocation panel shall reject the nomina-
- 2 tion of any person as a liable party or potentially re-
- 3 sponsible party if it finds that the nomination al-
- 4 leges no connection between the nominated person
- 5 and the site. The allocation panel may also identify,
- 6 on its own motion or the motion of a potentially re-
- 7 sponsible party, additional potentially responsible
- 8 parties at any time before issuance of the final bind-
- 9 ing allocation of responsibility.
- 10 "(c) DE MICROMIS PARTIES.—(1) Not later than six
- 11 months after the filing of the petition, the allocation panel
- 12 shall issue a list identifying all potentially responsible par-
- 13 ties that the allocation panel determines contributed only
- 14 one hundred pounds or one hundred liters of material con-
- 15 taining hazardous substances at the facility (or such
- 16 greater or lesser amount as the Administrator may deter-
- 17 mine by regulation), to be known as 'de micromis parties'.
- 18 The allocation panel shall base the determination on an
- 19 evaluation of all evidence received at the time of the issu-
- 20 ance of the list with respect to the amount of hazardous
- 21 substances contributed by potentially responsible parties.
- 22 "(2) The allocation panel shall notify each de
- 23 micromis party of its inclusion on the list issued under
- 24 paragraph (1) not later than 20 days after issuing the list.

1	"(3) Any person included on the list of de micromis
2	parties is exempt from liability to the United States and
3	shall have no other liability (including liability for con-
4	tribution), under Federal or State law, to any person for
5	response actions or for any past, present, or future costs
6	incurred at the site, provided that the person takes no
7	other actions after being included on the list that would
8	give rise to a separate basis for liability under this Act.
9	"(d) Identification of Liable Parties and De-
10	TERMINATION OF ASSIGNED SHARES.—
11	"(1) First allocation advocacy paper.—
12	Unless the allocation panel determines that it would
13	unduly delay the process, the guardian, the State,
14	and any potentially responsible party may file an al-
15	location advocacy paper with the Hearing Clerk not
16	later than 30 days after the publication of the initial
17	list of potentially responsible parties in the Federal
18	Register. Any such allocation advocacy paper, which
19	shall be served on the guardian, the State, and each
20	potentially responsible party, shall be a concise
21	statement, together with citations to relevant sup-
22	porting evidence and law, of the party's position
23	with regard to—
24	"(A) the legal and factual criteria that
25	should be used in determining whether a poten-

tially responsible party at the site is a liable party; and

"(B) how the allocation factors set forth in subsection (g)(2) should be applied to determine the assigned share of each liable party.

days after the publication of the initial list of potentially responsible parties in the Federal Register, the allocation panel shall issue its first allocation report tentatively specifying the criteria to be used in identifying the liable parties, tentatively specifying how the allocation factors will be applied to the case to determine assigned shares, and setting forth the process and schedule that will be used to allow parties the opportunity to present written evidence and argument regarding how such criteria and factors apply to the case. The first allocation report shall be served on the guardian, on the State, and on each potentially responsible party.

"(3) SECOND ALLOCATION ADVOCACY PAPER.—
The guardian, the State, and each potentially responsible party may file an allocation advocacy paper with the Hearing Clerk not later than 60 days after receipt of the first allocation report. The allocation advocacy paper, which shall be served on the

guardian, the State, and each potentially responsible party, shall be the primary opportunity for the guardian, the State, and each potentially responsible party to present evidence and argument regarding how the liability criteria and the allocation factors should be applied to such party and, if desired by the person filing the paper, how those criteria and factors should be applied to other potentially responsible parties at the site.

- "(4) Hearing.—Any potentially responsible party may request a hearing on the determination that such party is a liable party and on the determination of its assigned share. The allocation panel may hold such a hearing if the allocation panel determines that it would expedite or materially assist in the resolution of disputed factual or legal issues. The allocation panel shall have broad discretion in managing the conduct of any such hearing, including limiting the time available to each party and requiring that parties with generally similar interests be represented by a single spokesperson or common counsel. The allocation panel may allow or prohibit the cross-examination of witnesses.
- "(5) RULE OF DECISION.—Any party may present written evidence or argument on whether it,

or any other potentially responsible party, is a liable party and on the appropriate assigned share for itself or any other potentially responsible party. A potentially responsible party shall be deemed a liable party if the allocation panel determines that the preponderance of the evidence supports the conclusion that such party is liable.

"(6) SECOND ALLOCATION REPORT.—Following the submission of advocacy papers and at the conclusion of any hearings, the allocation panel shall issue a second allocation report identifying all liable parties at the site and specifying the assigned share of each liable party. If the second allocation report changes or expands the list of potentially responsible parties or the criteria or factors set forth in the first allocation report, then the second report shall so specify and provide a brief explanation of any such change. The second allocation report shall be served on the guardian, the State, all potentially responsible parties, and all liable parties.

## "(e) DETERMINATION OF ORPHAN SHARE.—

"(1) ORPHAN SHARE ADVOCACY PAPER.—Unless the allocation panel determines that it would unduly delay the process, the guardian, the State, and each liable party may file an orphan share advocacy

paper with the Hearing Clerk not later than the 30-1 2 day period beginning on the date of issuance of the second allocation report. The orphan share advocacy 3 paper shall be the primary opportunity for the 5 guardian, the State, and each liable party to present 6 written evidence and argument as to which liable parties are orphan parties whose assigned share 7 should, in whole or in part, be assigned to the 8 orphan share. 9

- "(2) ORPHAN SHARE REPORT.—Following the expiration of the 30-day period referred to in paragraph (1), the allocation panel shall issue an orphan share allocation report identifying the orphan share. The orphan share report shall be served on the guardian, the State, all potentially responsible parties, and all liable parties.
- 17 "(f) DETERMINATION OF NONLIABLE PARTIES.—(1) 18 At any time during the period beginning six months after
- 19 the filing of the petition and ending 18 months after the
- 20 filing of the petition, the allocation panel shall issue a list
- 21 identifying all potentially responsible parties that the allo-
- 22 cation panel determines did not contribute any amount of
- 23 hazardous substances to the National Priority List site.
- 24 The allocation panel shall base the determination on an
- 25 evaluation of all evidence received at the time of the issu-

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- 1 ance of the list with respect to the amount of hazardous
- 2 substances contributed by potentially responsible parties.
- 3 "(2) The allocation panel shall notify each nonliable
- 4 party of its inclusion on the list issued under paragraph
- 5 (1) not later than 20 days after issuing the list.
- 6 "(3) Nonliable parties shall have no other liability,
- 7 under Federal or State law, to any person for response
- 8 actions or for any past, present, or future costs incurred
- 9 at the site, provided that they take no other actions after
- 10 making such settlement payment that would give risk to
- 11 a separate basis for their liability under this Act.
- 12 "(g) Final Binding Allocation of Responsibil-
- 13 ITY DECISION.—
- 14 "(1) DECISION.—(A) Not later than the dead-
- line set forth in subparagraph (B), the allocation
- panel shall issue a final binding allocation of respon-
- sibility decision (in this subsection referred to as the
- 18 'final BAR decision') based on the allocation factors
- listed in paragraph (2). The panel shall include the
- 20 Government's costs of carrying out the allocation as
- 21 part of the response costs to be included in the final
- BAR decision. The decision shall include a list of all
- potentially responsible parties, a list of all liable par-
- 24 ties and the assigned share for each (including all de
- 25 minimis parties as determined under paragraph (3)),

a list of all orphan parties and the portion of the assigned share of each orphan party that is assigned to the orphan share, and the total orphan share assigned to the Fund and to the Retroactive Liability Fund. Where an orphan party is able to pay only a portion of its assigned share, the allocation panel shall allocate to the orphan share the portion of the assigned share that the party is unable to pay and require the party to pay the remainder. The final BAR decision shall provide a concise explanation of the basis for the decision. The decision may consist, in whole or in part, of a compilation of the first allocation report, the second allocation report, and the orphan share report.

- "(B) The final BAR decision shall be issued not later than 18 months after the date of publication under section 503(a)(4) of notice that a petition for a binding allocation of responsibility has been filed, except that, in a case of exceptional complexity, the final decision shall be issued not later than 24 months after such date.
- "(2) ALLOCATION FACTORS.—An allocation panel shall determine the assigned share of each liable party based on the following factors:

1	"(A) The degree to which the liable party's
2	contribution to a discharge, release, or disposal
3	of a hazardous substance can be distinguished.
4	"(B) The amount of hazardous substances
5	contributed by the liable party at the site con-
6	cerned, compared to the total amount of haz-
7	ardous substances at that site.
8	"(C) The degree of toxicity of the hazard-
9	ous substance contributed by the liable party.
10	"(D) The degree of involvement by the lia-
11	ble party in the generation, transportation,
12	treatment, storage, or disposal of the hazardous
13	substance.
14	"(E) The degree of care exercised by the
15	liable party with respect to the hazardous sub-
16	stance concerned, taking into account the char-
17	acteristics of such hazardous substance.
18	"(F) The degree of cooperation by the lia-
19	ble party with Federal, State, or local officials
20	to prevent any harm to the public health or the
21	environment.
22	"(G) The weight of the evidence as to the
23	liability and the appropriate share of the liable
24	party.
25	"(H) The ability to pay of the liable party.

1 "(I) Any other equitable factors deemed 2 appropriate.

"(3) DE MINIMIS SETTLEMENTS.—(A) As part of the final BAR decision, or at any time before the issuance of the final BAR decision, the allocation panel shall issue a list identifying all potentially responsible parties that the allocation panel determines contributed only 1.0 percent or less of the total quantity of hazardous substances present at the National Priority List site, to be known as 'de minimis parties'.

