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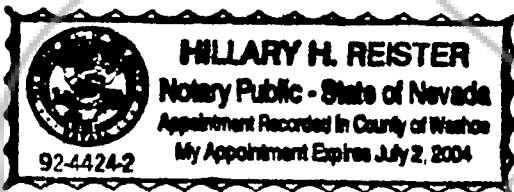
Richard W. Harris, Esq.
Harris & Thompson
6121 Lakeside Drive, Suite 260
Reno, Nevada 89511

EPA DECLARATION OF "NO ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT"

The attached letter from Region IX of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") declares that EPA does not anticipate taking any enforcement action against the "Aldax Property" situated in Douglas County, Nevada by reason of an underground plume of contaminants emanating from Bently Nevada Corp.'s Airport Road Facility in Douglas County. The "Aldax Property" is more particularly described as follows:

The West Half (W1/2) of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Section Six (6), and the West Half (W1/2) of the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section Seven (7), in Township Thirteen (13) North, Range Twenty (20) East, M.D.B.&M., containing 160 acres, more or less.

DATED this 13th day of May, 2002



Richard W. Harris
RICHARD W. HARRIS, Attorney for
Andre Aldax, et al.

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to
before me this 13th day of May, 2002

Hillary H. Reister
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said
COUNTY and STATE

aldax/7481
epa declaration of "no environmental enforcement"

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REQUESTED BY
Richard W. Harris PC
IN OFFICIAL RECORDS OF
DOUGLAS CO., NEVADA

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**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105**

May 7, 2002

Richard W. Harris, Esq.
Harris & Thompson
6121 Lakeside Drive, Suite 260
Reno, NV 89511

re: Aldax
Bently Nevada site
Douglas County, Nevada

Dear Mr. Harris:

U.S. EPA Region 9 understands that your clients, Andre Aldax, Carol Aldax and the Aldax Family Trust own approximately 160 acres of real property (the Aldax Property) near the Bently Nevada site (the Site) located in Minden, Douglas County, Nevada. Because groundwater at the Site is contaminated, you have inquired about Region 9's future involvement at the Site.

The Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) is currently the enforcement lead agency overseeing cleanup activities at the Site. We have received a copy of the Release from Environmental Liability which NDEP has recently issued to your clients based on the fact that they are downgradient owners who are not responsible for the contamination.

Our records show that the Bently Nevada Corp.'s Airport Road Facility in Douglas County was identified in the federal Superfund database known as CERCLIS. However, Region 9 designated it as "No Further Action" on August 30, 1994 and subsequently archived the site. Therefore, as you requested, we are writing this letter to set forth our Agency's intentions with regard to the Site.

Under the circumstances, Region 9 does not anticipate taking enforcement action against Andre Aldax, Carol Aldax or the Aldax Family Trust, and we acknowledge the efforts NDEP is taking to address the contamination.

Note that should the surface of the Aldax Property lies above contaminated groundwater, EPA has issued a policy which states that EPA will not take enforcement actions against landowners who have not contributed to the groundwater contamination. Please refer to the document published as "Policy Towards Owners of Property Containing Contaminated Aquifers" (July 3, 1995) 60 Fed. Reg. 34790. Additionally, as you are aware, on January 11, 2002, the President signed into law the "Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization

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Richard W. Harris, Esq.
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Act" ("Brownfields Amendments"). The Brownfields Amendments, among other things, provide CERCLA liability limitations for certain parties. In particular, new Section 107 (q) pertains to "Contiguous Property Owners" (including landowners downgradient from groundwater contamination) and sets forth the qualifying criteria. For your convenience, you may review the full text of the Brownfields Amendments at www.epa.gov/brownfields, and click on the New Legislation button.

I trust that the information above has helped to alleviate any concerns your clients may have. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact William Keener of our Office of Regional Counsel at (415) 972-3940.

Sincerely,



Daniel Meer, Chief
Response, Planning and Assessment Branch
Superfund Division

cc: D. Barton, SFD-9-1
W. Keener, ORC-1

REQUESTED BY
Richard Harris
IN OFFICIAL RECORDS OF
DOUGLAS CO., NEVADA

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