EXHIBIT 1

NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 2 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF NIAGARA

JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY, Individually and as Parent and Natural Guardian of DYLAN J. BRADLEY, TREVOR A. BRADLEY and CHASE Q. BRADLEY, Infants; ZACHARY and MELANIE HERR, Individually and as Parent and Natural Guardian of COLETON HERR and HEATHER HERR, Infants; NATHAN E. and ELENA KORSON, Individually and as Parent and Natural Guardian of LOGAN J. KORSON, an Infant,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS; NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD; GLENN SPRINGS HOLDINGS, INC.; CONESTOGA-ROVERS & ASSOCIATES; CECOS INTERNATIONAL; INC.; MILLER SPRINGS REMEDIATION MANAGEMENT, INC.; OCCIDENTAL CHEMICAL CORPORATION, Individually and as Successor in Interest to Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corporation; OP-TECH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES; ROY'S PLUMBING, INC.; SCOTT LAWN YARD, INC.; and SEVENSON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Defendants.

THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT

Index No.: 146816

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 3 of 78 NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

Plaintiffs, by their undersigned attorneys, PHILLIPS & PAOLICELLI, LLP, WATERS & KRAUS, LLP, CHRISTEN CIVILETTO MORRIS, ESQ., and FANIZZI & BARR, P.C., for their Third Amended Complaint against the Defendants, allege that:

I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

- 1. This action is brought on behalf of injured residents of Niagara Falls' Love Canal neighborhood, and elsewhere in the City of Niagara Falls tainted by pollution from the operations of Defendants, who have suffered physical injury and economic harm as a result of the intentional, reckless, wanton, negligent, or otherwise wrongful conduct of each of the Defendants. Each Plaintiff has suffered physical injury as a result of Defendants' misconduct, and will continue to suffer physical injury in the future. Such injuries include but are not limited to birth defects, chromosomal abnormalities, bone marrow abnormalities, neurological injuries and/or toxicity, cardiac conditions, pulmonary symptoms, unexplained fevers, skin conditions, behavioral problems, learning disabilities, and dental problems or complications.
- 2. Defendants' conduct which includes but is not limited to the wrongful dumping of toxic substances, the negligent, reckless, and/or ineffective remediation of such contamination, the negligent and/or reckless performance of work in, around, and adjacent to the sewers in proximity to Love Canal, and repeated failures to alert the public at large (and Plaintiffs in particular) of concerns regarding the neighborhood's safety has created a public health catastrophe. In addition, Defendant Occidental Chemical Corporation for decades has operated and continues to operate a chemical plant at or about 4700 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls New York (the "Occidental Plant") at which it has also engaged and continues to engage in the negligent and/or reckless dumping of toxins and from which it has spread toxins into the surrounding community. As related below, over all or most of its history, the Occidental Plant

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 4 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

has been and continues to be a substantial source of toxic chemical emissions and/or deposits into the atmosphere and/or the surrounding community. In addition, for many years, Occidental has discharged toxic pollution into the Niagara River, directly adjacent and/or in proximity to the Niagara Falls water treatment plant intake, thereby poisoning the Niagara Falls fresh water supply. Occidental continues to negligently and/or recklessly operate that facility to this day, and its neighbors, including Plaintiffs, are and have been harmed and continue to be harmed by virtue of exposure to the toxins emitted by the Occidental Plant.

- 3. As a result of all Defendants' misconduct, chemicals have been and continue to be visible to the naked eye on area roads, sidewalks, and grass, and throughout the sewers and storm drains of this residential community, as well as within Cayuga Creek. In addition to the illness and disease suffered by Plaintiffs (and indeed rampant in the neighborhood), the Love Canal community to this day presents the stigmata of widespread contamination. For example, the area has an unnatural absence of worms, mice, and other normal biodata. It is also strewn with dead trees and grass. Plaintiffs' and their neighbors' pets are sick. Dead animals are a common sight throughout the area.
- 4. The contamination resulting from Defendants' actions has also caused and continues to cause the adult Plaintiffs severe economic harm. For instance, Defendants' actions have rendered the adult Plaintiffs' homes virtually unsalable.
- 5. The economic harms that each Plaintiff has suffered also include substantial medical expenses, including but not limited to out of pocket expenses, to treat the various medical conditions caused by Defendants' misconduct.
- 6. Accordingly, Plaintiffs seek compensatory and punitive damages for, *inter alia*, personal injuries, lost quality of life, economic loss of services and support of the infant

Plaintiffs, loss of interspousal consortium and support, economic losses, future medical damages, and property value diminution.

II. PARTIES

A. Plaintiffs

- 7. Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY is a citizen and resident of the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, New York.
- 8. Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY is the parent and natural guardian of infant Plaintiff DYLAN J. BRADLEY, who is a citizen and resident of the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, New York.
- 9. Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY is the parent and natural guardian of infant Plaintiff TREVOR A. BRADLEY, who is a citizen and resident of the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, New York.
- 10. Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY is the parent and natural guardian of infant Plaintiff CHASE Q. BRADLEY, who is a citizen and resident of the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, New York.
- 11. At all relevant times, the Bradley Plaintiffs have resided and continue to reside at 911 90th Street, in the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, State of New York.
- 12. Plaintiff ZACHARY HERR is a citizen and resident of the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, New York.
- 13. Plaintiff MELANIE HERR is a citizen and resident of the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, New York.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 6 of 78 NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

14. Plaintiffs MELANIE HERR and ZACHARY HERR are the parents and natural guardians of infant Plaintiff COLETON HERR, who is a citizen and resident of the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, New York.

- 15. Plaintiffs MELANIE HERR and ZACHARY HERR are the parents and natural guardians of infant Plaintiff HEATHER HERR, who is a citizen and resident of the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, New York.
- 16. At all relevant times, the Herr Plaintiffs have resided and continue to reside at 940 93rd Street, in the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, State of New York.
- 17. Plaintiff NATHAN E. KORSON is a citizen of the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, New York.
- 18. Plaintiff ELENA KORSON is a citizen of the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, New York.
- 19. Plaintiffs NATHAN KORSON and ELENA KORSON are the parents and natural guardians of infant Plaintiff LOGAN J. KORSON, who is a citizen of the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, New York.
- 20. At relevant times, NATHAN KORSON, ELENA KORSON, and LOGAN KORSON resided at 905 92nd Street, in the City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, State of New York.

B. Defendants

21. Defendant OCCIDENTAL CHEMICAL CORPORATION, Individually and as Successor in Interest to HOOKER CHEMICAL AND PLASTICS CORPORATION ("OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER"), is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 7 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

22. Defendant CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS ("CITY") is a municipal corporation of the State of New York.

- 23. Defendant NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD ("NFWB") is a public benefit corporation created by a special act of the New York State Legislature.
- 24. Defendant GLENN SPRINGS HOLDINGS, INC. ("GSH") is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER.
- 25. Defendant CONESTOGA-ROVERS & ASSOCIATES ("CRA") is an engineering consulting firm conducting business within the State of New York.
- 26. Defendant CECOS INTERNATIONAL, INC. f/k/a NEWCO CHEMICAL WASTE SYSTEMS, INC. ("CECOS") is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York.
- 27. Defendant MILLER SPRINGS REMEDIATION MANAGEMENT, INC. ("MSRM") is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware and registered to conduct business in the State of New York. Defendant MILLER SPRINGS REMEDIATION MANAGEMENT, INC. is a subsidiary of Defendant OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION and a predecessor in interest to Defendant GSH.
- 28. Defendant OP-TECH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. ("OP-TECH") is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware conducting business in the State of New York.
- 29. Defendant ROY'S PLUMBING, INC. d/b/a ROY'S PLUMBING, HEATING, AND COOLING ("ROY'S") is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 8 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

30. Defendant SCOTT LAWN YARD, INC. ("SCOTT") is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York.

31. Defendant SEVENSON ENVRIONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. f/k/a SEVENSON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY f/k/a ALBERT ELIA BUILDING COMPANY ("SEVENSON") is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York.

- 32. As used herein, the term "Landfill Defendant" shall mean a defendant alleged to have engaged in intentional, negligent, careless, reckless, or otherwise tortious conduct relating to the initial contamination of the Love Canal Site and/or remediation, abatement, and/or cleanup of the area known as the Love Canal Superfund Site ("Love Canal Site"), including but not limited to the maintenance and monitoring of the Love Canal Site, continuing to the present.
- 33. As used herein, the term "Sewer Defendant" shall mean a defendant alleged to have engaged in intentional, negligent, careless, reckless, or otherwise tortious conduct relating to the maintenance, refurbishment, rebuilding, and/or removal of the water and/or sewer systems and/or utility corridors in the Love Canal area of Niagara Falls, N.Y. As described herein, the sewer and/or water systems in the Love Canal area have contained and do contain toxic Love Canal materials, and such materials have been leaching, migrating, surfacing, escaping, and/or moving onto and into Plaintiffs' homes, thus causing them harm, during their entire occupation of said homes.
- 34. As used herein, the term "2011 Sewer Incident Defendant" shall mean a defendant alleged to have been involved in conduct relating to the January 11, 2011 discovery and/or release of toxic chemicals (that had been leaching migrating, surfacing, escaping, and/or moving onto and into Plaintiffs homes, thus causing them harm, during their entire occupation of said homes), in connection with sewer repair work taking place in the area of 96th Street and

NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 9 of 78 NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

Colvin Boulevard in Niagara Falls, New York (the "Colvin Trench Site"). Such conduct includes work relating to the Niagara Falls sewer remediation project (which led to the January 11, 2011 chemical discovery and/or release), as well as the aftermath of and response to such discovery and/or release of chemicals, including but not limited to the remediation of the toxic discovery and/or release, the investigation thereof, and/or the failure to notify area residents

35. As used herein, the term "Chemical Plant Defendant" shall mean a defendant alleged to have engaged in intentional, negligent, carless, reckless, or otherwise tortious conduct relating to the emission to toxins from the chemical manufacturing facility located at or about 4700 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York (the "Occidental Plant") and into and/or onto the neighboring communities, continuing to the present.