"(B) Not later than 60 days after issuance of the final BAR decision or the issuance of the list of de minimis parties under subparagraph (A), whichever is earlier, the Administrator shall make a firm written offer of settlement to all de minimis parties. The amount of the settlement offer for a de minimis party shall be based on the Environmental Protection Agency's estimate of the total cleanup cost at the site multiplied by the de minimis party's allocated share as determined by the allocation panel and increased by a reasonable premium (expressed as a percentage) to reflect the benefit of an early and complete resolution of liability, including consideration of whether the remedy at the site will entail

- multiple phases or operable units. All settlement offers by the Administrator to de minimis parties at the same site shall be based on the same estimate of cleanup costs and the same premium percentage. The settlement offer under this subparagraph is not subject to judicial review.
  - "(C) A de minimis party may accept or decline a settlement offer, but any acceptance of the offer must be made within 60 days after receipt of the offer. A de minimis party that accepts the offer may resolve its liability to the United States by paying the amount of the offer to the Hazardous Substance Superfund. Such settlement may not be reopened after payment is made, except on grounds of fraud.
  - "(D) De minimis parties that accept the settlement offer and pay the amount of the offer shall have no other liability, under Federal or State law, to any person for response actions or for any past, present, or future costs incurred at the site, provided that they take no other actions after making such settlement payment that would give risk to a separate basis for their liability under this Act.
  - "(E) All proceeds from de minimis settlements under this paragraph that represent the allocated shares of de minimis parties at a site shall be paid

by the Administrator directly to the person performing the response action at the site. All proceeds from de minimis settlements under this paragraph that represent premiums paid by de minimis parties at the site shall be earmarked in the Hazardous Substance Superfund to be used specifically for costs of response action at the site. Any amounts of such settlements remaining in the Fund after completion of the response action shall be available in the Superfund for general use.

"(4) SERVICE AND PUBLICATION.—The binding allocation of responsibility decision shall be served on the guardian, the State, and all liable parties. The Hearing Clerk shall cause a notice of the binding allocation of responsibility decision to be published in the Federal Register and in a newspaper of general publication in the State where the site is located.

"(5) BINDING EFFECT.—The binding allocation of responsibility decision shall be binding as to all past, present, or future liability (i) for response costs incurred under section 107(a)(1)(A), (B), or (D), and (ii) for contribution under section 113. The binding allocation of responsibility decision shall be binding on all persons, including, without limitation,

- the United States, any affected State or local governmental agency or Indian Tribe, any alleged or nominated potentially responsible party (regardless
- 4 of whether such party participates in the binding al-
- 5 location of responsibility), and the public.
- 6 "(6) EFFECT ON OTHER PROCEEDINGS.—A de-7 termination that a person is a liable party under a 8 binding allocation of responsibility proceeding is ap-9 plicable only with respect to liability being assigned 10 in the proceeding and not with respect to liability 11 being determined in any other criminal, civil, or ad-12 ministrative proceeding.
- 13 "SEC. 504. DUTY TO ANSWER INFORMATION REQUESTS AND
- 14 REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCU-
- 15 MENTS.
- 16 "(a) DUTY TO ANSWER.—Each person who receives
- 17 any information request or request for production of docu-
- 18 ments from the allocation panel during a binding alloca-
- 19 tion of responsibility must provide full and timely re-
- 20 sponses to the request.
- 21 "(b) CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS.—Answers to
- information requests and requests for production of docu-
- 23 ments shall include a certification by a responsible rep-
- 24 resentative who meets the criteria established in section

270.11(a) of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations that the answers— 3 "(1) are true and correct to the best of their knowledge; 4 "(2) are based on a diligent good faith search 5 6 of records in the possession or control of the person 7 to whom the request was directed; "(3) are based on a reasonable inquiry of the 8 current and former officers, directors, employees, 9 and agents of the person to whom the request was 10 11 directed; "(4) accurately reflect information obtained in 12 the course of conducting such search and such 13 inquiry; 14 15 "(5) that the person executing the certification understands that there is a duty to supplement any 16 17 such answers if, during the binding allocation of re-18 sponsibility, any significant additional, new, or dif-19 ferent information becomes known or available to 20 the answerer; and "(6) that the person executing the certification 21 22 understands that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibil-23

ity of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

- 1 "(c) SANCTION.—In addition to any other penalty or
- 2 sanction, any person who fails to answer an information
- 3 request or request for production of documents, and who
- 4 is determined to be a liable party, shall be assigned an
- 5 assigned share of up to 500 percent of whatever its as-
- 6 signed share would otherwise have been, or up to 50 per-
- 7 cent of the total liability at the site, whichever is greater.
- 8 If this results in a binding allocation of responsibility that
- 9 allocates more than 100 percent of the total liability, then
- 10 the excess shall be deposited into the Hazardous Sub-
- 11 stance Superfund.

### 12 "SEC. 505. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES.

- 13 "(a) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Any person who fails to
- 14 submit a complete and timely answer to an allocation pan-
- 15 el's information request or request for production of docu-
- 16 ments or other discovery request, or who submits a re-
- 17 sponse that lacks the certification required under section
- 18 504(b), or who makes any false or misleading material
- 19 statement or representation in any submission to the allo-
- 20 cation panel during the binding allocation of responsibility
- 21 process, including statements or representations in con-
- 22 nection with the nomination of another potentially respon-
- 23 sible party, shall be subject to civil penalties of up to
- 24 \$10,000 per day of violation. The violation shall be
- 25 deemed a continuing one until such time as the request

- 1 is answered or the necessary certification is submitted or
- 2 the false or misleading statement or representation is cor-
- 3 rected. Such penalties may be assessed by the President
- 4 in accordance with section 109 or by any other party in
- 5 a citizen suit brought under section 310. A prevailing
- 6 plaintiff in such a citizen suit shall be awarded its attor-
- 7 neys fees and up to 50 percent of the penalty imposed
- 8 by the court.
- 9 "(b) Criminal Penalties.—Any person who know-
- 10 ingly makes any false material statement or representation
- 11 in the response to an allocation panel's information re-
- 12 quest or request for the production of documents or other
- 13 discovery request, or in any other submission to the alloca-
- 14 tion panel during the binding allocation of responsibility,
- 15 including statements or representations in connection with
- 16 the nomination of another potentially responsible party,
- 17 may be fined under title 18, United States Code, impris-
- 18 oned for not more than 2 years, or both.
- 19 "SEC. 506. DOCUMENT REPOSITORY; CONFIDENTIALITY; NO
- 20 WAIVER.
- 21 "(a) DOCUMENT REPOSITORY.—The allocation panel
- 22 shall establish and maintain a document repository where
- 23 copies of all petitions, initial statements, advocacy papers,
- 24 reports, answers to information requests and requests for
- 25 production of documents by the allocation panel, answers

- 1 to Federal or State information requests or requests for
- 2 the production of documents issued prior to the filing of
- 3 the petition, produced documents, and all other similar
- 4 material shall be maintained and organized. The docu-
- 5 ments and information in the document repository shall
- 6 be available only to the parties to the binding allocation
- 7 of responsibility for review and copying at their own ex-
- 8 pense, subject only to the confidentiality provisions of sub-
- 9 section (b). All responses to any information request or
- 10 request for production of documents by the allocation
- 11 panel shall be filed with the clerk for the document reposi-
- 12 tory and need not be served on other potentially respon-
- 13 sible parties, the State, or the guardian.
- 14 "(b) CONFIDENTIALITY.—(1) All pleadings, docu-
- 15 ments, and materials submitted to the allocation panel or
- 16 placed in the document repository, together with the
- 17 record of any depositions or testimony adduced during the
- 18 binding allocation of responsibility, shall be confidential
- 19 and shall not be subject to release under section 552 of
- 20 title 5, United States Code (the Freedom of Information
- 21 Act). The Hearing Clerk and each party to the binding
- 22 allocation of responsibility proceeding shall maintain such
- 23 pleadings, documents, and materials, together with the
- 24 record of any depositions or testimony adduced during the
- 25 binding allocation of responsibility, as confidential. Such

- 1 material shall not be discoverable or admissible in any
- 2 other Federal, State or local judicial, administrative, or
- 3 legislative proceeding of any kind whatsoever, except—
- "(A) to the extent necessary to collect or otherwise enforce in court the assigned share of a liable party as determined by the binding allocation of
- 7 responsibility;
- 8 "(B) in a proceeding for judicial review of the 9 binding allocation of responsibility;
- 10 "(C) in any new binding allocation of respon-11 sibility proceeding concerning the same site; and
- "(D) in any binding allocation of responsibility
  involving a different site where the allocation panel
  determines that the sites are related and that specified documents from the first binding allocation of
  responsibility could materially assist the second
  binding allocation of responsibility.
- 18 "(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(D), if the origi-
- 19 nal of any document or material submitted to the alloca-
- 20 tion panel or placed in the document repository during the
- 21 binding allocation of responsibility was, while in the pos-
- 22 session of the party which provided it, otherwise discover-
- 23 able or admissible, then such original document, if subse-
- 24 quently sought from such party, shall remain discoverable
- 25 or admissible. If a fact covered in any deposition or testi-

- 1 mony adduced during the binding allocation of responsibil-
- 2 ity was, in the knowledge of the witness or deponent, oth-
- 3 erwise discoverable or admissible, then such testimony, if
- 4 subsequently sought from such other party, shall remain
- 5 discoverable or admissible.
- 6 "(c) No Waiver of Privilege.—The submission of
- 7 documents or information pursuant to the binding alloca-
- 8 tion of responsibility proceeding shall not be deemed to
- 9 be a waiver of any privilege, applicable to the original doc-
- 10 ument or fact, under any Federal or State law, regulation,
- 11 or rule of discovery or evidence.
- 12 "(d) DISCOVERY.—In any case where a party to a
- 13 binding allocation of responsibility receives any request for
- 14 any pleading, document, or material, or for the record of
- 15 any depositions or testimony adduced in a binding alloca-
- 16 tion of responsibility, such party shall promptly notify the
- 17 person who originally submitted such item and shall pro-
- 18 vide such submitting person the opportunity to assert and
- 19 defend the confidentiality of such item. No party to the
- 20 binding allocation of responsibility shall release or provide
- 21 a copy of any pleading, document, or material, or the
- 22 record of any depositions or testimony adduced therein,
- 23 to any person not a party to such binding allocation of
- 24 responsibility, except in compliance with an order from a
- 25 court.

