# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

United States of America,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. 25-10115

Aerosols Danville, Inc., f/k/a KIK Custom Products, Inc.; Avnet, Inc.; Bank of America, N.A., Trustee u/w of Lloyd G. Balfour; BASF Catalysts LLC; Chevron Environmental Management Company, for itself and as Attorney-in-Fact for Kewanee Industries, Inc.; City of Attleboro, Massachusetts; ConocoPhillips Company; Handy & Harman; International Paper Company; Swank Holdings, Inc.; Teknor Apex Company; Texas Instruments Incorporated; Waste Management of Massachusetts, Inc.;

Defendants.

Town of Norton, Massachusetts

### **COMPLAINT**

1. The United States of America, by authority of the Attorney General, acting on behalf of the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service ("DOI"), brings this complaint and states as follows:

### NATURE OF THE ACTION

2. This is a civil action for natural resource damages against the named Defendants under Sections 107(a) and (f)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation,

and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a) and (f)(1), for damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of use of, natural resources, including the reasonable costs of assessing such injury, destruction or loss, resulting from the release of hazardous substances into the environment at or related to the Shpack Landfill Superfund Site located in both Norton and Attleboro, Massachusetts (the "Site").

3. The hazardous substances released at or related to the Site include volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and heavy metals such as lead, arsenic, chromium, copper, cadmium, nickel, and zinc. Releases of the hazardous substances have resulted in injury to various natural resources, such as mammals (e.g., raccoon, red fox), migratory birds (e.g., dabbling ducks, songbirds), amphibians, reptiles, fish, and invertebrates, as well as other wildlife for which Federal and State agencies serve as trustees.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over the parties under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345 and Sections 107(a) and 113(b) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607(a) and 9613(b).
- 5. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and Section 113(b) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(b), because the releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that give rise to this claim occurred in this district, and because the Site is located in this district.

#### STATUTORY BACKGROUND

- 6. Section 107(f) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(f), authorizes duly-designated Federal and State natural resource trustees to recover natural resource damages ("NRD"), i.e. damages for any injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources resulting from the release of hazardous substances, including the reasonable costs of assessing such injury.
- 7. Section 107(a)(4)(C) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a)(4)(C), imposes liability for NRD on certain classes of potentially responsible parties ("PRPs"), including current owners and operators of a facility from which there has been a release of a hazardous substance, parties that owned or operated a facility at the time of disposal of a hazardous substance, and parties that arranged for disposal or treatment of a hazardous substance at a facility owned by another party or entity.
- 8. Under CERCLA, the term "natural resources" includes "land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, water . . . and other such resources belonging to, managed by, held in trust by, appertaining to, or otherwise controlled by the United States [or] any State or local government . . . ." 42 U.S.C. § 9601(16).
- 9. The Secretary of DOI has been designated as a natural resource trustee for federal trust resources at or related to the Site under 42 U.S.C. § 9607(f)(2)(A), 40 C.F.R. § 300.600, and Exec. Ord. No. 12,580, 52 Fed. Reg. 2923 (Jan. 23, 1987). DOI acts on behalf of the public as a trustee for natural resources, including threatened or endangered species, migratory birds, other fish and aquatic life, and their supporting ecosystems, belonging to, managed by, held in trust by, appertaining to, or otherwise controlled by the United States. See 40 C.F.R. § 300.600.

- 10. The Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through its Department of Environmental Protection (the "State Trustee"), has been designated as the State natural resource trustee for Massachusetts trust resources at or related to the Site under 42 U.S.C. § 9607(f)(2)(B) and 40 C.F.R. § 300.605. The State Trustee acts on behalf of the public for natural resources, including their supporting ecosystems, within the boundaries of Massachusetts or belonging to, managed by, or appertaining to Massachusetts. See 40 C.F.R. § 300.605.
- 11. Federal trusteeship over natural resources may overlap with that of States. The National Contingency Plan directs that, where there are multiple trustees, the trustees should coordinate and cooperate in carrying out their responsibilities. 40 C.F.R. § 300.615(a).

#### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 12. The Site is approximately 9.4 acres and consists of two parcels of land located on the Norton/Attleboro, Massachusetts town boundary, on the southerly side of Union Road in Norton and Peckham Street in Attleboro. The Site includes both the "Shpack Parcel" in Norton and the "Dumont Parcel" in Attleboro.
- 13. The Shpack Parcel, which consists of 6.0 acres situated in Norton, is bounded by Union Road and the former Shpack residence to the northwest, Chartley Swamp to the east/southeast, and the Norton-Attleboro corporate boundary to the south/southwest.
- 14. The Dumont Parcel, which consists of approximately 3.4 acres located in Attleboro, is a triangular shaped parcel bounded by Peckham Street to the north/northwest, the Attleboro-Norton town line to the east/northeast, and a line between Peckham Street and the Attleboro-Norton town line to the south.

- 15. The Dumont Parcel portion of the Site was operated as an open burning dump for the City of Attleboro from approximately 1946 through 1965.
- 16. The Shpack Parcel portion of the Site received hazardous substances and other waste from approximately 1946 through 1975.
- 17. Bulldozers periodically leveled the land on the Dumont Parcel without strict adherence to property boundaries, causing the wastes originally disposed on each of the two contiguous parcels to become commingled.
- 18. Contaminants have been detected in the soils and groundwater at the Site, including, but not limited to, the following: VOCs; SVOCs; PCBs; heavy metals, such as lead, arsenic, chromium, copper, cadmium, nickel, and zinc; and radiological compounds.
- 19. The contaminants referred to in Paragraph 18 are "hazardous substances" within the meaning of Section 104(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14).
- 20. In 1986 the Site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a list of hazardous waste sites posing the greatest threat to human health, welfare, and the environment. 42 U.S.C. § 9605(a) and 40 C.F.R. Part 300, Appendix B.
- 21. There have been "releases" of hazardous substances at or from the Site within the meaning of Sections 101(22) and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601(22) and 9607(a).
- 22. The Site is a "facility" within the meaning of CERCLA Sections 101(9) and 107(a), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601(9) and 9607(a).
- 23. The releases of hazardous substances and materials at the Site contaminated the soils, groundwater, surface waters, and wetlands on and adjacent to the Site.

- 24. DOI and the State Trustee (collectively, the "Trustees") have assessed injuries to natural resources resulting from the release of hazardous substances at the Site.
- 25. Plaintiff has incurred costs in assessing injuries to natural resources resulting from the releases of hazardous substances at or from the Site.
- 26. The Trustees have determined that injuries to natural resources at or related to the Site, including sediment, soil, wetlands, and wildlife, were caused by exposure of those resources to the hazardous substances which were released at or from the Site. These injuries resulted in a loss of these resources as well as the ecological services that these resources would otherwise have provided.
- 27. "Natural Resources" within meaning of Section 101(16) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(16), have been or/are being injured, lost, or destroyed as a result of the releases of hazardous substances at or from the Site.

#### **DEFENDANTS**

- 28. Each of the Defendants is a "person" as defined in Section 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(21).
- 29. Defendants Aerosols Danville, Inc., f/k/a KIK Custom Products, Inc.; Avnet, Inc.; Bank of America, N.A., Trustee u/w of Lloyd G. Balfour; BASF Catalysts LLC; Chevron Environmental Management Company, for itself and as Attorney-in-Fact for Kewanee Industries, Inc.; ConocoPhillips Company; Handy & Harman; International Paper Company; Swank Holdings, Inc.; Teknor Apex Co.; and Texas Instruments, Inc. (collectively "Arranger Defendants"), or their predecessors, generated waste materials that contained hazardous

substances including VOCs, SVOCs, PCBs, lead, arsenic, chromium, copper, cadmium, nickel, and/or radiological compounds.

- 30. Each Arranger Defendant or its predecessor arranged (by contract, agreement or otherwise) for disposal of the waste materials it generated, or arranged with a transporter for transport for disposal.
- 31. Waste materials that contained hazardous substances and that each Arranger

  Defendant arranged for disposal (either directly or through a transporter) were disposed of at the

  Site.
- 32. The Arranger Defendants are persons, or successors in interest to persons, that by contract, agreement or otherwise, arranged for disposal or arranged with a transporter for transport for disposal, of hazardous substances owned or possessed by such person, which were disposed of at the Site.
- 33. The City of Attleboro, Massachusetts entered into agreements to use the Dumont Parcel of the Site as a city dump. Agreements signed by the City of Attleboro stipulated that the dump would be open daily for the use of Attleboro inhabitants and that the City of Attleboro would bulldoze material periodically to make the land level and would grade and plow the roads within the dump.
- 34. Goditt & Boyer, a predecessor of Defendant Waste Management of Massachusetts, Inc., entered into an agreement with the City of Attleboro, Massachusetts, in which Goditt & Boyer agreed to furnish equipment and labor to maintain dumping areas at the Dumont Parcel of the Site. The agreement required Goditt & Boyer to level the refuse with a bulldozer.