- 36. Each of the following Defendants is a **LANDFILL DEFENDANT**:
 - a. OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER

(including Plaintiffs) of the dangerous nature of such toxins.

- b. GSH
- c. MSRM
- d. CRA
- e. CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
- f. CECOS
- g. SEVENSON
- 37. Each of the following Defendants is a **SEWER DEFENDANT:**
 - a. OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER
 - b. GSH
 - c. MSRM

NYSCEF DOC. NO. See 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 10 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

- d. CRA
- e. CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
- f. NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD
- g. SEVENSON
- 38. Each of the following Defendants is a **2011 SEWER INCIDENT DEFENDANT:**
 - a. OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER
 - b. GSH
 - c. CRA
 - d. CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
 - e. NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD
 - f. OP-TECH
 - g. SCOTT
 - h. ROY'S
 - 39. Each of the following Defendants is a **CHEMICAL PLANT DEFENDANT**:
 - a. OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER
 - C. Nature of Each Defendant's Conduct
- 40. Without prejudice and upon information and belief, Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, acting knowingly and either alone or in concert, engaged in the following misconduct relating to Love Canal:
 - a. dumping approximately 21,000 tons of toxins at the Love Canal Site;

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52e 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 11 of 78 NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

 intentional, negligent, careless, reckless, and/or otherwise tortious conduct in connection with the initial remediation of the toxins it had dumped at the Love Canal site;

- c. intentional, negligent, careless, reckless, and/or otherwise tortious conduct in connection with the ongoing maintenance, monitoring, and/or oversight of the Love Canal Site and surrounding area from in or about 1995 (when control of the Love Canal Site was transferred to OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER), and continuing to the present day;
- d. failing to ensure that toxins were not leaching, migrating, surfacing, escaping, and/or moving from within the Love Canal containment system following its construction and continuing to the present day;
- e. failing to report to relevant authorities and/or the public that toxins were escaping from the Love Canal containment system following its construction and continuing to the present day;
- f. failing to ensure that the area sewers and/or water systems and/or utility corridors were free from Love Canal contamination;
- g. failing to report to relevant authorities and/or the public that Love Canal toxins were and are present within area sewers and/or water systems and/or utility corridors;
- h. intentional, negligent, careless, reckless, and/or otherwise tortious conduct relating to the response to the January 11, 2011 release of toxic chemicals at the Colvin Boulevard trench site as alleged herein, including but not limited to

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 12 of 78 NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

the failure to advise area residents (including Plaintiffs) of the dangerous nature of the toxins to which they were exposed;

- failing to advise area residents, including Plaintiffs, of the dangerous nature of the toxins to which they were exposed beginning from the time of the initial dumping of toxins at Love Canal and continuing to the present;
- j. unlawfully releasing and allowing to escape and/or migrate into the environment substances hazardous to public health, safety, and/or the environment, acutely hazardous to public health, safety or the environment, and/or a hazardous waste;
- k. failing to properly investigate the potential negative health effects of the chemicals that it had dumped on the Love Canal site in the 1940s and 1950s, despite its early recognition and understanding of the dangers posed by the chemicals that it had improperly dumped at the Love Canal Site;
- failing to advise relevant government authorities of the dangerous nature of the toxins being released from the Love Canal site and/or the surrounding sewer and water systems;
- m. failing to adequately monitor the actual effects of the chemicals that it had wrongfully dumped at Love Canal on the surrounding neighborhood, including but not limited to adverse health effects such as those suffered by Plaintiffs, as well as the contamination of the surrounding soil, water, and air;
- n. failing to consider the particular local geography and geology in evaluating
 the effects or likely effects of the chemicals that it had improperly disposed at
 the Love Canal site;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 13 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

> o. making false, misleading, and deceptive statements to the public at large, as well as to relevant governmental agencies, concerning the Love Canal site, including but not limited to statements concerning the toxins which it had dumped on the land and the safety and/or contamination of the neighborhoods surrounding the Love Canal site;

- p. concealing information from and failing to warn the public at large, as well as relevant governmental agencies, concerning the Love Canal site, including but not limited to information concerning the toxins which it had dumped on the land and the safety and/or contamination of the neighborhoods surrounding the Love Canal site;
- q. failing to issue appropriate warnings concerning the likely environmental and public health implications of its conduct, when it knew or should have known of the growing development of medical and scientific knowledge concerning the toxicity and/or harmful medical effects of substances it had dumped on the Love Canal Site;
- r. failing to continuously monitor and warn the Niagara Falls school board of the dangers posed by the material it had dumped on the Love Canal site, when it knew or should have known that a school had been constructed on the site;
- s. failing to continuously monitor and warn the neighborhood residents (including Plaintiffs) of the dangers posed by the materials it had dumped on the Love Canal Site, when it knew or should have known that a residential community was being developed in dangerously close proximity to the land on which it had dumped 21,000 tons of toxins;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 14 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

41. Without prejudice and upon information and belief, Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, acting knowingly and either alone or in concert, engaged in the following misconduct relating to the Occidental Plant and its related waste disposal operations in Niagara Falls, NY:

- a. intentional, negligent, careless, reckless, and/or otherwise tortious conduct in connection with the operation of the Occidental Plant located at or about 4700 Buffalo Ave in Niagara Falls NY, including but not limited to the creation, management and disposal of toxic chemicals at and/or from that facility as described in detail *infra*;
- b. failing to ensure that toxins were not leaching, migrating, surfacing, escaping, and/or moving from within the Occidental Plant and onto and/or into the neighboring communities during its entire operation of said facility and continuing to the present day;
- c. failing to report to relevant authorities and/or the public that toxins were escaping from the Occidental Plant during its entire operation of said facility and continuing to the present day;
- d. failing to ensure that the area sewers and/or water systems and/or utility corridors were free from contamination originating from the Occidental Plant during its entire operation of said facility and continuing to the present day;
- e. failing to properly investigate the potential negative health effects of the
 chemicals that it had emitted and/or continues to emit from the Occidental
 Plant, despite its early recognition and understanding of the dangers posed by
 said chemicals;

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 15 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

f. discharging toxic pollution into the Niagara River, adjacent to and/or in proximity to the Niagara Falls water treatment plant intake, thereby poisoning the Niagara Falls fresh water supply, and further exposing Plaintiffs to dangerous toxins;

- g. discharging toxic pollution into the air, directly adjacent to and/or in proximity to the Niagara Falls water treatment plant, with said pollution being deposited onto and/or into the water treatment plant's settling ponds, and further exposing Plaintiffs to dangerous toxins;
- h. failing to advise area residents, including Plaintiffs, of the dangerous nature of the toxins to which they were exposed by virtue of its operations at the Occidental Plant beginning from the time of OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's initial operation of said facility and continuing to the present;
- i. failing to advise relevant government authorities of the dangerous nature of the toxins being released from the Occidental Plant to, *inter alia*, the neighboring communities and the surrounding sewer and/or water systems;
- j. failing to adequately monitor the actual effects of the chemicals and/or toxins that it had wrongfully emitted from the Occidental Plant into and/or onto the surrounding neighborhood, including but not limited to adverse health effects such as those suffered by Plaintiffs, as well as the contamination of the surrounding soil, water, and air;
- k. failing to consider the particular local geography and geology in evaluating
 the effects or likely effects of the chemicals that it had improperly emitted
 from the Occidental Plant;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 16 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

concealing information from and failing to warn the public at large, as well as
relevant governmental agencies, concerning the Occidental Plant, including
but not limited to information concerning the toxins which it had emitted and
continues to emit into and onto the neighboring communities and the safety
and/or contamination of said communities;

- m. failing to issue appropriate warnings concerning the likely environmental and public health implications of its conduct, when it knew or should have known of the growing development of medical and scientific knowledge concerning the toxicity and/or harmful medical effects of substances it had emitted and/or continues to emit from the Occidental Plant; and
- n. failing to continuously monitor and warn the neighborhood residents (including Plaintiffs) of the dangers posed by the materials it had emitted and/or continues to emit from the Occidental Plant, when it knew or should have known that a residential community exited in close proximity to said facility.
- 42. Without prejudice and upon information and belief, Defendant CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, acting knowingly and either alone or in concert, engaged in the following misconduct:
 - a. failing to properly maintain and operate the water and sewer facilities in the Love Canal area up until 2003 (when such ownership was supposedly transferred to Defendant Niagara Falls Water Board upon its creation);
 - b. failing to maintain water and sewer facilities that were free from Love Canal toxins during its ownership and/or management of said sewers;

NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 17 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

failing to adequately inspect the water and sewer facilities in the Love Canal
area to ensure that they were free of toxins;

- d. failing to advise relevant government authorities of the dangerous nature of the toxins being released from the Love Canal site and/or the surrounding sewer and water systems;
- e. allowing Love Canal toxins from sewer and water facilities under its ownership and/or control to leach, migrate, surface, escape, and/or move onto and into the properties of Plaintiffs;
- f. failing to remediate Love Canal contamination present within the water and sewer facilities under its ownership, care, and control;
- g. negligently, recklessly, carelessly, and/or otherwise tortiously awarding contracts for Love Canal Site remediation work to contractors which were unqualified to perform such work;
- negligently, recklessly, carelessly, and/or otherwise tortiously failing to terminate such contracts for Love Canal work upon learning that such contractors were unqualified to perform such work;
- i. dumping of toxic waste at the Love Canal site;
- j. intentional, negligent, careless, reckless, and/or otherwise tortious conduct relating to the response to the January 11, 2011 release and/or discovery of toxic chemicals at the Colvin Boulevard trench site as alleged herein, including but not limited to CITY's hiring, supervision, or delegated authority;