1	"(e) Civil Penalty for Violation of Confiden-
2	TIALITY REQUIREMENTS.—Any person who fails to main-
3	tain the confidentiality of any pleadings, documents, or
4	materials, or the record of any deposition or testimony ad-
5	duced during the binding allocation of responsibility, or
6	who releases any such information in violation of this sec-
7	tion, shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$25,000
8	per violation. Such a penalty may be assessed by the Presi-
9	dent in accordance with section 109 or by any other party
10	in a citizen suit brought under section 310. A prevailing
11	plaintiff in such a citizen suit shall be awarded its attor-
12	neys fees and up to 50 percent of the penalty imposed
13	by the court.
14	"SEC. 507. FINAL AGENCY ACTION AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.
15	"(a) Final Agency Action.—The binding alloca-
16	tion of responsibility decision of the allocation panel shall
17	constitute final agency action pursuant to section 706 of
18	title 5, United States Code, subject only to review by the
19	Administrator in situations of fraud or gross misconduct.
20	"(b) Judicial Review.—
21	"(1) In general.—No Federal or State court
22	shall have jurisdiction to review, modify, or enjoin
23	any aspect of any binding allocation of responsibility
24	proceeding except as expressly set forth in this sub-
25	section. No aspect of any action, decision, ruling or

determination by an allocation panel in any binding allocation of responsibility proceeding shall be subject to administrative or judicial review in any Federal or State court until after the final binding allocation of responsibility decision (in this subsection referred to as the 'final BAR decision') is issued by the allocation panel. Thereafter the Administrator, the guardian, the State, or any person determined by the allocation panel to be a liable party may obtain judicial review of a final BAR decision by filing a petition for review with the United States Court of Appeals for the Circuit in which the facility is located or for the District of Columbia.

"(2) Petition.—Any such petition for review must be filed within 60 days after the date of the final BAR decision by the allocation panel. The petition shall set forth either the specific assigned share of liability that the petitioner believes should have been assigned to it (or, in the case of a petition filed by the guardian, the assigned share that the guardian believes should have been assigned to the orphan share) in the binding allocation of responsibility, or stating specifically that the petitioner believes it should not have been found to have any liability at all.

- "(3) REVIEW.—Judicial review of the final 1 2 BAR decision shall be conducted on the administrative record, which shall include all materials relating 3 to the issues raised on appeal by the petitioner that 5 are contained in the document repository described 6 in section 506(a). The court shall set aside the bind-7 ing allocation of responsibility only if it is found to be arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or 8 9 contrary to constitutional right, power, privilege, or 10 immunity.
  - "(4) PAYMENT DURING PENDENCY OF RE-VIEW.—During the pendency of a petition for review under this section, the petitioner shall pay any demand notices rendered for its assigned share in accordance with the binding allocation of responsibility decision, subject to later refund if the petitioner prevails in the litigation.
  - "(5) CONDUCT OF RESPONSE ACTION DURING PENDENCY OF REVIEW.—During the pendency of a petition for review under this section, response action with respect to the site may occur, but only as provided in section 121(b)(7).
  - "(6) LIABILITY OF SUCCESSFUL PETITIONER.—

    If the petitioner is a liable party and the court adopts the assigned share proposed by the peti-

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tioner, then the difference between that share and the share originally assigned to the petitioner shall be added to the orphan share. If the petitioner is the guardian and the court adopts the orphan share proposed by the petitioner, then the matter shall be remanded to the allocation panel for the issuance, as soon as possible, of a revised binding allocation of responsibility decision in accordance with the decision of the court.

- "(7) LIABILITY OF UNSUCCESSFUL PETI-TIONER.—(A) In the case of a petitioner who is a liable party petitioning for a change in the petitioner's assigned share, and the court does not adopt the assigned share proposed by the petitioner, the following provisions apply:
  - "(i) The petitioner shall reimburse all other parties that participated in the appeal for the actual attorneys' fees and costs that they incurred in defending the binding allocation of responsibility decision.
  - "(ii) The petitioner may participate in the settlement based on its assigned share if the petitioner notifies the court of such intention within 10 days after the court's decision on the petition.

1	"(iii) If the petitioner does not give notice
2	as described in clause (ii), the petitioner is con-
3	sidered to have not resolved its liability to the
4	United States and is subject to civil action
5	under section 106, 107(a), and 113 for the fol-
6	lowing response costs with respect to the Na-
7	tional Priority List site concerned:
8	"(I) The assigned share of the peti-
9	tioner, as determined in the final BAR de-
10	cision, plus
11	"(II) the orphan share for that site.
12	"(iv) A petitioner covered by clause (ii) is
13	subject to claims for contribution from, and
14	may make claims for contribution against, other
15	unsuccessful petitioners with respect to the Na-
16	tional Priority List site concerned.
17	"(B) In the case of a petitioner who is a liable
18	party petitioning for a determination that the peti-
19	tioner is not liable with respect to the site concerned
20	(for reasons such as the fact that the petitioner is
21	a successor to, or a parent or subsidiary of, a com-
22	pany which the petitioner believes should be assigned
23	liability instead), and the court denies the petition,
24	the petitioner is liable for its assigned share as de-

termined in the final BAR decision.

1	"SEC. 508. COLLECTION, ENFORCEMENT, AND IMPLEMEN-
2	TATION.
3	"(a) Collection.—
4	"(1) Amount recoverable.—After a final
5	binding allocation of responsibility decision is made
6	with respect to a National Priority List site, any
7	creditor party may, in accordance with paragraph
8	(2), recover from any debtor party the following:
9	"(A) With respect to a debtor party who is
10	a liable party, that party's assigned share, as
11	determined under the binding allocation of re-
12	sponsibility.
13	"(B) With respect to a debtor party which
14	is the Hazardous Substance Superfund, or the
15	Retroactive Liability Fund the orphan share, as
16	determined under the binding allocation of re-
17	sponsibility.
18	"(C) With respect to a debtor party who is
19	either a liable party or the Hazardous Sub-
20	stance Superfund, or the Retroactive Liability
21	Fund, any attorneys' fees incurred by the credi-
22	tor party in a judicial action seeking to recover
23	costs from the debtor party.
24	"(2) Procedures for recovery.—Recovery
25	by a creditor party from a debtor party shall be car-
26	ried out in accordance with the following provisions:

"(A) The creditor party shall file a certified copy of the final decision of the binding allocation of responsibility in the United States District Court for the district in which the site is located.

"(B) The creditor party shall file a verified statement with the same court specifying the actions taken and the costs incurred by the creditor party, and stating that such actions and costs are not inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan.

"(C) The creditor party shall serve a demand notice to each debtor party against whom enforcement is sought and shall deliver a copy of each such notice to the Administrator and the State in which the site is located. The demand notice shall specify the total amount of costs covered by the notice, state a demand amount (consisting of the debtor party's assigned share or, with regard to the Fund, the orphan share), and demand that the debtor party pay such demand amount within 30 days after receipt of the notice. Any demand notice served by a creditor party shall provide that a debtor party may pay the demand amount over

a period of time in installment payments. A copy of the demand notice shall be filed with the United States District Court for the district in which the site is located.

- "(D) With respect to any response actions or expenditures of a continuing nature, verified statements and demand notices shall be filed with the court and delivered to the debtor parties and the guardian quarterly.
- "(E) Where several liable parties, or a liable party and the Administrator or the State, each take actions or incur costs not inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan, different demand notices may be issued concurrently.