- 35. Defendant Waste Management of Massachusetts, Inc. and the City of Attleboro, Massachusetts (collectively "Operator Defendants") are persons, or successors in interest to persons that, at the time of the disposal of hazardous substances, were operators of the Site.
- 36. Goditt & Boyer, a predecessor of Defendant Waste Management of Massachusetts, Inc., brought several loads of waste materials per day to the Dumont Parcel of the Site for disposal from companies in or around the City of Attleboro, Massachusetts, including several of the Arranger Defendants.
- 37. L.W. Fontaine Trucking, another predecessor of Defendant Waste Management of Massachusetts, Inc., brought loads of waste materials to the Shpack Parcel of the Site for disposal.
- 38. Defendant Waste Management of Massachusetts, Inc. ("Transporter Defendant") is a person, or a successor in interest to a person, that accepted waste, which contained hazardous substances, for transport to the Site for disposal.
- 39. Defendant Town of Norton, Massachusetts acquired the Shpack Parcel of the Site in 1981 and is the current owner of that parcel.

#### CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 40. The allegations in Paragraphs 1 through 39 are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.
- 41. Each of the Arranger Defendants, named in Paragraph 29, is liable under Section 107(a)(3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a)(3), because each arranged for the disposal or treatment, or arranged with a transporter for transport for disposal or treatment, at the Site, of hazardous substances that it owned or possessed, or is a successor in interest to such an entity.

- 42. Each of the Operator Defendants, named in Paragraph 35, is liable under Section 107(a)(2) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a)(2), because each, at the time of the disposal of hazardous substances, was an operator of the Site, or is a successor in interest to such an entity.
- 43. The Transporter Defendant, named in Paragraph 38, is liable under Section 107(a)(4) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a)(4), because it accepted and transported hazardous substances to the Site for disposal there, or is a successor in interest to such an entity.
- 44. Defendant Town of Norton, Massachusetts is liable under Section 107(a)(1) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a)(1) because it is the current owner of a portion of the Site.
- 45. The release of hazardous substances into the environment at or from the Site has resulted in injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources within the trusteeship of DOI.
- 46. DOI has incurred and continues to incur costs related to the assessment of natural resource damages resulting from the release of hazardous substances from the Site.
- 47. The Defendants are jointly and severally liable for natural resource damages, including the reasonable costs of assessing natural resource injuries, resulting from releases of hazardous substances at or related to the Site pursuant to Section 107(a)(4)(C) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a)(4)(C).

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, the United States of America, respectfully requests that this Court:

(1) Enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against the Defendants, jointly and severally, for all damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss, or loss of use of, natural resources,

and the reasonable costs of assessing such injury, destruction, or loss, or loss of use of, natural resources resulting from the release of hazardous substances at or relating to the Site;

- (2) Enter a declaratory judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against the Defendants that the Defendants are jointly and severally liable for any future costs or expenses incurred by the United States in the restoration or replacement of natural resources damaged or destroyed as a result of the release or threatened release of hazardous substances at or related to the Site, including future natural resource damage assessment costs and costs of implementing natural resource restoration activities;
  - (3) Award Plaintiff its costs and fees in this action; and
  - (4) Grant Plaintiff such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD KIM Assistant Attorney General

/s/ Andrew W. Keir
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## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