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 18 of 78 NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

k. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, and/or otherwise tortiously leaving inactive sewer channels in place, thus further contributing to the migration of contaminants away from the Love Canal Site, and onto and into the homes of Plaintiffs;

- 1. failing to advise area residents, including Plaintiffs, of the dangerous nature of their exposure to Love Canal toxins as a result of CITY's systemic and longstanding practice (either individually or through agents) of installing bypass pumps at critical junctures (including but not limited to 93rd Street and Colvin Boulevard) in order to direct toxic material directly to Cayuga Creek, which also has the effect of vaporizing and/or venting such toxins into the air, and thus, Plaintiffs homes;
- m. failing to advise area residents, including Plaintiffs, of the dangerous nature of the toxins to which they were exposed;
- n. unlawfully releasing into the environment substances hazardous to public health, safety, and/or the environment, acutely hazardous to public health, safety or the environment, and/or a hazardous waste.
- 43. Without prejudice and on information and belief, Defendant NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD, acting knowingly and either alone or in concert, engaged in the following misconduct:
 - failing to properly maintain and operate the water and sewer facilities in the Love Canal area from 2003 (when such ownership was supposedly transferred to Defendant Niagara Falls Water Board upon its creation) to the present;

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 19 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

 failing to maintain water and sewer facilities that were free of Love Canal toxins during its ownership and/or management of said sewers;

- failing to adequately inspect the water and sewer facilities in the Love Canal
 area to ensure that they were free of toxins;
- d. allowing Love Canal toxins from sewer and water facilities under its ownership to leach, migrate, surface, escape, and/or move onto and into the properties of Plaintiffs;
- e. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, and/or otherwise tortiously leaving inactive sewer channels in place, thus further contributing to the migration of contaminants away from the Love Canal Site, and onto and into the homes of Plaintiffs;
- f. failing to remediate Love Canal contamination present within the water and sewer facilities under its ownership, care, and control;
- g. failing to advise relevant government authorities of the dangerous nature of the toxins being released from the Love Canal site and/or the surrounding sewer and water systems;
- h. negligently, carelessly, recklessly, and/or otherwise tortiously excavating a 50-foot section of sanitary pipe (located at or about Colvin Boulevard and 96th Street in Niagara Falls, N.Y.) on January 11, 2011, resulting in a discovery and/or further acute release of Love Canal toxins in to the environment (in addition to the baseline Love Canal toxins to which Plaintiffs were exposed prior to and after the January 11 incident);

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 20 of 78 NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

 the negligent, careless, reckless, and otherwise tortious response to the January 11, 2011 discovery and/or release of chemicals, including but not limited to the "jetting" of such toxic sediments, which further disbursed the material onto and into the Plaintiffs' homes;

- failing to advise area residents, including Plaintiffs, of the dangerous nature of the toxins to which they were exposed;
- k. intentionally, negligently, recklessly, carelessly, or otherwise tortiously operating bypass pumps (either individually or through agents) to remove toxic sediment and other hazardous materials from area sewers in the Love Canal area and pumping said material directly into Cayuga Creek, thus further exposing area residents (including Plaintiffs) to toxic chemicals;
- failing to advise area residents, including Plaintiffs, of the dangerous nature of
 their exposure to Love Canal toxins as a result of NFWB's systemic and
 longstanding practice of installing bypass pumps at critical junctures
 (including but not limited to 93rd Street and Colvin Boulevard) in order to
 direct toxic material directly to Cayuga Creek, which also has the effect of
 vaporizing and/or venting toxins into the air, and thus, Plaintiffs homes;
- m. unlawfully releasing into the environment substances hazardous to public health, safety, and/or the environment, acutely hazardous to public health, safety or the environment, and/or a hazardous waste.
- 44. Without prejudice and on information and belief, Defendant GSH, acting knowingly and either alone or in concert, engaged in the following misconduct:

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 21 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

- a. since approximately 1995 and continuing to the present, negligently, recklessly, carelessly, or otherwise tortiously executing its duties of operation, maintenance, and monitoring ("OM&M") of the Love Canal Site, including but not limited to: (i) groundwater monitoring at various wells on or around the site; (ii) groundwater elevation measurement at piezometers located around the site; (iii) operation and maintenance of the leachate collection and treatment system; and, (iv) an annual performance assessment of the leachate collection and treatment facility and the barrier drain system;
- failing to ensure that there is no off-site migration of chemical contaminants
 from the Love Canal Site;
- c. failing to report the off-site migration of chemical contaminants from the Love Canal Site;
- d. failing to advise relevant government authorities of the dangerous nature of the toxins being released from the Love Canal site and/or the surrounding sewer and water systems;
- e. negligent, careless, reckless, and otherwise tortious conduct relating to the January 11, 2011 release and/or discovery of toxins from the Colvin Trench, including but not limited to the following activities: (i) replacing the broken 50-foot sanitary sewer section, (ii) cleaning the sanitary sewer from 97th Street to 91st Street, and (ii) cleaning the 91st Street lift station;
- f. failing to advise area residents, including Plaintiffs, of the dangerous nature of the toxins to which they were exposed;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 22 of 78. Proceedings of the process of th

> g. failing to routinely and/or adequately monitor the air, soil, or surface water in and around the Love Canal Site;

- h. unlawfully releasing into the environment substances hazardous to public health, safety, and/or the environment, acutely hazardous to public health, safety or the environment, and/or a hazardous waste.
- 45. Without prejudice and on information and belief, Defendant CRA, acting knowingly and either alone or in concert, engaged in the following misconduct:
 - a. negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously performing OM&M
 and reporting activities at the Love Canal Site (under GSH's direct
 management and/or control);
 - b. negligently, recklessly, carelessly, or otherwise tortiously performing services
 on behalf of GSH in the response to the January 11 incident at the Colvin
 Trench Site;
 - failing to advise area residents, including Plaintiffs, of the dangerous nature of the toxins to which they were exposed;
 - d. failing to advise relevant government authorities of the dangerous nature of the toxins being released from the Love Canal site and/or the surrounding sewer and water systems;
 - e. failing to routinely and/or adequately monitor the air, soil, or surface water in and around the Love Canal Site;
 - f. unlawfully releasing into the environment substances hazardous to public health, safety, and/or the environment, acutely hazardous to public health, safety or the environment, and/or a hazardous waste.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52e 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 23 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

46. Without prejudice and on information and belief, Defendant CECOS, acting knowingly and either alone or in concert, engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. improperly obtaining the Love Canal contract through bribery of a CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS official, including cash, a mortgage guarantee, and a job with a CECOS subsidiary in Florida.
- b. negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously performing its duties to implement the pollution abatement plan for the Love Canal site;
- c. utilizing substandard materials (including but not limited to the "rings" utilized to secure the Love Canal cap) in its construction that CECOS knew or should have known were not to specification and/or were not sufficient to pass inspection;
- d. utilizing permeable clay that was mixed with dirt (as opposed to "pure" clay which would be less permeable, as required by the work specifications) in constructing the clay cap at the Love Canal site;
- e. utilizing the services of Gross Plumbing & Heating Co., Inc. and/or David Gross Contracting Corp., to bribe public officials such that the work performed by CECOS at the Love Canal site would pass inspection;
- f. bribing public officials so that the Love Canal remedial system would pass inspection, while knowing that substandard work had been performed;
- g. failing to adequately clean, remove, and/or dispose of toxic materials and/or sediment that it or its agents had removed from the Love Canal Site;
- h. failing to adequately clean, remove, and/or dispose of toxic materials and/or sediment from the sewers surrounding the Love Canal Site;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 24 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

> unlawfully releasing into the environment substances hazardous to public health, safety, and/or the environment, acutely hazardous to public health, safety or the environment, and/or a hazardous waste.

- 47. Without prejudice, and on information and belief, MILLER SPRINGS REMEDIATION MANAGEMENT, INC., acting knowingly and either alone or in concert, engaged in the following misconduct:
 - a. from on or about July 1998 until on or about October 1, 2008 (when GSH transferred OM&M responsibility to CRA), intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously performed OM&M and reporting activities at the Love Canal Site (under GSH's direct management and/or control);
 - failing to routinely and/or adequately monitor the air, soil, or surface water in and around the Love Canal Site;
 - c. intentionally, negligently, recklessly, carelessly, or otherwise tortiously
 performing services on behalf of GSH in the response to the January 11
 incident at the Colvin Trench Site;
 - d. failing to advise area residents, including Plaintiffs, of the dangerous nature of the toxins to which they were exposed;
 - e. failing to advise relevant government authorities of the dangerous nature of the toxins being released from the Love Canal site and/or the surrounding sewer and water systems;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 25 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

f. unlawfully releasing into the environment substances hazardous to public health, safety, and/or the environment, acutely hazardous to public health, safety or the environment, and/or a hazardous waste.