15 "(b) Penalties and Damages.—Except in the case of a challenge to collection duly filed in accordance with subsection (c), if a liable party, including any Federal, State, or local governmental agency, fails to pay the sum specified in a demand notice within 30 days after receipt of the notice (or, in the case of a debtor party paying by installments, within 30 days after an installment payment is due), such party shall be liable for the interest thereon, civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per day, and damages of up to an amount equal to 3 times the sum specified in the demand notice. In the case of the orphan share, if the

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- 1 Hazardous Substance Superfund or the Retroactive Li-
- 2 ability Fund fails to pay the sum specified in a demand
- 3 notice within 30 days after receipt of the notice, the Fund
- 4 or the Retroactive Liability Fund shall be liable for inter-
- 5 est thereon and damages of up to the amount equal to
- 6 2 times the sum specified in the demand notice.
- 7 "(c) Challenges to Enforcement.—There shall
- 8 be no administrative or judicial review of any aspect of
- 9 a demand notice filed and delivered pursuant to subsection
- 10 (a) except in accordance with this subsection. Within 30
- 11 days after receipt of a demand notice, a liable party or,
- 12 in the case of the orphan share, the guardian may file
- 13 a petition with the allocation panel that issued the binding
- 14 allocation of responsibility decision contending that the
- 15 costs reflected in the demand notice were incurred for ac-
- 16 tions inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan. If
- 17 such a petition is filed, the allocation panel shall conduct
- 18 an expedited review of the matter. The review shall be lim-
- 19 ited solely to the issue of the alleged inconsistency of the
- 20 response actions and costs with the National Contingency
- 21 Plan. The person challenging the demand notice shall have
- 22 the burden of proof that such actions and the claimed
- 23 costs are inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan.
- 24 The allocation panel's decision shall not be subject to judi-

- 1 cial review. Payment need not be made, and no interest
- 2 shall accrue, pending the allocation panel's decision.
- 3 "(d) Subsequent Additions to Orphan
- 4 Share.—If good faith collection and enforcement efforts,
- 5 whether by the Federal or State government or by any
- 6 other creditor party, against a liable party results in a ju-
- 7 dicial or administrative determination that such liable
- 8 party is an orphan party, then such liable party's share
- 9 will be added to the orphan share amount and will be re-
- 10 coverable from the Hazardous Substance Superfund.
- 11 "(e) Contribution Protection.—Liable parties
- 12 that pay their assigned share and comply with the binding
- 13 allocation of responsibility decision shall have no other li-
- 14 ability, under Federal or State law, to any person for costs
- 15 incurred at the site, and shall be granted covenants not
- 16 to sue by the Federal Government and the State govern-
- 17 ment concerned, except that the binding allocation of re-
- 18 sponsibility decision shall not affect any contract for insur-
- 19 ance or indemnification.
- 20 "SEC. 509. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.
- 21 "(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
- 22 (b), no person may initiate any administrative or judicial
- 23 action under section 106, subparagraph (A), (B), or (D)
- 24 of section 107(a)(1), or section 113, or under any other
- 25 Federal or State law or regulation, for the recovery of re-

- 1 sponse costs, contribution, or performance of response ac-
- 2 tions regarding any National Priority List site until 90
- 3 days after a final binding allocation of responsibility is
- 4 issued.
- 5 "(b) Exceptions.—Subsection (a) is subject to only
- 6 the following exceptions:
- 7 "(1) Administrative orders for emer-
- 8 GENCY REMOVAL ACTIONS.—The President may
- 9 issue an order under section 106, prior to the issu-
- ance of a final binding allocation of responsibility, if
- the order is limited to those actions required to im-
- 12 plement immediate risk reduction measures pending
- the issuance of the final binding allocation of re-
- sponsibility decision.
- 15 "(2) CONTINUATION OF PENDING RESPONSE
- ACTIONS.—In any case where, as of the date of en-
- actment of this title, the Administrator or a State
- has already issued a binding contract for the per-
- 19 formance of a remedial investigation/feasibility study
- or has issued an administrative order or executed a
- consent decree for the performance of any response
- action, the binding allocation of responsibility proc-
- ess shall not affect the timing or manner of imple-
- 24 mentation of such response actions.
- 25 "(c) Stay of Existing Actions.—

"(1) STAY OF PENDING ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—In any case where, as of the date of enactment of this title, the Administrator or the State has already initiated any administrative or judicial enforcement action regarding the liability of any party under section 106, subparagraph (A), (B), or (D) of section 107(a)(1), or section 113, or under any other Federal or State law or regulation for the response costs, contribution, or performance of response actions, such action shall be automatically stayed until 90 days after a binding allocation of responsibility is issued, any judicial review of such allocation is completed, and a final administrative or judicial allocation decision is rendered.

"(2) STAY OF PENDING PRIVATE PARTY LITIGATION.—In any case where, as of the date of enactment of this title, any private person has initiated any administrative or judicial action regarding the liability of any party at a National Priority List site under section 106, subparagraph (A), (B), or (D) of section 107(a)(1), or section 113, or under any other Federal or State law or regulation for the response costs, contribution, or performance of response actions, such action shall be automatically stayed until 90 days after a binding allocation of responsibility is

- issued, any judicial review of such allocation is com-
- 2 pleted, and a final administrative or judicial alloca-
- 3 tion decision is rendered.
- 4 "(d) Credit for Actions and Costs in Pending
- 5 MATTERS.—In the case of any response action performed
- 6 or cost incurred in any activity carried out pursuant to
- 7 subsection (b), the liability for such response action shall
- 8 be governed by, and the costs of implementing any such
- 9 response action or other activity carried out pursuant to
- 10 subsection (b), shall be included in, the subsequently is-
- 11 sued binding allocation of responsibility for such National
- 12 Priority List site. In conducting the binding allocation of
- 13 responsibility, the allocation panel shall, to the extent rea-
- 14 sonably possible, give credit for any prior costs incurred
- 15 or response actions performed at the National Priority
- 16 List site.
- 17 "(e) Limitations on Existing Actions.—(1) The
- 18 time period described in paragraph (2) shall not be count-
- 19 ed in determining the statute of limitations applicable to
- 20 any administrative or judicial action under section 106,
- 21 subparagraph (A), (B), or (D) of section 107(a)(1), or sec-
- 22 tion 113, or under any other Federal or State law or regu-
- 23 lation, for the recovery of costs, for contribution, or for
- 24 the investigation, cleanup, or remediation of any National
- 25 Priority List site.

1	"(2) The time period referred to in paragraph (1) is
2	the period beginning on the date that any person first files
3	a petition for the initiation of a binding allocation of re-
4	sponsibility for that site and ending on the date that a
5	binding allocation of responsibility is issued.
6	"SEC. 510. VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENTS.
7	"Prior to the issuance of a binding allocation of re-
8	sponsibility decision, any group of potentially responsible
9	parties may submit a private allocation for the National
10	Priority List site (to be known as a 'voluntary binding
11	allocation of responsibility') to the allocation panel. If such
12	voluntary binding allocation of responsibility meets the fol-
13	lowing criteria, the allocation panel shall promptly adopt
14	it as the binding allocation of responsibility:
15	"(1) The voluntary binding allocation of respon-
16	sibility shall be a binding allocation of 100 percent
17	of past, present, and future recoverable response
18	costs at the site.
19	"(2) The voluntary binding allocation of respon-
20	sibility shall not allocate any costs or require-
21	ments—
22	"(A) to the orphan share, unless the
23	guardian agrees, in writing, to such allocation;
24	or

"(B) to any person who is not a signatory to the voluntary binding allocation of responsibility.

- "(3) Signatories to the voluntary binding allocation of responsibility shall be entitled to contribution protection as specified in section 508(e). Such signatories shall be prohibited from pursuing any cost recovery action or contribution against any non-signatory, but may seek additional recovery against non-signatories based on a contract for insurance or indemnification.
- "(4) Signatories to the voluntary binding allocation of responsibility shall be entitled to enforce it in the same manner as any binding allocation of responsibility final decision by the allocation panel.

# 16 "SEC. 511. NEW BINDING ALLOCATIONS OF RESPONSIBIL-

17 **ITY.** 

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"A binding allocation of responsibility shall constitute a permanent determination of the assigned share of each liable party and of the orphan share and, except for additions to the orphan share pursuant to section 508(d) and judicially mandated changes pursuant to section 507(b), the binding allocation of responsibility shall not be subject to any change or revision for at least 5 years after the date of the binding allocation of responsibility final deci-

- 1 sion. Thereafter a new binding allocation of responsibility
- 2 process shall be available only if the party requesting it
- 3 demonstrates that, due to new information not reasonably
- 4 available during first binding allocation of responsibility,
- 5 a 35 percent or greater increase in total waste-in volume
- 6 has been discovered. If such a request for a new binding
- 7 allocation of responsibility is granted, the same rules and
- 8 procedures described for initial binding allocations of re-
- 9 sponsibility apply to the new or revised binding allocation
- 10 of responsibility. New binding allocations of responsibility
- 11 shall only apply to funds actually expended after the effec-
- 12 tive date of the new binding allocation of responsibility de-
- 13 cision, with no credits for funds already expended. Subse-
- 14 quent new binding allocations of responsibility requests
- 15 are prohibited until 5 years after the date of issuance of
- 16 the prior new binding allocation of responsibility.".

### 17 SEC. 111. SITE REDEVELOPMENT.

- Section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
- 19 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
- 20 U.S.C. 9607) is amended by adding the following at the
- 21 end thereof:
- 22 "(n) SITE REDEVELOPMENT.—
- "(1) Exemption.—No person who is a quali-
- fied redeveloper shall be liable under this title for
- costs or damages with respect to the release of any

- hazardous substance or the threat of any such release from any facility solely by reason of an agreement by such person to redevelop such facility after a response action has been completed (as determined by the President) at such facility.
- 6 "(2) QUALIFIED REDEVELOPER.—For purposes 7 of this subsection, the term 'qualified redeveloper' 8 means a person who is not otherwise liable under 9 section 107 and did not cause or contribute to the 10 release or threat of release which necessitated the 11 response action referred to in paragraph (1).".