1.	Title of case (name of first party on each side only) United States of America V. Aerosols Danville, Inc. et al.									
2.	Category in which the case belongs based upon the numbered nature of suit code listed on the civil cover sheet. (See local rule 40.1(a)(1)).									
	I. 160, 400, 410, 441, 535, 830*, 835*, 850, 880, 891, 893, R.23, REGARDLESS OF NATURE OF SUIT.									
	II. 110, 130, 190, 196, 370, 375, 376, 440, 442, 443, 445, 446, 448, 470, 751, 820*, 840*, 895, 896, 899.									
	120, 140, 150, 151, 152, 153, 195, 210, 220, 230, 240, 245, 290, 310, 315, 320, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 36 365, 367, 368, 371, 380, 385, 422, 423, 430, 450, 460, 462, 463, 465, 480, 485, 490, 510, 530, 540, 550, 555, 56 625, 690, 710, 720, 740, 790, 791, 861-865, 870, 871, 890, 950.  *Also complete AO 120 or AO 121. for patent, trademark or copyright cases.									
3.	Title and number, if any, of related cases. (See local rule 40.1(g)). If more than one prior related case has been filed in this district please indicate the title and number of the first filed case in this court.									
4.	Has a prior action between the same parties and based on the same claim ever been filed in this court?  YES NO									
5.	Does the complaint in this case question the constitutionality of an act of congress affecting the public interest? (See 28 USC §2403)									
	YES  NO ▼  If so, is the U.S.A. or an officer, agent or employee of the U.S. a party?  YES  NO ▼  YES  NO ▼									
6.	Is this case required to be heard and determined by a district court of three judges pursuant to title 28 USC §2284?  YES NO									
7.	Do <u>all</u> of the parties in this action, excluding governmental agencies of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("governmental agencies"), residing in Massachusetts reside in the same division? - (See Local Rule 40.1(d)).  YES  NO									
	A. If yes, in which division do all of the non-governmental parties reside?  Eastern Division Central Division Western Division									
	B. If no, in which division do the majority of the plaintiffs or the only parties, excluding governmental agencies, residing in Massachusetts reside?									
	Eastern Division Central Division Western Division									
8.	If filing a Notice of Removal - are there any motions pending in the state court requiring the attention of this Court? (If yes, submit a separate sheet identifying the motions)  YES  NO									
	ASE TYPE OR PRINT)									
	DRNEY'S NAME Andrew W. Keir									
	WESS USDOJ, PO Box 7611 Washington, DC, 20044									
ΓFΙ	EPHONE NO. (202) 532-2228									

JS 44 (Rev. 10/20)

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The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS								
United States of		Aerosols Danville, Inc. et al.								
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Cook County, IL						
Œ		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.								
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Andrew W. Keir, USD 202-532-2228; Hillary Way, Suite 9200, Bosto		Attorneys (If Known) Michael P. Last, Verrill Dana LLP, One Federal Street, 20th Floor, Boston, MA 02110, ph: (617) 357-3738; Mark R. Reich, KP Law P.C., 101 Arch Street, 12th Floor, Boston, MA 02110, ph: (617) 654-1786								
II. BASIS OF JURISD			III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	L PARTIES	Place an "X" in	One Box fo	or Plaintiff	
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2 U.S. Government Defendant			Citize	n of Another State 2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State			5	5		
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly) RTS	FO	Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.  FORFEITURE/PENALTY BANKRUPTCY OTHER STATUTES						
110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise  REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel &	PERSONAL INJURY  365 Personal Injury - Product Liability  367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability  368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability  PERSONAL PROPERT  370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending  380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability  PRISONER PETITION  Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Othe 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition	7	DRFEITURE/PENALTY  5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881  0 Other  LABOR  0 Fair Labor Standards Act  0 Labor/Management Relations  0 Railway Labor Act  1 Family and Medical Leave Act  0 Other Labor Litigation  1 Employee Retirement Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION  2 Naturalization Application  5 Other Immigration Actions	422 Ap;   423 Wi   28     28	peal 28 USC 158 thdrawal USC 157  RTY RIGHTS pyrights ent ent - Abbreviated w Drug Application	375 False C 376 Qui Ta 3729(a 400 State R 410 Antitrr 430 Banks 450 Comm 460 Deport 470 Racket Corrup 480 Consu (15 US 485 Teleph Protec 490 Cable/- 850 Securit Excha 890 Other S 891 Agricu X 893 Enviro 895 Freedo Act 896 Arbitra 899 Admin Act/Re	Claims Act m (31 USG n) leapportion leapportion leapportion lest and Banki erce ation eer Influer t Organiza mer Credit SC 1681 on one Consu tion Act Sat TV less/Comm nge Statutory A Itural Acts nmental M m of Infor ation listrative P view or Al y Decision tutionality	mment  ng  need and tions  1692) mer  odities/ actions fatters mation  rocedure ppeal of	
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION		EMAND \$	C	CHECK YES only i			int:	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCK	ET NUMBER				
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