- 48. Without prejudice and on information and belief, OP-TECH, acting knowingly and either alone or in concert, engaged in the following misconduct:
 - a. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously performing its functions as a contractor that GSH and/or other Defendants retained to assist in completing the sewer replacement at the Colvin Trench and assist in sewer cleaning following the January 11, 2011 incident at the Colvin Trench, and continuing to the present;
 - b. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously causing chemicals and toxins to be further disbursed into the environment, and onto and into Plaintiffs homes, thus causing damage to the Plaintiffs;
 - c. as part of its engagement following the January 11, 2011 incident, intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously retaining a subcontractor to utilize a high-pressure "jetting" device to clean the roadway and sewers following the January 11, 2011 incident, thus further disbursing toxins into the environment, including onto and into the homes of Plaintiffs;
 - d. unlawfully releasing into the environment substances hazardous to public health, safety, and/or the environment, acutely hazardous to public health, safety or the environment, and/or a hazardous waste.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 26 of 78. Proceedings of the process of th

49. Without prejudice and on information and belief, ROY's PLUMBING, acting knowingly and either alone or in concert, engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously performing its functions as a subcontractor that OP-TECH and/or other Defendants retained to assist in completing the sewer replacement at the Colvin Trench and assist in sewer cleaning following the January 11, 2011 incident at the Colvin Trench;
- b. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously utilizing a high-pressure "jetting" device to clean the roadway and sewers following the January 11, 2011 incident, thus further disbursing toxins into the environment, including onto and into the homes of Plaintiffs;
- c. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously representing to Love Canal area residents (including Plaintiffs) that their homes were safe following the January 11, 2011 incident, when in fact they were not, and indeed ROY'S workers had observed NAPL in such homes;
- d. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously failing to advise Love Canal area residents (including Plaintiffs) that their homes were not safe following the January 11, 2011 incident, when in fact they knew or should have known that to be the case;
- e. unlawfully releasing into the environment substances hazardous to public health, safety, and/or the environment, acutely hazardous to public health, safety or the environment, and/or a hazardous waste.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 27 of 78. Proceedings of the process of th

50. Without prejudice and on information and belief, SCOTT LAWN YARD, acting knowingly and either alone or in concert, engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. Intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously performing its functions as a contractor retained by NFWB in early 2011 to repair and/or replace 17 existing sewer lines in the LaSalle area of Niagara Falls, N.Y., including the sewer line at the site of the Colvin Trench;
- b. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously causing the release of toxic chemicals from the Colvin Trench on or about January 11, 2011;
- c. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously failing to advise area residents (including Plaintiffs) that it would be performing work on the sewers in close proximity to Love Canal, and advising them to take precautions;
- d. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously failing
 to advise relevant government agencies that it would be performing work on
 the sewers in close proximity to Love Canal;
- e. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously undertaking the project at the Colvin Trench even though it lacked the requisite licensing, training, equipment, and/or expertise to work with hazardous Love Canal toxins, when in fact company representatives believed that toxins would be present in the Colvin Trench;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 28 of 78. Page 28 of 78 of 78. Page 28 of 78 of 78. Page 28 of 78 of 78. Page 28 of 78

f. unlawfully releasing into the environment substances hazardous to public health, safety, and/or the environment, acutely hazardous to public health, safety or the environment, and/or a hazardous waste.

- 51. Without prejudice and on information and belief, SEVENSON ENVIRONMENTAL, acting knowingly and either alone or in concert, engaged in the following misconduct:
 - a. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously undertaking responsibility as a principal contractor for the initial remediation work at Love Canal (despite historically being a contracting company and never previously having been involved in an environmental remediation project);
 - b. negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously performing its duties to implement the pollution abatement plan for the Love Canal site;
 - c. utilizing substandard materials in its construction of either the leachate collection and/or the clay cap, such that toxins were not and are not contained within the Love Canal containment system;
 - d. negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously performing its function of excavating, handling, and disposing of extremely high concentrations of hazardous waste at the Love Canal site continuing to the present day, such that area residents (including Plaintiffs) continue to be exposed to such material;

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 29 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

e. negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously cleaning 12 miles of storm sewer in the Love Canal area, such that said sewers were not rendered free of Love Canal toxins;

- f. intentionally, negligently, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously failing to advise area residents of the presence of Love Canal contamination in the sewers and/or other public works in the Love Canal area, despite the fact that it knew or should have known of such contamination by virtue of SEVENSON routinely performing work related to the ongoing functioning of the Love Canal containment system;
- g. intentionally, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, and/or otherwise tortiously leaving inactive sewer channels in place, thus further contributing to the migration of contaminants away from the Love Canal Site, and onto and into the homes of Plaintiffs;
- h. failing to adequately clean, remove, and/or dispose of toxic materials and/or sediment that it or its agents had removed from the Love Canal Site;
- i. intentionally, negligently, recklessly, carelessly, or otherwise tortiously failing to advise relevant government agencies of the presence of Love Canal contamination in the sewers and/or other public works in the Love Canal area, despite the fact that it knew or should have known of such contamination by virtue of SEVENSON routinely performing work related to the ongoing functioning of the Love Canal containment system;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 30 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

j. unlawfully releasing into the environment substances hazardous to public health, safety, and/or the environment, acutely hazardous to public health, safety or the environment, and/or a hazardous waste.

III. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Introduction

- 53. The allegations contained in paragraph "1" through "56" inclusive are hereby realleged as more fully set forth herein.
- 54. Defendants are individually and collectively responsible for callously, wrongfully, and dishonestly exposing Plaintiffs to a host of deadly chemicals which, upon information and belief, include, but are not limited to, benzene hexachloride (the main component of the pesticide lindane, a neurotoxin), chlorobenzenes (used in the synthesis of DDT), Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (commonly known as DEHP), and dozens of other toxins, many of which Defendants knew or should have known were toxic. For ease of reference, Defendants have been divided into one of four categories (Landfill Defendants, Sewer Defendants, 2011 Sewer Incident Defendants, and Chemical Plant Defendants) to distinguish between each Defendant's conduct and how such behavior caused Plaintiffs' injuries.
- 55. Among other chemicals to which there was wrongful exposure is 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, commonly called dioxin, which is a byproduct of trichlorophenol manufacture and among the world's most carcinogenic chemicals.
- 56. All of these chemicals are known or believed to be reproductive toxins, carcinogens, teratogens, and/or otherwise harmful to the human body.

57. Some of the Plaintiffs are children who were exposed to these harmful chemicals *in utero* or during their childhood, at a time when they were and remain particularly vulnerable to the dangerous effects of toxic insult.

- 58. All Plaintiffs have been exposed to toxins known to inflict cancers and/or other latent diseases and injuries, and also known to adversely impact reproductive capacity.
- 59. As a result of the foregoing, each Plaintiff also suffers from the emotional distress associated with, *inter alia*, their individual illnesses, their prospective and/or latent illnesses, the illnesses of their family members, the prospective loss of their family members, and the economic turmoil that Defendants' conduct has caused.

B. Love Canal Prior to 1954

- 60. Love Canal received its name from William T. Love, an entrepreneur and developer in Niagara Falls, New York in the late 1800s.
- 61. In 1892, Love proposed connecting the upper and lower Niagara River by digging a canal six to seven miles long, in hopes of harnessing the water of the of the upper Niagara River into a navigable channel, which would create a man-made waterfall with a 280-foot drop into the lower Niagara River, providing cheap hydroelectric power.
- 62. Love's dream abruptly collapsed after the invention of alternating-current electricity, which could travel farther by wire than direct current, thus obviating the need for factories to locate near the falls.
- 63. The Love Canal left behind became nothing more than a half-mile-long swimming hole until such time as Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER purchased the site.
- 64. In or about 1941, Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER wrongfully began using the Love Canal site as an industrial and municipal dumpsite for hazardous waste disposal.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 32 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

Engineers at Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER negligently and/or recklessly opined that the clay composition of the soil beneath the Love Canal site somehow made it ideal for the "safe" dumping of toxins.

- 65. From approximately 1941 to 1953, Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER improperly dumped more than 21,000 tons of toxic waste on the Love Canal site, some of it loose and some of it in metal drums buried just beneath the surface.
- 66. The toxic waste that Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER disposed of at Love Canal is made up of approximately 253 distinct chemicals.
- 67. In addition to the materials wrongfully dumped by Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, Defendant CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS also utilized the Love Canal site for waste disposal.

C. Transfer of the Love Canal Site

- 68. In or about 1953, after prolonged and wrongful deposit of toxic waste at the Love Canal site and cosmetically concealing this misconduct by covering the waste with dirt and grass, Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER sold the land to the Niagara Falls Board of Education for one dollar.
- 69. Fully aware of the grave dangers associated with its wrongful conduct, Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER endeavored to hide the full extent of its wrongdoing and evade responsibility therefor while including in the deed transfer a sham "warning" indicating that in the course of its business it had buried certain wastes on the property, and noting that such materials should not be disturbed by digging.

70. Following Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's sale of the Love Canal land, and with the full knowledge of Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, the Niagara Falls Board of Education began in or about 1954 to construct an elementary school on the canal property.

- 71. Because the school board had no way of knowing the full extent of Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's wrongful dumping, a school was constructed without a basement. This "99th Street School" was completed in or about 1955, situated atop 21,000 tons of lethal toxins. Thereafter, it served approximately 400 young students per year.
- 72. Residential homebuilding around Love Canal boomed in the 1950s and, upon information and belief, Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER knew or should have known of this fact.
- 73. Despite being fully aware of the host of lethal chemicals it had dumped on the Love Canal site, and also fully aware that the area was undergoing extensive residential development, Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER provided homeowners moving into the area with no warning or other information that would indicate that the property was situated in proximity to deadly toxins that it had wrongfully dumped.
- 74. Most families who moved into the area were understandably unaware of the Love Canal landfill and its poisons, largely because Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER had concealed the fact of its wrongful toxic dumping by giving the Love Canal a cosmetic "face-lift" prior to its sale to the school board. Specifically, Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER had covered the Love Canal with dirt and grass, and planted trees rendering it innocent-looking to the naked eye.
- 75. By 1978, there were approximately 800 private single-family homes and 240 low-income apartments built in close proximity to the Love Canal.

76. The 99th Street School was located near the center of the landfill. The Niagara River, to the south, and Bergholtz Creek, to the north, formed natural boundaries for the area affected by the migrating toxins.

D. Resident Complaints and Government's Response

- 77. From the late 1950s through the 1970s, Love Canal area residents repeatedly complained to authorities of strange odors in the neighborhood and/or chemical residues surfacing near or in their yards and on the playground of the 99th Street School.
- 78. Defendant CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, responding to these complaints, visited the area and negligently did little more than cover the chemical substances complained of with dirt or clay.
- 79. Although Defendant CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS knew or should have known of the fact of the wrongful dumping of both Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER and CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, it did not conduct further investigation, remediation, or issue any warnings.
- 80. During or prior to 1976, after years of complaints, Defendant CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS finally hired a consultant to investigate.
- 81. In 1976, the Calspan Corporation completed a study of the Love Canal area and, not surprisingly, found toxic chemical residues in the air and in the sump pumps in a significant number of homes near the southern end of the Love Canal.
- 82. Calspan also found metal drums, presumably filled with dangerous chemicals, at or just beneath the surface, and high levels of PCBs in the storm sewer system.
- 83. Calspan recommended that the Love Canal be covered with clay, home sump pumps be sealed off, and a tile drainage system be installed to control the migration of wastes.