#### 12 SEC. 112. LIABILITY OF RESPONSE ACTION CONTRACTORS.

- 13 (a) EXTENSION OF NEGLIGENCE STANDARD.—Sub-14 section (a) of section 119 of the Comprehensive Environ-15 mental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 16 1980 is amended—
  - (1) in paragraph (1) by striking out "title or under any other Federal law" and inserting in lieu thereof "title, under any other Federal law, or under the law of any State or political subdivision of a State"; and
  - (2) by adding at the end of paragraph (2) the following: "Such conduct shall be evaluated based on the generally accepted standards and practices in ef-

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- 1 fect at the time and place that the conduct
- 2 occurred.".
- 3 (b) Extension of Indemnification Author-
- 4 ITY.—Section 119(c) of such Act is amended by adding
- 5 at the end of paragraph (1) the following: "Any such
- 6 agreement may apply to claims for negligence arising
- 7 under Federal, State, or common law.".
- 8 (c) Extension of Coverage.—Section 119(e) of
- 9 such Act is amended in the text appearing after subpara-
- 10 graph (D)—
- 11 (1) by striking out "List, or any removal under
- this Act," and inserting in lieu thereof "List, any re-
- moval under this Act, or any response action under
- this Act at a facility using an alternative or innova-
- tive technology,"; and
- 16 (2) by inserting before the period the following:
- 17 ", or to undertake appropriate natural resource res-
- toration actions necessary to protect and restore any
- natural resources damaged by such release or threat-
- 20 ened release of a hazardous substance or pollutant
- or contaminant".
- 22 (d) Indemnification for Threatened Re-
- 23 LEASES.—Section 119(c)(5) of such Act is amended in
- 24 subparagraph (A) by inserting "or threatened release"
- 25 after "release" both places it appears.

- 1 (e) CLARIFICATION OF LIABILITY.—Section 101 of 2 such Act, as amended by section 106, is further amended 3 by adding at the end of paragraph (20) the following:
- 4 "(F) The term 'owner or operator' does not in-5 clude any person carrying out a written contract or 6 agreement with any Federal agency, any State (or 7 any political subdivision of a State), or any responsible party to provide any response action or any 8 9 form of services or equipment ancillary to such re-10 sponse action. Any such person shall not be consid-11 ered to have caused or contributed to any release or threatened release of, or to have arranged for dis-12 13 posal or treatment of, or arranged with a trans-14 porter for transport for disposal or treatment of, or 15 transported, hazardous substances or pollutants or 16 contaminants. This subparagraph shall not apply to 17 any person potentially responsible under section 106 18 or 107 other than those persons associated solely 19 with the provision of response action or any form of 20 ancillary services or equipment.".
- 21 (f) FEDERAL STATUTE OF REPOSE.—Section 119 of 22 such Act is further amended by adding at the end the fol-23 lowing new subsection:
- 24 "(g) Limitation on Actions Against Response
- 25 ACTION CONTRACTORS.—No action to recover for any in-

1	jury to property, real or personal, or for bodily injury or
2	wrongful death, or any other expenses or costs arising out
3	of the performance of services under a response action
4	contract, nor any action for contribution or indemnity for
5	damages sustained as a result of such injury, shall be
6	brought against any response action contractor more than
7	6 years after the completion of work at any site under
8	such contract. The limitation prescribed in this subsection
9	shall not affect any right of indemnification that such re-
10	sponse action contractor may have under this section or
11	may acquire by written agreement with any party.".
12	TITLE II—STATE
13	<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>
14	SEC. 201. STATE AUTHORITY.
15	(a) STATE AUTHORIZATION.—Title I of the Com-
16	prehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and
17	Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9600 et seq.) is amended
18	by adding after section 126 the following new section:
19	"§ 127. State authority
20	"(a) STATE PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.—
21	"(1) IN GENERAL.—At any time after the pro-
22	mulgation of regulations required by paragraph (2),
23	a State may apply to the Administrator to carry out,

under its own legal authorities, response actions and

enforcement activities at all facilities listed or pro-

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posed for listing on the National Priorities List, or certain categories of facilities listed or proposed for listing on the National Priorities List, within the State. If the Administrator determines that the State meets the criteria for eligibility, the Administrator, pursuant to a contract or agreement entered into between the Administrator and the State, shall authorize the State to assume the responsibilities established under this Act at all such facilities or categories of facilities. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, such responsibilities include, but are not limited to, responding to a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance or pollutant or contaminant; selecting response actions; expending the Fund and the Retroactive Liability Fund in amounts authorized by the Administrator to finance response activities; and taking enforcement actions, including cost recovery actions to recover Fund expenditures made by the State. In an application for authorization, a State shall acknowledge its responsibility to address all response actions at the facilities for which it seeks authorization.

"(2) PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Comprehensive Superfund Improvement Act, the

1 Administrator shall issue regulations to determine a 2 State's eligibility for authorization and to establish a process and criteria for withdrawal of such an au-3 thorization. A State shall be considered eligible for authorization if the Administrator determines that the State possesses the legal authority, technical ca-6 7 pability, and resources necessary to conduct response actions and enforcement activities in a man-8 9 ner that is substantially consistent with this Act and the National Contingency Plan at the facilities listed 10 11 or proposed for listing on the National Priorities 12 List for which it seeks authorization.

"(b) AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS.—At facilities list-13 ed on the National Priorities List for which a State is au-14 thorized under subsection (a), and at facilities listed on the National Priorities List which are referred to a State under subsection (b), the State shall be eligible for response action financing from the Fund and the Retroactive Liability Fund. The Administrator shall ensure that 19 all allocations of the Fund and the Retroactive Liability 20 Fund to the States for the purpose of undertaking sitespecific response actions are based primarily on the relative risks to human health and the environment posed by the facilities eligible for funding. The amount of Fund and Retroactive Liability Fund financing for a State-se-

- 1 lected response action at a facility listed on the National
- 2 Priorities List shall—
- 3 "(1) take into account the number and financial
- 4 viability of parties identified as potentially liable for
- 5 response costs at such facility, and
- 6 "(2) be limited to the amount necessary to
- 7 achieve a level of response that is not more stringent
- 8 than that required under this Act.
- 9 A State also may obtain Fund financing to develop and
- 10 enhance its capacity to undertake response actions and en-
- 11 forcement activities. The Administrator, in consultation
- 12 with the States, shall establish, within 1 year after the
- 13 date of enactment of the Comprehensive Superfund Im-
- 14 provement Act, specific criteria for allocating expenditures
- 15 from the Fund and the Retroactive Liability Fund among
- 16 States for the purposes of undertaking response actions
- 17 and enforcement activities at referred and State-author-
- 18 ized facilities, and building State capacities to undertake
- 19 such response actions and enforcement activities.
- 20 "(c) STATE COST SHARE.—Notwithstanding section
- 21 104(c)(3)(C) of this Act, a State shall pay or assure pay-
- 22 ment of 10 percent of the costs of all response actions
- 23 (including response actions at facilities operated by the
- 24 State or a political subdivision of the State) for which the
- 25 State receives funds from the Fund under this section. A

- 1 State that receives funds from the Retroactive Liability
- 2 Fund under this section shall not be subject to any cost
- 3 share requirements for the receipt of those funds.
- 4 "(d) Terms and Conditions; Cost Recovery.—
- 5 A contract or agreement for a State authorization or refer-
- 6 ral under this section is subject to such terms and condi-
- 7 tions as the Administrator prescribes. The terms and con-
- 8 ditions shall include requirements for periodic auditing
- 9 and reporting of State expenditures from the Fund and
- 10 the Retroactive Liability Fund. The contract or agreement
- 11 may cover a specific facility, a category of facilities, or
- 12 all facilities listed or proposed to be listed on the National
- 13 Priorities List in the State. The contract or agreement
- 14 shall require the State to seek cost recovery, as con-
- 15 templated by this Act, of all expenditures from the Fund.
- 16 Ten percent of the moneys recovered by the State may
- 17 be retained by the State for use in its hazardous substance
- 18 response program, and the remainder shall be returned
- 19 to the Fund. Before making further allocations from the
- 20 Fund to any State, the Administrator shall take into con-
- 21 sideration the effectiveness of the State's enforcement pro-
- 22 gram and cost recovery efforts.
- "(e) Enforcement of Agreements.—If the Ad-
- 24 ministrator enters into a contract or agreement with a
- 25 State pursuant to this section, and the State fails to com-

- 1 ply with any terms and conditions of the contract or agree-
- 2 ment, the Administrator, after providing 60 days notice,
- 3 may withdraw the State authorization or referral, or seek
- 4 in the appropriate Federal district court to enforce the
- 5 contract or agreement to recover any funds advanced or
- 6 any costs incurred because of the breach of the contract
- 7 or agreement by the State.
- 8 "(f) More Stringent State Standards.—Under
- 9 either an authorization or referral, a State may select a
- 10 response action that achieves a level of cleanup that is
- 11 more stringent than required under section 121 of this
- 12 Act if the State agrees to pay for the incremental increase
- 13 in response cost attributable to achieving the more strin-
- 14 gent cleanup level. Neither the Fund, the Retroactive Li-
- 15 ability Fund, nor any party liable for response costs shall
- 16 incur costs in excess of those necessary to achieve a level
- 17 of cleanup required under section 121 of this Act.
- 18 "(g) Opportunity for Public Comment.—The
- 19 Administrator shall make available, for public review and
- 20 comment, applications for authorization under subsection
- 21 (a) and applications for referral under subsection (b). The
- 22 Administrator shall not approve or withdraw authorization
- 23 or referral from a State unless the Administrator notifies
- 24 the State, and makes public, in writing, the reasons for
- 25 such approval or withdrawal.

"(h) Periodic Review of Authorized State 1 PROGRAMS AND REFERRALS.—The Administrator shall conduct a periodic review of authorized State programs 3 and referrals to determine, among other things, whether— 5 "(1) the response actions were selected and con-6 ducted in a manner that was substantially consistent 7 with this Act, the National Contingency Plan, and the contract or agreement between the Adminis-8 trator and the State: 9 "(2) the State response costs financed by Fund 10 11 and Retroactive Liability Fund expenditures were in-12 curred in the manner agreed to by the State, in accordance with the contract or agreement between the 13 Administrator and the State: and 14 15 "(3) the State's cost recovery efforts and other enforcement efforts were conducted in accordance 16 17 with the contract or agreement between the Admin-18 istrator and the State. Within 1 year after the date of enactment of the Com-19 prehensive Superfund Improvement Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the States, shall develop specific criteria for periodic reviews of authorized State programs and referrals. The Administrator shall establish a mechanism to make the periodic State reviews available 25 to the public.".

