TOLLING AGREEMENT FOR CLAIMS UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY ACT RELATING TO THE BARITE HILL/NEVADA GOLDFIELDS SUPERFUND SITE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") contends that it has a cause of action pursuant to Sections 106 and 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, ("CERCLA") 42 U.S.C. 9606 and 9607, against Twin Creeks Timber, LLC ("Defendant") for performance of response actions and cost recovery at the Barite Hill/Nevada Goldfields Superfund Site in McCormick, McCormick County, South Carolina (the "Tolled Claims").

The EPA and Defendant ("Parties") enter into this Tolling Agreement to facilitate settlement negotiations between the Parties within the time period provided by this Agreement, without thereby altering the claims or defenses available to any Party hereto, except as specifically provided herein.

The Parties, in consideration of the covenants set out herein, agree as follows:

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Tolling Agreement, the period commencing on September 30, 2023, and ending on September 30, 2024, inclusive (the "Tolling Period"), shall not be included in computing the running of any statute of limitations potentially applicable to any action on the Tolled Claims brought by the United States on behalf of the EPA.

2. Any defenses of laches, estoppel, or waiver, or other similar equitable defenses based upon the running or expiration of any time period shall not include the Tolling Period for the Tolled Claims.

3. Defendant shall not assert, plead, or raise against the United States in any fashion, whether by answer, motion or otherwise, any defense of laches, estoppel, or waiver, or other similar equitable defense based on the running of any statute of limitations or the passage of time during the Tolling Period in any action brought on the Tolled Claims.

4. This Tolling Agreement does not constitute any admission or acknowledgment of any fact, conclusion of law, or liability by any Party to this Tolling Agreement. Nor does this Tolling Agreement constitute any admission or acknowledgment on the part of the United States that any statute of limitations, or similar defense concerning the timeliness of commencing a civil action, is applicable to the Tolled Claims. The United States reserves the right to assert that no statute of limitations applies to any of the Tolled Claims and that no other defense based upon the timeliness of commencing a civil action is applicable.

5. This Tolling Agreement may not be modified except in a writing signed by all the Parties. The Parties acknowledge that this Tolling Agreement may be extended for such period of time as the Parties agree to in writing.

6. It is understood that the EPA may terminate settlement negotiations and commence suit at any time, upon provision of written notice by mail to Defendant. Where the EPA elects to terminate negotiations under this Paragraph, the Tolling Period shall continue for the duration set forth in Paragraph 1. Nothing herein shall preclude the commencement of any action by the United States to protect the public health, welfare, or the environment without provision of advance notice.

7. This Tolling Agreement does not limit in any way the nature or scope of any claims that could be brought by the United States in a complaint against Defendant or the date on which the United States may file such a complaint, except as expressly stated herein.

8. This Agreement is not intended to affect any claims by or against third parties.

9. This Tolling Agreement is effective upon execution by the Defendant, and without the requirement of filing with the Court, and may be signed in counterparts.

10. This Tolling Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties, and no statement, promise, or inducement made by any Party to this Tolling Agreement that is not set forth in this Tolling Agreement shall be valid or binding, nor shall it be used in construing the terms of this Tolling Agreement as set forth herein.

11. The undersigned representative of each of the Parties certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Tolling Agreement and to legally bind such party to all terms and conditions of this document. This Agreement shall be binding upon the EPA and upon Defendant and its successors.

SIGNATURES

The United States Environmental Protection Agency consents to the terms and conditions of this Tolling Agreement by its duly authorized representatives on this _____ day of _____, 2023.

By: _____

Maurice L. Horsey, Chief
Enforcement Branch
Superfund and Emergency Management Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4

Defendant consents to the terms and conditions of this Tolling Agreement for Claims under CERCLA relating to the Barite Hill/Nevada Goldfields Superfund Site by its duly authorized representative on this 28th day of June, 2023.

TWIN CREEKS TIMBER, LLC

By: Silver Creek Advisory Partners LLC, its Manager

Name: Robert A. Ratliffe

Title: President