84. Defendant CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS carelessly, negligently, and/or recklessly elected not to adopt any of these Calspan recommendations, and instead merely placed window fans in a few select homes believed to contain abnormal levels of chemical residues.

- 85. In or about 1978, authorities from the New York State Department of Health ("NYSDOH") began to study the Love Canal area, and released preliminary findings that women living near the southern end of the Canal were experiencing greater than normal rates of miscarriage and birth defects.
- 86. On or about August 2, 1978, NYSDOH commissioner Robert Whalen issued a health order and announced a state of emergency at Love Canal. The health order recommended that the 99th Street School be closed and that pregnant women and children under the age of two temporarily evacuate.
- 87. Soon thereafter, New York Governor Hugh Carey announced that the State would purchase the 239 homes closest to Love Canal and evacuate residents of those homes.
- 88. The State defined the affected area and erected a 10-foot fence around the evacuated land. This decision was arbitrary because at that time, and to this day, nobody knew or knows how far into the surrounding residential neighborhoods the chemicals improperly dumped by Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER had spread or how many people were affected.
- 89. As the investigation continued, additional evacuation orders were implemented. In total, approximately 950 families were evacuated from a 10-square-block area surrounding the landfill.

E. "Remediation" and its Aftermath

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 36 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

90. Following the evacuation orders, an interagency task force was charged with making recommendations concerning the construction of a drainage system to prevent further migration of toxic chemicals from Love Canal.

- 91. In February 1978, Defendant CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS retained Defendant CRA to develop a groundwater pollution abatement plan.
- 92. As part of this program, Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, SEVENSON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., and CECOS INTERNATIONAL, INC. were involved in negligently, carelessly, and/or recklessly remediating the contamination. As noted above, neither CECOS nor SEVENSON were qualified to undertake this task, and in fact CECOS obtained its contract through improper payments to CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS officials.
- 93. The work performed was rife with intentional, negligent, careless, reckless, and/or otherwise tortious operational failures, which are demonstrated by the fact that dangerous toxins continued to be present in the Niagara Falls sewer system at the time of the January 11, 2011 incident at the Colvin Trench (*see* § II(C), *infra*), and continuing to the present.
- 94. Upon information and belief, CECOS' wrongful behavior includes, but is not limited to, that which is described in paragraph 47, *supra*. Such misconduct rendered the Love Canal containment system wholly inadequate to achieve its purpose of containing and preventing the further spread and/or disbursement of the toxins which OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER had wrongfully dumped at Love Canal.
- 95. Similarly, SEVENSON was negligent, careless, and/or reckless, *inter alia*, in undertaking the remediation project in the first place. Indeed, at the time, SEVENSON was primarily a contracting company and had insufficient experience with an environmental remediation on the scale of Love Canal. As such, SEVENSON was wholly unqualified to

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 37 of 78 NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

undertake this work, and did a substandard job in remediating Love Canal waste, *inter alia*, for the reasons stated in paragraph 53, *supra*. The cleanup plan consisted of a tile drain collection system designed to "contain" the waste and prevent any outward migration of chemical leachate.

- 96. A graded trench system was dug around the canal's perimeter to intercept migrating leachate and to create a barrier drain system.
- 97. The leachate collected from this drain system is pumped to an on-site treatment plant that utilizes a series of filters, including activated charcoal, in an attempt to remove toxic chemicals from the waste stream.
- 98. The remaining, theoretically "clean" water is then flushed down the regular municipal sanitary sewer system.
- 99. Notably, dangerous chemicals such as mercury and other heavy metals are *not* intended to be removed by this treatment system.
- 100. A clay cap was placed over the Love Canal as a cover in an attempt to minimize rainwater from entering the canal surface, to prevent chemicals from vaporizing into the air, and to prevent the outside environment from any direct contact with contaminated soil.
- 101. A monitoring system to evaluate the effectiveness of this system was not established until five years after the system's original implementation.
- 102. Thus, there were no baseline data on contaminant levels in the groundwater following the original remediation efforts.
- 103. Once a monitoring system was put into place, however, it revealed that toxins were systematically leaking into the nearby Niagara River.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 38 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

104. Such leaking was not a surprise, since there was no bottom to the so-called "containment" system (and given the negligent conduct of certain Landfill Defendants in the construction of the containment system as alleged herein).

- 105. Other data also indicated that contaminants were increasing in the monitoring wells outside the Love Canal.
- 106. Landfill Defendants were also otherwise negligent in the design, implementation, and construction of infrastructure in connection with the Love Canal remediation.
- 107. For example, Landfill Defendants were reckless, negligent, and/or careless in the selection of polyvinyl chloride ("PVC") pipe to replace underground pipes (sewer and otherwise) in the Love Canal area during and after the original Love Canal remediation. PVC pipe is easily corroded by the toxins at issue in this case, and Landfill Defendants knew or should have known that such piping would disintegrate over time as a result of the foreseeable contact with such chemicals, thus resulting in further dispersion of chemicals.
- 108. In addition to the attempted remediation of the Love Canal site itself, efforts were made to remediate the surrounding sewers, creeks, and berms. This included (a) hydraulically cleaning the sewers; (b) removal and disposal of the contaminated sediments; (c) inspecting the sewers for defects that could allow contaminants to migrate; (d) limiting access, dredging and hydraulically cleaning the Black Creek culverts; and (e) removing and storing Black and Bergholtz creeks' contaminated sediments.
- 109. Approximately 62,000 linear feet of storm and sanitary sewers were supposed to have been cleaned in or about 1986, and an additional approximately 6,000 feet were supposed to have been cleaned in or about 1987. Upon information and belief, SEVENSON, and/or CECOS were charged contracted for this task, and either did not perform the work that had been

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 39 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

contracted, or performed such work negligently, carelessly, recklessly, or otherwise tortiously, resulting in the continued exposure of area residents (including Plaintiffs) to Love Canal toxins to the present.

- 110. In 1989, Black and Bergholtz Creeks were dredged of approximately 14,000 cubic yards of sediments. Clean riprap was supposed to have been placed in the creek beds, and the banks were replanted with grass.
- 111. Prior to final disposal, the sewer and creek sediments from these cleaning projects and other wastes [approximately 33,500 cubic yards] were stored at Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's Niagara Falls facilities, within Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's exclusive control.
- 112. In addition, the contaminated sediments and wastes from the sewers and creeks, as well as other Love Canal wastes, were intended to be removed and thermally treated (but were not) prior to disposal at Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's Niagara Falls facility.
- 113. Thus, upon information and belief, due to the actions of Landfill Defendants, the remediation program did not properly remediate the toxins within the Love Canal containment area and/or did not properly contain such toxins and prevent them from spreading throughout the Love Canal neighborhood from the time of its inception up to and including the present day.
- 114. During and following the remediation, certain Love Canal area homeowners filed suit against Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER.
 - 115. Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER resolved these lawsuits.
- 116. In addition to that private litigation, Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER agreed to pay \$98 million to cover New York State's Love Canal cleanup costs, and \$129 million to cover the federal government's Love Canal cleanup costs.

117. Although Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER resolved these Love Canal matters, nothing in these litigations or the terms of their resolution eliminates or alters in any way Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's obligations and/or duties to the instant Plaintiffs.

118. None of the instant Plaintiffs were parties to any previous litigation relating to Love Canal.

F. Love Canal "Revitalization"

- 119. In or about 1988, NYSDOH publicly declared the area north of Love Canal to be safe for habitation on the basis of an interagency review.
- 120. Empty homes in the Love Canal area were refurbished and/or cosmetically improved and sold for approximately 20% below market value as an enticement to repopulate and revitalize the area.
- 121. In or about August 1990, the Love Canal Revitalization Agency renamed a portion of Love Canal as Black Creek Village in an attempt to shed the stigma associated with the name "Love Canal," and entice homebuyers to consider settling their families in the neighborhood.
- 122. In or about November 1990, without knowledge or reason to believe that Landfill Defendants had recklessly, negligently, and/or carelessly performed their duties in connection with Love Canal remediation and/or otherwise fraudulently concealed the full extent of the dangers associated with the Love Canal neighborhood, the first new family moved into the area.
 - 123. Additional families thereafter purchased homes in the Love Canal neighborhood.
- 124. Since the rehabilitation program began, approximately 260 homes have been sold in the Love Canal area.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 41 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

125. In addition, a new senior citizen housing development has been constructed on vacant property in the so-called "habitable" portion of the emergency declaration area.

- 126. In or about 1995, Defendants GSH and CRA, at Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's direction, assumed responsibility for the ongoing management, operation, maintenance and/or monitoring of the Love Canal site.
- 127. Thereafter, and in particular from in or about 1998 until in or about 2008,

 Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER assigned Defendant MILLER SPRINGS REMEDIATION

 MANAGEMENT, INC. the responsibility of operation and maintenance of certain pumps and treatment equipment in the Love Canal containment area.
- 128. Thus, at all relevant times, Defendants CRA, GSH, and MILLER SPRINGS REMEDIATION MANAGEMENT, INC. acted as agents, servants, and/or employees of Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, thereby and otherwise rendering Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER responsible for their conduct. Throughout the relevant period, such Defendants have negligently, recklessly, carelessly, or otherwise tortiously performed their OM&M monitoring activities in the Love Canal area by failing to report the presence of toxins, thus causing area residents (including Plaintiffs) to be exposed to dangerous materials and, thus, causing them harm. For example, such Defendants failed to perform routine surface water, soil, or air testing, despite knowing that they were often rife with dangerous volatile organic compounds from Love Canal.
- 129. Similarly, the Sewer Defendants were each responsible for ensuring that the water and sewer systems in proximity to Love Canal were free from toxic chemicals. They failed to sufficiently perform this function insofar as Love Canal toxins were and continue to be present in the area public works, thus causing harm to area residents (including Plaintiffs). For example,

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 42 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

such Defendants failed to perform smoke and/or dye testing and/or other inspections to ensure that the remediation had been successful and/or the sewers were free of Love Canal toxins.