- (b) Transition and Conforming Amendments.—
- 2 (1) Sections 104(c)(5), 104(c)(7), 104(d)(1),
- and 104(d)(2) of the Comprehensive Environmental
- 4 Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980
- 5 are each amended by inserting after the heading in
- 6 each paragraph the following—"This paragraph ap-
- 7 plies only to response actions for which a Record of
- 8 Decision or other decision document is signed before
- 9 the date of enactment of the Comprehensive
- 10 Superfund Improvement Act.".
- 11 (2) Section 114(a) of such Act is amended by
- striking "Nothing" and inserting—"Except as other-
- wise provided in this Act, nothing".
- 14 (3) Paragraph (1) of section 121(f) of such Act
- is amended to read as follows: "(1) The President
- may repeal, no earlier than one year after the pro-
- 17 mulgation of final regulations under sections
- 18 127(a)(3) and 127(b)(3), the regulations issued
- under this paragraph prior to the date of enactment
- of the Comprehensive Superfund Improvement
- 21 Act.".

- 22 (4) Paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 121(f) of
- such Act are each amended in the second sentence
- of subparagraph (A) by striking "does not attain a
- legally applicable or relevant and appropriate stand-

- 1 ard, requirement, criteria, or limitation, under the
- authority of subsection(d)(4)" and inserting in lieu
- 3 thereof "is not relevant and appropriate under
- 4 subsection(d),".
- 5 (5) Section 302(d) of such Act is amended by
- 6 striking "Nothing" and inserting—"Except as other-
- 7 wise provided in this Act, nothing".

#### 8 SEC. 202. TRANSFER OF AUTHORITIES.

- 9 Section 120(g) of the Comprehensive Environmental
- 10 Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
- 11 U.S.C. 9620(g)) is amended by inserting after "the Envi-
- 12 ronmental Protection Agency," the following: "and except
- 13 as provided in section 127,".

#### 14 SEC. 203. EPA OVERSIGHT COSTS.

- 15 (a) Oversight Cost Accounting and Appeal
- 16 PROCEDURE.—Section 104(a) of the Comprehensive Envi-
- 17 ronmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of
- 18 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(a)) is amended by adding at the
- 19 end the following new paragraph:
- 20 "(5) Oversight Cost Accounting and Appeal
- 21 PROCEDURE.—(A) The President shall maintain detailed
- 22 and timely records of the costs incurred under, or in con-
- 23 nection with, any oversight contract or arrangement re-
- 24 ferred to in paragraph (1). The President shall submit
- 25 such records to the responsible party that has agreed to

- 1 reimburse the Fund for such costs with each demand or
- 2 bill for such costs.
- 3 "(B) The President shall establish an administrative
- 4 procedure under which a party that conducts any response
- 5 action may contest the amount of costs incurred by the
- 6 President in overseeing the conduct of that response ac-
- 7 tion. The procedure shall be carried out separately from
- 8 the conduct of the response action at the facility con-
- 9 cerned.".
- 10 (b) Limitation on Oversight Costs.—Any costs
- 11 of oversight incurred by the President that exceed 50 per-
- 12 cent of the response costs incurred by the responsible
- 13 party or parties at the facility concerned shall be paid by
- 14 the Fund, unless the responsible party or parties have pre-
- 15 viously agreed to pay a larger sum under a court decree
- 16 or the response action is being conducted under an order
- 17 issued under section 106 of the Comprehensive Environ-
- 18 mental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of
- 19 1980.

# 20 TITLE III—REMEDY SELECTION

- 21 SEC. 301. IMMEDIATE RISK REDUCTION MEASURES.
- 22 (a) Immediate Risk Reduction Measures.—Sec-
- 23 tion 104(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
- 24 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 is
- 25 amended—

- 1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), 2 and (4) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5), respec-3 tively;
  - (2) in paragraph (5) (as redesignated), by striking out "paragraph (3)" and inserting in lieu thereof "paragraph (4)"; and
  - (3) by inserting after "(a)" the following new paragraph (1): "(1) IMMEDIATE RISK REDUCTION MEASURES.—
  - "(A) AUTHORITY TO ACT.—Whenever any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant is released or there is a substantial threat of such a release into the environment, and such release may present an imminent and substantial danger to the public health, the President, or the State in the case of a facility for which a State has responsibility under section 127, is authorized to act to minimize and prevent to the extent possible the endangerment to the public health.
  - "(B) Types of measures allowed.—The actions that the President or a State may take under this paragraph (hereinafter in this section referred to as 'immediate risk reduction measures') may include but are not limited to the following:

1	"(i) The removal of waste from barrels,
2	tanks, or lagoons.
3	"(ii) The provision of alternative water
4	supplies or point-of-use treatment.
5	"(iii) The prevention of discharges to sur-
6	face waters or ground waters.
7	"(iv) The installation of fencing.
8	"(v) The institution of other institutional
9	controls.
10	"(C) Measures prohibited.—The authority
11	provided by this paragraph does not include author-
12	ity for the President or a State to institute long-
13	term remediation measures.
14	"(D) Timing.—The President or a State shall
15	commence immediate risk reduction measures under
16	this paragraph—
17	"(i) in the case of a facility that is not list-
18	ed on the National Priorities List, as soon as
19	practicable after the President or the State be-
20	comes aware of an endangerment to the public
21	health; and
22	"(ii) in the case of a facility that is listed
23	on the National Priorities List, not later than
24	60 days after the facility is so listed.

- "(E) COST EFFECTIVENESS.—Any immediate risk reduction measure carried out under this paragraph shall be conducted in the most cost-effective manner practicable.
  - "(F) Funding.—The Fund may be used to pay for immediate risk reduction measures taken under this paragraph. The President may (in accordance with Title V) recover the costs of such measures from any person determined to be liable for such costs but, in the case of measures costing less than \$1,000,000, the President may choose not to recover such costs.
    - "(G) Judicial review.—The decision of the President or a State to act under this subsection is subject to review as provided in chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, except that a reviewing court may set aside an action only if it is found to be arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law. Review may be had only in the United States district court for the district in which the facility or site is located."
- 22 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by 23 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-24 ment of this Act.

#### SEC. 302. SITE SCORING.

- 3 mental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of
- 4 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9605(c)(1)) is amended—

be taken into account.

- 5 (1) by inserting "(A)" after "REVISION.—";
- 6 and

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- 7 (2) by adding at the end: the following new sub-
- 8 paragraph:
- 9 "(B)(i) After the date of enactment of the Com-10 prehensive Superfund Improvement Act, the hazard 11 ranking system shall be applied to a site or facility 12 only after the site or facility has undergone immediate risk reduction measures pursuant to section 13 14 104(a)(1). In applying such ranking system, condi-15 tions existing at the site or facility before the imme-16 diate risk reduction measures were taken shall not
  - "(ii) Clause (i) shall apply to all sites and facilities to be newly listed on the National Priorities List after such date of enactment and to any sites already so listed as of such date of enactment but for which a remedial investigation and feasibility study has not been conducted as of such date.
- 24 "(iii) As soon as practicable after such date of 25 enactment, the President shall revise the hazard

1	ranking system regulations to reflect the require-
2	ments this subparagraph. ".
3	SEC. 303. LONG-TERM RESPONSE PLAN.
4	(a) In General.—Section 104(a) of the Comprehen-
5	sive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liabil-
6	ity Act of 1980, as amended by section 301, is further
7	amended by adding at the end the following new para-
8	graph:
9	"(6) Long-Term Response Plan.—
10	"(A) IN GENERAL.—Before carrying out or al-
11	lowing another person to carry out a response action
12	at a facility under this subsection, the President, or
13	the State in the case of a facility for which a State
14	has responsibility under section 127, shall prepare a
15	long-term response plan (hereinafter in this section
16	referred to as an 'LTRP' or 'plan') for such facility.
17	The President or State may allow a potentially re-
18	sponsible party to prepare such a plan and to carry
19	out the elements of the plan listed in clauses (i), (ii),
20	and (iv) of subparagraph (B).
21	"(B) ELEMENTS OF LTRP.—The LTRP shall
22	address the following elements:
23	"(i) Site characterization.—The site
24	characterization element of the plan shall deter-
25	mine the type, nature, and extent of contamina-

tion at the facility, including the location of the sources of the release or threatened release.

The site characterization component shall be completed within 12 months after a facility is listed on the National Priorities List.

"(ii) RISK ASSESSMENT.—The risk assessment element of the plan shall be carried out in accordance with paragraph (7). The risk assessment component shall be performed simultaneously with the site characterization component and shall be completed within 12 months after a facility is listed on the National Priorities List.

"(iii) Community advisory councils.—
The plan shall take into account any recommendations made by the community advisory council for the facility created under section 117(f). The council shall provide its recommendations with respect to the facility within 12 months after a facility is listed on the National Priorities List.

"(iv) RESPONSE OPTION IDENTIFICA-TION.—The response option identification element of the plan shall be carried out in accordance with paragraph (8) during the 3-month period beginning on the date on which the elements listed in clauses (i) through (iii) are completed.

"(C) APPLICABILITY.—(i) A long-term response

- "(C) Applicability.—(i) A long-term response plan shall be required for the following:
  - "(I) A facility to be newly listed on the National Priorities List after the date of enactment of the Comprehensive Superfund Improvement Act.
  - "(II) A facility or site listed on the National Priorities List as of such date of enactment but for which a remedial investigation and feasibility study has not been conducted as of such date.

"(III) A facility or site listed on the National Priorities List as of such date of enactment, for which a remedial investigation and feasibility study has been conducted as of such date, but for which a contract has not been executed for remedial design and remedial action as of such date, if the potentially responsible parties and the State in which the facility or site is located agree, within 30 days after such date, to subject themselves to the requirements of an LTRP.

"(ii) A long-term response plan shall not be re-1 2 quired for any facility or site with respect to which a contract has been executed for remedial design 3 and remedial action as of such date of enactment. ". 5 (b) RISK ASSESSMENTS.—(1) Section 104(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, 6 and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(a)), as amended by section 301 and this section, is further amended 8 by adding at the end the following new paragraph: 10 "(7) RISK ASSESSMENTS.— "(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out a remedial 11 12 investigation with respect to a facility, the President 13 or other person carrying out the investigation shall 14 assess the risk to human health and the environment 15 presented by the release or threat of release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The 16 17 risk assessment component of the remedial investiga-18 tion shall be carried out in compliance with regula-19 tions promulgated by the President. The President 20 shall ensure that the regulations do not conflict with regional or State guidance on risk assessments. At 21 22 a minimum, the regulations shall— 23

"(i) require risk assessments to use exposure factors that accurately describe site or facility conditions; and

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1 "(ii) require that values used to describe 2 quantities of a substance consumed by people 3 accurately reflect average conditions.

"(B) Current risk versus future risk.—
In carrying out the risk assessment component of the remedial investigation, the President or other person carrying out the assessment shall separately evaluate (i) the current risks, and (ii) the likely future risks, to human health and the environment, based on current and likely future land use of the site. If the President determines that one or more such risks exist and warrant remedial action, the President shall specify in the record of decision which risks support the decision for remedial action, which risks are current risks, and which risks are likely future risks.

"(C) Best estimates versus worst case.—
In carrying out the risk assessment component of the remedial investigation, the President or other person carrying out the assessment shall rely to the maximum extent practicable on actual data rather than on assumptions. The President or other person shall provide the most plausible estimate of any risk to human health and the environment. The President or other person also shall describe any assump-

- tions or uncertainties that pertain to such estimate,
- 2 including the likelihood of human exposure actually
- occurring. Whenever the President or other person
- 4 considers it feasible, the President shall provide a
- 5 quantitative estimate of the uncertainty associated
- 6 with the most plausible estimate of the risk.".
- 7 (2) Performance of Risk Assessments by
- 8 PRPS.—Section 104(a)(1) of such Act is amended in the
- 9 second sentence—
- 10 (A) by striking out "may" and inserting in lieu
- thereof "shall"; and
- (b) by inserting after "remedial investigation"
- the following: "(including the risk assessment com-
- ponent of the remedial investigation)".
- 15 (c) Community Advisory Councils.—Section 117
- 16 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Com-
- 17 pensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9607) is
- 18 amended by adding at the end the following:
- 19 "(f) COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCILS.—
- 20 "(1) Creation.—The Administrator shall cre-
- 21 ate a Community Advisory Council for each facility
- listed on the National Priorities List. Such Council
- shall be comprised of not more than 20 persons ap-
- 24 pointed by the Governor of the State in which the
- facility is located from among persons in the com-

- munity in which the facility is located. Each such council shall represent a wide variety of local -interests.
  - "(2) Purpose.—The Community Advisory Councils shall provide information to potentially responsible parties, the Administrator, and the State with regard to the future use of the facility and affected off-site areas and resources. The councils shall provide a public forum for citizens to voice concerns regarding the response action to be taken and the future use of the site.
    - "(3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The President and the State shall take into consideration any recommendations made by a Community Advisory Council in making decisions regarding any response action under this title at the facility for which such council was established.
    - "(4) TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUP-PORT FOR COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCILS.—The Administrator's regional offices shall provide administrative and technical services for Community Advisory Councils, including technical assistance in understanding this title and the regulations under this title.".

- 1 (d) Response Option Identification.—(1) Sec-
- 2 tion 104(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
- 3 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
- 4 U.S.C. 9604(a)), as amended by section 301 and this sec-
- 5 tion, is further amended by adding at the end the following
- 6 new paragraph:
- 7 "(8) Response Option Identification.—(A) The
- 8 response option identification element of a long-term re-
- 9 mediation plan shall consist of the development of the
- 10 range of possible response actions for a facility and the
- 11 conduct of a cost-benefit analysis on each of the following
- 12 categories of possible response actions:
- "(i) Containment (both permanent and tem-
- porary).
- 15 "(ii) Remediation.
- 16 "(iii) Monitoring.
- 17 "(iv) Delisting.
- 18 "(v) Institutional controls.
- 19 "(B) The President, the State, or the other person
- 20 carrying out the identification shall take into account ad-
- 21 vice from the Community Advisory Council created for the
- 22 facility concerned.
- 23 "(C) During the 30-day period occurring after com-
- 24 pletion of the response option identification, the Commu-
- 25 nity Advisory Council, potentially responsible parties, and

- 1 any other interested parties may submit comments to the
- 2 President or the State on preferred options.".
- 3 (2) Cost-Benefit Regulations.—Section 105 of
- 4 the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensa-
- 5 tion, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9605) is
- 6 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
- 7 section:
- 8 "(h) Cost-Benefit Regulations.—(1) The Presi-
- 9 dent shall promulgate and include in the national contin-
- 10 gency plan guidelines for conducting cost/benefit analyses
- 11 of response actions conducted pursuant to this Act. The
- 12 guidelines shall include a standard methodology for evalu-
- 13 ating benefits and costs over the lifetime of a remedial
- 14 action.
- 15 "(2) In developing the standard methodology under
- 16 paragraph (1), the President shall seek and take into ac-
- 17 count suggestions from States and political subdivisions
- 18 of States for which costs and benefits to include in a cost-
- 19 benefit analysis, and which methods to use in evaluating
- 20 the costs and benefits. The costs may include costs related
- 21 to public welfare.
- 22 ''(3) In developing the methodology for measuring the
- 23 costs of a remedial action, the President, at a minimum,
- 24 shall take into account the following costs:

1	"(A) Costs associated with the remedial action,
2	including the following:
3	"(i) Direct capital costs.
4	"(ii) Operation and maintenance costs.
5	"(iii) Preconstruction costs, including per-
6	mitting, siting, and regulatory compliance costs.
7	"(iv) Capital acquisition, amortization, and
8	debt service costs.
9	"(v) Consulting costs.
10	"(vi) Costs and potential liabilities of fu-
11	ture environmental remediation if the remedial
12	action does not provide for a permanent rem-
13	edy.
14	"(vii) Land acquisition costs.
15	"(viii) Costs of insurance.
16	"(B) Avoided or additional costs of cleaning up
17	the contamination using an alternative treatment
18	technology.
19	"(4) In developing the methodology for measuring the
20	benefits of a remedial action, the President shall, at a min-
21	imum, take into account the costs of benefits associated
22	with the remedial action, including the following:
23	"(A) Increased property values.
24	"(B) Reduced public health risks.
25	"(C) Reduced ecological risks.

- 1 "(D) Improved environmental quality in the community.".
- 3 SEC. 304. LONG-TERM RESPONSE SELECTION.
- 4 (a) Long-term Response Selection.—Section
- 5 121(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response,
- 6 Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C.
- 7 9621(a)) is amended to read as follows:
- 8 "(a) RESPONSE SELECTION.—
- 9 "(1) SECTION 104.—After completion of the 10 long-term response plan for a facility under section 11 104, the President, or the State in the case of a fa-12 cility for which a State has responsibility under sec-
- tion 127, shall select that response or combination
- of responses (from among the options identified in
- the plan) that best achieves an acceptable level of re-
- sidual risk reduction at the facility or site (referred
- to as the 'cleanup goal'), in accordance with the gen-
- eral rules stated in subsection (b).
- 19 "(2) Section 106.—With respect to actions de-
- termined to be necessary by the President to be se-
- cured under section 106, the President shall select
- appropriate remedial actions that are in accordance
- with this section and, to the extent practicable, the
- 24 national contingency plan, and which provide for
- cost-effective response.

1	(b) General Rules for Response Selection.—
2	Section 121(b) of such Act is amended to read as follows:
3	"(b) General Rules.—
4	"(1) SELECTION PROCESS.—In selecting a re-
5	sponse action under this section, the President (or
6	State, as the case may be) shall review the long-term
7	response plan for the facility or site and consider
8	any recommendations submitted to it from the Com-
9	munity Advisory Council, the potentially responsible
10	parties, and the general public.
11	"(2) Factors to be considered.—In select-
12	ing a response action, the President shall take into
13	account the following:
14	"(A) Site-specific factors, including the
15	current and likely future uses of the land and
16	the ground water (including any designated
17	uses or institutional controls), the potential for
18	human exposure to contamination, the actual
19	risk to human health, and the degree and type
20	of contamination.
21	"(B) The economic impact of the action on
22	the potentially responsible parties. In the case
23	of a potentially responsible party which is a mu-
24	nicipality or other subdivision of a State (in-
25	cluding municipalities that are owners or opera-

1	tors of landfills), the President shall take into
2	account the funding priorities of the commu-
3	nity.
4	"(C) The costs and benefits of the re-
5	sponse options, as determined by cost-benefit
6	analysis under section 104(a)(8).
7	"(3) Types of responses that may be se-
8	LECTED.—The types of response actions that the
9	President (or State, as the case may be) may select
10	include the following:
11	"(A) Monitoring.
12	"(B) Containment or stabilization, if the
13	President or State finds that any of the follow-
14	ing conditions exist with respect to the facility
15	concerned:
16	"(i) The risks to human health or the
17	environment are low.
18	"(ii) The costs of other types of reme-
19	diation, including treatment, are extremely
20	high.
21	"(iii) No proven technology exists for
22	achieving a permanent and significant de-
23	crease in the toxicity, mobility, or volume
24	of the hazardous substance, pollutant, or
25	contaminant concerned that is propor-

l	tionate to	the	risk	to	human	health	or	the
2	environmer	nt.						