G. Sewer "Refurbishment" and the January 2011 Acute Release of Chemicals

- 130. At all relevant times following its creation in 2003, Defendant NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD has owned and operated the drinking water and waste water treatment systems and storm water conveyance facilities in the City of Niagara Falls.
- 131. Defendant NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD has been engaged in a multiyear program of sewer refurbishment in the Love Canal area, which includes, *inter alia*, sewer replacement, root and debris removal, trenching, pipelining, manhole rehabilitation, leaky joint grouting, cross connection identification and removal, sewer line upgrading, and sludge/contaminant removal (the "Sewer Remediation Program").
- 132. On or about January 11, 2011, as part of the Sewer Remediation Program,

 Defendants or their agents, employees, representatives or contractors (and specifically, workers from Defendant SCOTT LAWN YARD) working on Colvin Boulevard within 250 feet of the northern boundary of the Love Canal containment area recklessly, negligently, and/or carelessly disturbed, exposed, and discharged a substantial amount of contaminated sediment that was present within the sewers.
- 133. Upon releasing this material into the environment, workers from SCOTT LAWN YARD knew immediately that the material released into the environment did not come from normal dirt. Rather, SCOTT LAWN YARD believed that it was some historic contamination, and based on other work that SCOTT LAWN YARD had performed in the area, believed such material could be traced to HOOKER/OCCIDENTAL and the Love Canal.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52e 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 43 of 78

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

134. Defendant SCOTT LAWN YARD had been contracted by Defendant NFWB to perform certain sewer repairs and replacements in Niagara Falls, including but not limited to the work at the Colvin Trench. SCOTT LAWN YARD proceeded with the work at the Colvin Trench even though it had expressed concerns to CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS and NFWB officials during pre-construction meetings regarding the proximity of the work site to the Love Canal site. A SCOTT LAWN YARD official has stated that, given the proximity of the work site to Love Canal, "we figured something would be there." Thus, Defendants SCOTT LAWN YARD, NFWB, and CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS knew or should have known of the high risk that Love Canal toxins would be present in the sewer lines in which they were working.

- 135. The work that Defendants SCOTT LAWN YARD, NFWB, and CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS negligently performed prior to and on or about January 11, 2011 and thereafter resulted in the discharge of myriad hazardous chemicals onto and into the property and homes of the Plaintiffs. In fact, toxins were abruptly released into the environment, and a strong odor prevailed for blocks around the work site.
- 136. Upon releasing the toxic materials into the environment, Defendant SCOTT LAWN YARD contacted Defendant CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS. According to CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS Mayor Paul Dyster, CITY officials drew a sample from the broken sewer line, and sent the residue to a private laboratory for analysis. The mayor stated that "it appears as though the material is something from [Occidental Chemical]." The laboratory analysis concluded that such chemicals included highly dangerous chlorinated organic compounds, halogenated hydrocarbons, and certain "signature" Love Canal contaminants, including but not limited to non-aqueous phase liquids ("NAPL"), a toxic chemical "stew."

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 44 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

137. Love Canal toxins should not have been present in area sewer lines to begin with, particularly because: (i) Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER should not have wrongfully dumped the toxins on the Love Canal site in the first place; and (ii) the Landfill Defendants should have discharged their duties to adequately monitor, remediate and/or contain such materials within the Love Canal containment area from the time of the original Love Canal cleanup and continuing to the present day.

- Remediation Program work to Love Canal's northern boundary, and/or the fact that Defendants NFWB, SCOTT LAWN YARD, CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, and/or CRA knew or should have known that toxins had leaked from the Love Canal site in the past, such Defendants knew or should have known of the possibility of the presence of dangerous chemicals within the sewers and/or otherwise in proximity to Defendants' work. In fact, as noted above, Defendant SCOTT LAWN YARD raised these concerns with Defendant NFWB, and yet chose to proceed with the work in any event. SCOTT LAWN YARD is primarily a construction and landscaping company, and the crew that was dispatched to the Colvin Trench project was wholly unqualified to deal with the contaminants that SCOTT LAWN YARD knew or should have known would be present in the trench.
- 139. Defendants performing Sewer Remediation Program work in the Love Canal area, including SCOTT LAWN YARD, NFWB, and CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS failed to exercise due care to prevent the possibility of the escape of such chemicals.
- 140. SCOTT LAWN YARD notified CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS following the sudden release of Love Canal toxins into the environment, and CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, in turn, notified the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC"). DEC

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 45 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

notified OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER and GSH and requested that they develop a remedial plan to address the contamination.

- 141. Upon recklessly, negligently, and/or carelessly causing the release of such chemicals or becoming aware of such release, each of these Defendants failed to adequately warn area residents, including Plaintiffs, of the dangerous nature of such chemicals.
- 142. Following Defendants' reckless, negligent, and/or careless release and/or disturbance of chemicals, Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, NFWB, CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, and SCOTT LAWN YARD failed to follow appropriate procedures to eliminate additional hazards to area residents, including Plaintiffs. Specifically, Defendants knew or should have known of the environmental and health risks posed by the presence of the NAPL residue and other chemicals on the roadway and in the residential sewer or drain system, and should have exercised due care by taking appropriate remedial action to contain the toxins.
- 143. Instead, Defendant NFWB, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, and/or SCOTT LAWN YARD retained the services of contractor Defendant OP-TECH to assist in completing the sewer replacement work at the Colvin Trench and to assist in cleaning, remediating and containing the release of toxins. As part of the remediation and/or cleaning plan, OP-TECH retained the services of subcontractor Defendant ROY's PLUMBING to provide sewer jetting services whereby ROY'S would apply water from high pressure hoses to the affected area of the sewers. OP-TECH and ROY'S, at the direction of NFWB, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, and/or SCOTT LAWN YARD recklessly, negligently, and/or carelessly, and with callous disregard for the health and safety of Plaintiffs and others in the surrounding community, applied water from high pressure hoses to wash the roadway and storm drains, thus further dispersing the contaminants onto and into

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52e 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 46 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

Plaintiffs' property and homes, thus further exposing Plaintiffs to dangerous toxins and causing them further harm.

- 144. Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, NFWB, CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, SCOTT LAWN YARD, OP-TECH, and ROY'S were further reckless, negligent, and/or careless in that they wrongfully allowed pressure to continue to build within the sewer system, and left the Colvin Boulevard trench open for weeks following the January 11, 2011 incident, thus allowing contaminants to further escape from the sewers and onto and into Plaintiffs' property and homes, thus further exposing Plaintiffs to dangerous toxins and causing them further harm.
- 145. As a result of the above actions, dangerous OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER toxins were continuously dispersed onto and into Plaintiffs' homes following the January 11, 2011 incident in addition to those Love Canal toxins which had been chronically and silently leaching, migrating, surfacing, escaping, and/or moving onto and into Plaintiffs' homes throughout their entire occupation of said homes.
- 146. Following the January 11, 2011 incident, Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, and CRA refused to perform testing in the Colvin Trench and/or in and around Plaintiffs' homes for critical substances, including but not limited to dioxin.
- 147. Plaintiffs continue to be exposed to Love Canal toxins as a result of, *inter alia*, the Landfill Defendants' failure to properly contain and remediate the contamination in the first place, the Landfill Defendants' historical and ongoing failure to warn the Plaintiffs of the identity of the exact chemicals present and the inherent exposure risks, the Sewer Defendants' failure to maintain public works free from Love Canal contaminants, and the 2011 Sewer

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 47 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

Incident Defendants' failure to exercise due care when performing work functions in proximity to Love Canal.

- 148. Certain Defendants have, at various times, blatantly misrepresented the dangers inherent in the OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER toxins by indicating to Plaintiffs that the exposure to such chemicals would not harm their health, that it was safe to continue to live in their homes, and that Plaintiffs need take no precautions concerning the chemicals to which they have been exposed.
- 149. As a result of Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's dumping of hazardous materials at the Love Canal site, the failure of Landfill Defendants to appropriately remediate and contain Love Canal toxins, and both the Landfill and Sewer Defendants' failure to adequately inspect, maintain, repair and remediate sewer pipes, and as a result of the 2011 Sewer Defendants' negligent, grossly negligent, careless and reckless handling of the toxic sediment at, leading up to, and following the January 11, 2011 incident, Plaintiffs were continuously exposed during their entire occupation of their homes to toxic OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER contaminants from the Love Canal, and as a result, have each become ill, have suffered permanent and severe injury, and have incurred and will in the future incur additional expenses for medical and other care.
- 150. Thus, the chemicals that Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER wrongfully dumped on the Love Canal site beginning in the 1940s led to a public health emergency beginning in the late 1970s that continues to the present day.
- 151. Although both state and federal authorities ordered the Love Canal area to be environmentally remediated, at present the toxins that Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER wrongfully dumped on the site continue to escape from the Love Canal containment area,

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 48 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

continue to be present in and around the sewers in the Love Canal area (including the homes of Plaintiffs), and continue to systemically invade the adjacent neighborhoods.

- 152. The original Love Canal remediation, thus, was insufficient and/or negligently performed by the Landfill Defendants insofar as such remediation did not prevent the continued escape of chemicals from the site and onto and into the homes presently owned by the Plaintiffs, continuing to the present.
- 153. Following the original remediation efforts at the Love Canal site, Landfill

 Defendants made numerous false public representations that Love Canal toxins had been

 properly remediated and contained within the Love Canal containment area, and that surrounding
 area, including Plaintiffs' homes, was free of such toxins.

H. The Occidental Plant

- 154. Since the early twentieth century, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER has operated and continues to operate to the present day a dangerous chemical production facility located at or about 4700 Buffalo Avenue (the "Occidental Plant") in a residential neighborhood of Niagara Falls, New York. Plaintiffs have each been exposed to toxins through various pathways by virtue of OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's operation of this facility, and such exposure has been a substantial contributing cause of Plaintiffs' injuries.
- 155. Throughout its operation, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER has produced a wide variety of chemical products at the Occidental Plant. Most of that production has utilized chlorine and/or fluorine as a raw material for the creation of a variety of chlorinated and fluorinated hydrocarbon compounds, including a number of pesticides.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 49 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

156. Chlorinated hydrocarbon compounds and fluorinated hydrocarbon compounds are toxic to humans. Many such compounds are known carcinogens, teratogens, and/or otherwise dangerous to human health and the environment.

- 157. Over all or most of its operational history, the Occidental Plant was and remains to this day a significant and substantial source of toxic chemical emissions into the atmosphere and the surrounding residential community via myriad exposure pathways.
- 158. For example, during 1990, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER reported that approximately 242,000 pounds of toxic chemicals were emitted into the air from the Occidental Plant. A substantial amount of those air emissions consisted of chlorinated and/or fluorinated chemical compounds.
- 159. By 2000, it was reported that the total air emissions from the Occidental Plant had grown to approximately 1,380,000 pounds. In addition to chlorinated and/or fluorinated chemical compounds, those air emissions included sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, benzene, toluene, asbestos, and sulfuric acid. Exposure to all of these chemical compounds is hazardous to human health.
- 160. Today, it is estimated that total air emissions from the Occidental Plant has continued to grow, and that OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER persists in emitting highly dangerous toxins into the surrounding Niagara Falls, NY community on a daily basis, thus continuing to expose its neighbors to myriad toxins.
- 161. In addition to the chemical production-related air emissions noted above, the Occidental Plant's operations have generated a sordid variety of solid chemical waste byproducts. By 1942, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER had begun transporting that toxic waste from the Occidental Plant just up the road to the Love Canal landfill for dumping.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 50 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

162. Once OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER sold its Love Canal dumpsite to the Niagara Falls School Board (*see* above), its irresponsible and dangerous dumping didn't just stop.

Rather, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER had to (and did) find different locations in the community at which to dump its chemical refuse from the Occidental Plant.

- 163. As such, for many years, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER improperly disposed of its waste by dumping it into pits dug in the ground at various other points throughout the Niagara Falls community. Dumping locations include, *inter alia*, the Hyde Park Landfill, the 102nd Street waste site, and the "S-Area" waste site (which is situated within the confines of the Occidental Plant).
- 164. A specific example of OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's dumping is telling: Over an approximately 25-year period, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER produced substantial amounts of a toxin known as 2,4,5-trichlorophenol a herbicide at the Occidental Plant. One byproduct of this herbicide is a "distillation column residue" containing TCDD, the most toxic member of the family of chemical compounds known as "dioxin." TCDD has often been referred to as the most dangerous toxin known to man.
- 165. OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER disposed of the TCDD-containing column residue at various locations, including *inter alia* Love Canal, S-Area, and the Hyde Park waste disposal site. NIOSH has estimated that as much as 3,740 pounds of TCDD were disposed of in OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's various toxin pits throughout Niagara Falls.¹
- 166. While each of these waste areas resulted in substantial toxic exposures to the community, the S-Area waste dump site (located within the confines of the Occidental Plant

1

¹ To put this in perspective, TCDD was also a key ingredient in the chemical weapon known as "Agent Orange." It has been estimated that the total amount of TCDD contained in the Agent Orange sprayed over Vietnam was 806 pounds. And in fact, TCDD-related human health and chemical contamination problems continue in Vietnam to this day. Thus, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER has dumped substantially more TCDD into pits in Niagara Falls than the United States deployed across Vietnam throughout the course of the entire Vietnam War.

property) created a particularly dangerous public health problem. Waste from that site migrated from S-Area to the Niagara Falls municipal water treatment plant, located in close proximity. In addition, runoff from toxic waste that OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER dumped at its other upriver disposal sites (including but not limited to 102^{nd} Street and Love Canal), entered the water treatment plant's negative pressure intakes after flowing into the Niagara River. As a result, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER has contaminated Niagara Falls drinking water with highly toxic chemicals, including TCDD.

- been exposed contained between 30% and 75% of a class of chemical compounds known as halogens. Halogens are chemical compounds containing chlorine and/or fluorine in their molecular structure. As environmental regulations developed in the United States, more attention was focused upon waste disposal choices made by chemical production companies. As a result, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER decided at some point without regard for the impact upon the surrounding community upon a practice of incinerating a portion of its chemical waste (instead of dumping that waste at the aforementioned disposal pits).
- 168. One result of that operational shift was the widespread dispersal of unburned chemical waste and combustion byproducts including TCDD (which is almost always created when chlorinated hydrocarbons are burned in an incinerator or combusted by other means) into neighborhoods surrounding the Occidental Plant.
- 169. Upon information and belief, at various points the USEPA and NYSDEC required OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER to conduct sampling and analysis studies designed to determine if dioxin and furan contamination was present at the Occidental Plant. Those studies determined

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 52 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

that a substantial amount of contamination had occurred, both within *and* outside the confines of the site.

- 170. OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER also chose to transport outside chemical wastes *into* the Occidental Plant for incineration. For example, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER relocated waste that it had dumped at other locations (e.g., Love Canal, the 102nd Street disposal site, and the Hyde Park disposal site) *back* to the Occidental Plant, where it was incinerated.
- 171. Remarkably, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER also chose to import waste to the Niagara Falls community for incineration from its other chemical production operations in faraway locations. For example, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER chose to cart thousands of pounds of waste to Niagara Falls from its chemical plant in Taft, Louisiana. The importation of the Taft, Louisiana waste was curious, given that there was a commercial hazardous waste incinerator in Baton Rouge, Louisiana that operated for many years. Instead of using that facility to burn the Taft hazardous waste, OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER transported it over a thousand miles to the Niagara Falls community for incineration at the Occidental Plant. The result was additional toxic chemical exposure for the Niagara Falls residents, including Plaintiffs.
- 172. In addition to the materials described *supra*, the chemical waste that OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER incinerated at the Occidental Plant also contained, *inter alia*, a variety of heavy metals known to be toxic. Upon incineration, some of those heavy metals were emitted into the surrounding neighborhoods as air pollutants. Included in such air emissions were arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, and nickel.
- 173. From time to time, process upsets, accidents, and equipment failures increased the background toxic chemical emissions from the Occidental Plant. For example, in January 1997 several holes were discovered in the "heat pad area" of the S-area decanter #1, resulting in

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 53 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

substantial additional release of toxins. On February 7, 1998 a chemical reaction began at the plant during a truck loading operation. This, too, resulted in additional air emissions of toxic chlorinated hydrocarbons. Over the last three decades, at least dozens (and possibly hundreds) of similar situations have developed and resulted in the release of additional toxins into the neighborhoods surrounding the Occidental Plant.

- 174. OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's chemical production operations at and/or relating to the Occidental Plant including *inter alia* the creation, management, and disposal of toxic chemicals poses and has posed a serious threat to the surrounding community. Each of the Plaintiffs has been exposed to dangerous toxins by virtue of OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's operation of the Occidental Plant, and such exposures have been a substantial cause of Plaintiffs' injuries.
- 175. All Defendants' conduct was grossly negligent, intentional, conscious, and was undertaken with callous and malicious disregard for the health, well being, and safety of Plaintiffs and others.
- 176. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct on the part of Defendants, Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY sustained and with reasonable probability will in the future sustain the following injuries and/or damages:
 - a. physical pain and suffering;
 - b. physical disabilities;
 - c. mental anguish;
 - d. loss of the enjoyment of life's pleasures;
 - e. inability to participate in her usual employment and activities;
 - f. lost income, and lost earning opportunities;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 54 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

- g. medical expenses (past and future);
- h. other economic loss;
- i. and was otherwise damaged.
- 177. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct on the part of Defendants, infant Plaintiff DYLAN J. BRADLEY sustained and with reasonable probability will in the future sustain the following injuries and/or damages:
 - a. physical pain and suffering;
 - b. physical disabilities;
 - c. mental anguish;
 - d. loss of the enjoyment of life's pleasures;
 - e. inability to participate in his usual employment and activities;
 - f. lost income, and lost earning opportunities;
 - g. medical expenses (past and future);
 - h. other economic loss;
 - i. and was otherwise damaged.
- 178. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct on the part of Defendants, infant Plaintiff TREVOR A. BRADLEY sustained and with reasonable probability will in the future sustain the following injuries and/or damages:
 - a. physical pain and suffering;
 - b. physical disabilities;
 - c. mental anguish;
 - d. loss of the enjoyment of life's pleasures;
 - e. inability to participate in his usual employment and activities;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 55 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

- f. lost income, and lost earning opportunities;
- g. medical expenses;
- h. other economic loss;
- i. and was otherwise damaged.
- 179. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct on the part of Defendants, infant Plaintiff CHASE Q. BRADLEY sustained and with reasonable probability will in the future sustain the following injuries and/or damages:
 - a. physical pain and suffering;
 - b. physical disabilities;
 - c. mental anguish;
 - d. loss of the enjoyment of life's pleasures;
 - e. inability to participate in his usual employment and activities;
 - f. lost income, and lost earning opportunities;
 - g. medical expenses (past and future);
 - h. other economic loss;
 - i. and was otherwise damaged.
- 180. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct on the part of Defendants, Plaintiff ZACHARY HERR sustained and with reasonable probability will in the future sustain the following injuries and/or damages:
 - a. physical pain and suffering;
 - b. physical disabilities;
 - c. mental anguish;
 - d. loss of the enjoyment of life's pleasures;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 56 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