"(C) Institutional controls as part of a permanent remedy. The President shall give preference to using such controls at facilities with low future risk (as determined in the risk assessment component of a Long Term Response Plan). Such controls include zoning ordinances and other ordinances that restrict access to or use of property (including groundwater management zones), physical barriers that restrict access to property (such as fences), and such other controls as the President (or State) considers appropriate.

"(4) Preference for certain type of action.—In selecting a response action, the President (or State) shall, with reference to the factors set forth in section 121(b)(2) prefer response actions that significantly reduce the volume, toxicity, or mobility of the hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants, or that significantly reduce actual or threatened exposure to such hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

"(5) LIMITATION ON STANDARDIZED REM-EDIES.—The President (or State) shall not select a

- response action that is a standardized remedy in any case in which the use of an alternative technology would be less expensive but as protective of health and the environment as the standardized remedy. For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'standardized remedy' means a remedy that is determined by the President to be protective of human health and the environment for a category of facilities.
  - "(6) COMPLIANCE BOUNDARIES.— The President (or State), in determining the boundaries within which a response action is to be achieved, shall extend site or facility boundaries to include areas subject to easements or other institutional controls, such as zones of groundwater management.
  - "(7) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The selection of a response action by the President or a State under this subsection is subject to review as provided in chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, except that a reviewing court may set aside an action only if it is found to be arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law. Review may be had only in the United States district court for the district in which the facility or site is located. In any such review, the facts of the case are subject to a trial de novo by the reviewing court.

1	Any appeal of the selection of a response action shall
2	be filed within 60 days after the selection is made.
3	"(8) Deadline for implementation to
4	BEGIN.—The implementation of a response action
5	selected pursuant to this section shall begin no later
6	than 60 days after the selection has been made
7	and—
8	"(i) an appeal of such selection has been
9	filed and a court has finally acted upon such
10	appeal; or
11	"(ii) the time for filing an appeal of such
12	selection has expired and no appeal has been
13	filed.''.
14	(c) Repeal of ARARS Cleanup Standards.—
15	Section 121(d) of the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
16	sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
17	U.S.C. 9621(d)) is amended—
18	(1) by striking out paragraphs (2), (3), and (4);
19	and
20	(2) by striking out "(1)".
21	(d) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
22	section shall apply with respect to any facility or site with
23	respect to which—

- 1 (1) no contract for remedial design and reme-2 dial action has been executed as of the date of the 3 enactment of this Act; and
- (2) the pertinent parties have not opted to subject themselves to the long-term response plan and related requirements within 30 days after such date of enactment (as described in section 104(a)(6)(C)).
- 8 (e) Cross Reference Amendment.—Section 9 104(c)(4) of such Act is amended to read as follows:
- 10 "(4) SELECTION OF RESPONSE.—The President 11 shall select response actions to carry out this section in 12 accordance with section 121 of this Act.".

### 13 SEC. 305. PERIODIC REVIEW.

Section 121(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9621(c)) is amended by striking out the first two sentences and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "The President, or the State in the case of a facility for which a State has responsibility under section 127, shall review each response action selected under this section not less often than once every 5 years after the initiation of the action to assure that human health and the environment are being protected by the action being implemented. If upon such review it is the judgment of the President or

State that additional actions are appropriate at such site

- 1 in accordance with section 104, the President or State
- 2 shall take or require such action, including a supplemental
- 3 long-term response plan under section 104. In the case
- 4 of a review carried out by the President, if it is the judg-
- 5 ment of the President that additional actions are appro-
- 6 priate at such site in accordance with section 106, the
- 7 President or State shall take or require such action.".
- 8 SEC. 306. DELISTING OF FACILITIES AND SITES.
- 9 Section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
- 10 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
- 11 U.S.C. 9605) is amended by adding at the end the follow-
- 12 ing new subsection:
- 13 "(h) Delisting of Facilities and Sites.—After
- 14 a response action selected for a site or facility achieves
- 15 the cleanup goal set for such facility under section 121(a),
- 16 the President shall delist the site or facility from the Na-
- 17 tional Priorities List. Such delisting may occur even if
- 18 monitoring or operation and maintenance are being con-
- 19 ducted at the facility.".

## 20 TITLE IV—FUNDING

- 21 SEC. 401. 5-YEAR EXTENSION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE
- 22 **SUPERFUND.**
- 23 (a) Extension of Taxes.—
- 24 (1) The following provisions of the Internal
- Revenue Code of 1986 are each amended by striking

1	"January 1, 1996" each place it appears and insert-
2	ing "January 1, 2001":
3	(A) Section 59A(e)(1) (relating to applica-
4	tion of environmental tax).
5	(B) Paragraphs (1) and (3) of section
6	4611(e) (relating to application of Hazardous
7	Substance Superfund financing rate).
8	(2) Paragraph (2) of section 4611(e) of such
9	Code is amended—
10	(A) by striking "1993" and inserting
11	"1998",
12	(B) by striking "1994" each place it ap-
13	pears and inserting "1999", and
14	(C) by striking "1995" each place it ap-
15	pears and inserting "2000".
16	(b) Increase in Aggregate Tax Which May Be
17	COLLECTED.—Paragraph (3) of section 4611(e) of such
18	Code is amended by striking "\$11,970,000,000" each
19	place it appears and inserting "\$26, 970,000,000" and by
20	striking "December 31, 1995" and inserting "December
21	31, 2000".
22	(c) Extension of Repayment Deadline for
23	SUPERFUND BORROWING.—Subparagraph (B) of section
24	9507(d)(3) is amended by striking "December 31, 1995"
25	and inserting "December 31 2000"

- 1 (d) Extension of Authorization of Appropria-
- 2 TIONS TO TRUST FUND.—Subsection (b) of section 517
- 3 of the Superfund Revenue Act of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9507
- 4 note) is amended by striking "and" at the end of para-
- 5 graph (8), by striking the period at the end of paragraph
- 6 (9) and inserting ", and", and by adding at the end there-
- 7 of the following new paragraphs:
- 8 "(10) 1996, \$250,000,000,
- 9 "(11) 1997, \$250,000,000,
- 10 "(12) 1998, \$250,000,000,
- "(12) 1999, \$250,000,000, and
- 12 "(13) 2000, \$250,000,000,".

### 13 SEC. 402. INCREASE IN ENVIRONMENTAL INCOME TAX.

- 14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 59A of
- 15 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to environ-
- 16 mental tax) is amended by inserting "(0.24 percent in the
- 17 case of taxable years beginning after December 31, 1994,
- 18 and before January 1, 2000)".
- 19 (b) Increased Revenues Not Deposited in
- 20 Superfund.—Subsection (b) of section 9507 of such
- 21 Code (relating to Hazardous Substance Superfund) is
- 22 amended by adding at the end the following new sentence:
- 23 "Only 50 percent of the taxes received in the Treasury
- 24 under section 59A with respect to taxable years beginning

1	after December 31, 1994, and before January 1, 2000,
2	shall be taken into account under paragraph (1)."
3	(c) Effective Date.—The amendment made by
4	subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after
5	December 31, 1994.
6	SEC. 403. ENVIRONMENTAL FEES AND ASSESSMENTS ON IN-
7	SURANCE COMPANIES.
8	(a) IN GENERAL.—The Internal Revenue Code of
9	1986 is amended by inserting after section the fol-
10	lowing new section:
11	"§ . Environmental fees and assessments on insur-
12	ance companies".
13	[RESERVED]
14	(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections
15	for chapter of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
16	is amended by inserting after the item relating to section
17	the following:
18	"§ . Environmental fees and assessments on insur-
19	ance companies".
20	SEC. 404. RETROACTIVE LIABILITY FUND.
21	(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter A of chapter 98 of the
22	Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to trust fund
23	code) is amended by adding at the end thereof the follow-
24	

## 1 "SEC. 9512. RETROACTIVE LIABILITY FUND.

- 2 "(a) Creation of Trust Fund.—There is estab-
- 3 lished in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund
- 4 to be known as the 'Retroactive Liability Fund', consisting
- 5 of such amounts as may be appropriated or credited to
- 6 such Fund as provided in this section or section 9602(b).
- 7 "(b) Transfers to Fund.—There are hereby ap-
- 8 propriated to the Retroactive Liability Fund—
- 9 "(1) amounts equivalent to 50 percent of the
- revenues received in the Treasury from the tax im-
- posed by section 59A (relating to environmental tax)
- for taxable years beginning after December 31,
- 13 1994, and before January 1, 2000; and
- 14 "(2) amounts received from fees and assess-
- ments imposed by the amendments made by section
- 16 403 of this Act.
- 17 "(c) Expenditures From Fund.—Amounts in the
- 18 Retroactive Liability Fund shall be available, as provided
- 19 in appropriation Acts, only for purposes of making ex-
- 20 penditures to carry out section 107(n) of the Comprehen-
- 21 sive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liabil-
- 22 ity Act of 1980."
- 23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
- 24 for such subchapter A is amended by adding at the end
- 25 thereof the following new item:

"Sec. 9512. Retroactive Liability Fund."

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HR 4161	SC——2
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