- e. inability to participate in his usual employment and activities;
- f. lost income, and lost earning opportunities;
- g. medical expenses (past and future);
- h. other economic loss;
- i. and was otherwise damaged.
- 181. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct on the part of Defendants, Plaintiff MELANIE HERR sustained and with reasonable probability will in the future sustain the following injuries and/or damages:
 - a. physical pain and suffering;
 - b. physical disabilities;
 - c. mental anguish;
 - d. loss of the enjoyment of life's pleasures;
 - e. inability to participate in her usual employment and activities;
 - f. lost income, and lost earning opportunities;
 - g. medical expenses (past and future);
 - h. other economic loss;
 - i. and was otherwise damaged.
- 182. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct on the part of Defendants, infant Plaintiff HEATHER HERR sustained and with reasonable probability will in the future sustain the following injuries and/or damages:
 - a. physical pain and suffering;
 - b. physical disabilities;
 - c. mental anguish;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 57 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

- d. loss of the enjoyment of life's pleasures;
- e. inability to participate in her usual employment and activities;
- f. lost income, and lost earning opportunities;
- g. medical expenses (past and future);
- h. other economic loss;
- i. and was otherwise damaged.
- 183. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct on the part of Defendants, infant Plaintiff COLETON HERR sustained and with reasonable probability will in the future sustain the following injuries and/or damages:
 - a. physical pain and suffering;
 - b. physical disabilities;
 - c. mental anguish;
 - d. loss of the enjoyment of life's pleasures;
 - e. inability to participate in his usual employment and activities;
 - f. lost income, and lost earning opportunities;
 - g. medical expenses (past and future);
 - h. other economic loss;
 - i. and was otherwise damaged.
- 184. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct on the part of Defendants, Plaintiff NATHAN KORSON sustained and with reasonable probability will in the future sustain the following injuries and/or damages:
 - a. physical pain and suffering;
 - b. physical disabilities;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 58 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

- c. mental anguish;
- d. loss of the enjoyment of life's pleasures;
- e. inability to participate in his usual employment and activities;
- f. lost income, and lost earning opportunities;
- g. medical expenses (past and future);
- h. other economic loss;
- i. and was otherwise damaged.
- 185. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct on the part of Defendants, Plaintiff ELENA KORSON sustained and with reasonable probability will in the future sustain the following injuries and/or damages:
 - a. physical pain and suffering;
 - b. physical disabilities;
 - c. mental anguish;
 - d. loss of the enjoyment of life's pleasures;
 - e. inability to participate in her usual employment and activities;
 - f. lost income, and lost earning opportunities;
 - g. medical expenses (past and future);
 - h. other economic loss;
 - i. and was otherwise damaged.
- 186. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct on the part of Defendants, infant Plaintiff LOGAN J. KORSON sustained and with reasonable probability will in the future sustain the following injuries and/or damages:
 - a. physical pain and suffering;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 59 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

- b. physical disabilities;
- c. mental anguish;
- d. loss of the enjoyment of life's pleasures;
- e. inability to participate in his usual employment and activities;
- f. lost income, and lost earning opportunities;
- g. medical expenses (past and future);
- h. other economic loss;
- i. and was otherwise damaged.
- 187. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct, Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY, individually as the parent of the infant Plaintiff DYLAN J. BRADLEY, suffered loss of support, loss of services of this infant Plaintiff, incurred medical and other expenses, and was otherwise damaged.
- 188. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct, Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY, individually as the parent of the infant Plaintiff TREVOR A. BRADLEY, suffered loss of support, loss of services of this infant Plaintiff, incurred medical and other expenses, and was otherwise damaged.
- 189. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct, Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY, individually as the parent of the infant Plaintiff CHASE Q. BRADLEY, suffered loss of support, loss of services of this infant Plaintiff, incurred medical and other expenses, and was otherwise damaged.
- 190. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct, Plaintiffs ZACHARY and MELANIE HERR, individually as the parents of the infant Plaintiff HEATHER HERR, suffered

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 60 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

loss of support, loss of services of this infant Plaintiff, incurred medical and other expenses, and were otherwise damaged.

- 191. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct, Plaintiffs ZACHARY and MELANIE HERR, individually as the parents of the infant Plaintiff COLETON HERR, suffered loss of support, loss of services of this infant Plaintiff, incurred medical and other expenses, and were otherwise damaged.
- 192. As a consequence of the foregoing misconduct, Plaintiffs NATHAN and ELENA KORSON, individually as the parents of the infant Plaintiff LOGAN J. KORSON, suffered loss of support, loss of services of this infant Plaintiff, incurred medical and other expenses, and were otherwise damaged.
- 193. To the extent applicable, Plaintiffs allege and assert entitlement to the remedial provisions of CPLR 214-c(4)
- 194. Each of Plaintiffs' personal injuries and property damages have been caused or contributed to by exposure to hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants that have been released into the environment from either the Love Canal facility or the Occidental Plant facility.
- 195. Each of the municipal Defendants has been notified of this lawsuit by the service of a Notice of Claim pursuant to Section 50 of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York.
- 196. To the extent that any Defendant pleads, or otherwise seeks to rely upon Article 16 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules (CPLR) to have fault apportioned to another allegedly culpable party, Plaintiffs expressly state that Defendants' conduct falls within one or more of the subdivisions of CPLR § 1602.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 61 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION NEGLIGENCE (ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 197. The allegations contained in paragraph "1" through "196 inclusive are hereby realleged as more fully set forth herein.
- 198. 2011 Sewer Incident Defendants knew or should have known that Love Canal toxins had not been appropriately monitored, remediated and/or contained within the site, and therefore knew or should have known of the presence of toxic and hazardous chemicals within the sewer system as alleged herein.
- 199. 2011 Sewer Incident Defendants knew or should have known that the manner in which the Colvin Boulevard trench was opened and the toxic chemicals were flushed throughout the neighborhood presented a serious risk of injury to persons and property due to the likelihood of additional contamination to the surrounding areas, beyond the contamination that had already occurred on a chronic basis due to the negligent and inadequate remediation and/or containment of Love Canal toxins (of which Landfill and Sewer Defendants also knew or should have known).
- 200. 2011 Sewer Incident Defendants knew or should have known that proper monitoring needed to take place for the presence of the hazardous substances in the sewer system, and that hazardous chemicals were present and chronically leaking from the Love Canal containment area and from the sewer system, and further that the sewer pipes had deteriorated and were leaking hazardous materials and chemicals, including NAPL and other hazardous toxins, thus contaminating Plaintiffs' homes and property.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 62 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

201. Any work within the sewer system, therefore, required the utmost due care to assure that the chemicals would not be dispersed throughout the neighborhood and contaminate the property and homes of nearby residents, including the Plaintiffs.

- 202. Defendants' negligence, carelessness and recklessness consisted of the following:
- 203. Despite the fact that 2011 Sewer Incident Defendants knew or should have known of the presence of these hazardous chemicals, 2011 Sewer Incident Defendants negligently, carelessly and recklessly disturbed, discharged and flushed these chemicals, sometimes in a sudden and acute manner, throughout the neighborhood and onto and into the homes of the Plaintiffs;
 - a. Landfill Defendants' failure to properly remediate the Love Canal site during and
 after the original remediation, and continuing to the present day, such that
 hazardous Love Canal contaminants escaped and continue to escape from the
 Love Canal site;
 - b. Failure to properly monitor the chemicals in the Love Canal containment area on the part of Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, MSRM, CRA, NFWB, and CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS;
 - c. Failure to properly and/or routinely test for chemicals within the sewer system, and in the ground upon which the sewer pipe lay, to determine whether hazardous chemicals were present so that heightened safety measures could be applied and neighborhood residents could be appropriately warned on the part of Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, MSRM, CRA, NFWB, and CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 63 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

> d. Failure to have proper response protocols in place in the event that hazardous materials were found as a general matter, and specifically as work was being undertaken in the sewer system on the part of Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, MSRM, CRA, NFWB, CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, OP-TECH, ROY'S, and SCOTT LAWN YARD;

- e. By improperly allowing the chemicals to escape the sewer system and flush into and onto the property and homes of the Plaintiffs, both chronically and following the January 2011 excavation project, on the part of Defendants

 OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, MSRM, CRA, NFWB, CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, OP-TECH, SCOTT LAWN YARD, and ROY'S;
- f. By allowing hazardous chemicals to contaminate the air, soil and water in the surrounding area, including Plaintiffs' property and homes on the part of Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, MSRM, CRA, NFWB, CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, OP-TECH, SCOTT LAWN YARD, and ROY'S;
- g. By taking no action to abate or otherwise stop the pollution and contamination of the surrounding area, including the Plaintiffs' property and homes on the part of Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, MSRM, CRA, NFWB, CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, OP-TECH, SCOTT LAWN YARD, and ROY'S;
- h. By improperly replacing certain pipes with "PVC" piping which the Defendants knew or should have known would deteriorate upon contact with the chemicals at issue herein on the part of Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, MSRM, CRA, NFWB, and CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS;

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 64 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

> i. By failing to advise Plaintiffs of the risks and safety hazards of being exposed to the NAPL chemicals and other hazardous substances as indicated herein on the part of Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, MSRM, CRA, NFWB, CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, OP-TECH, SCOTT LAWN YARD, and ROY'S;

- j. By falsely advising Plaintiffs that such continuing exposure is safe and would cause no adverse health effects to them on the part of DEFENDANTS OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, CRA, NFWB, ROY's and CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS;
- k. By acting in such a manner as to cause toxic and hazardous substances to be released to or otherwise enter the environment on the part of all Defendants;
- By failing to take, implement or use proper and adequate control measures to minimize the contamination of water, soil, and air with toxic and hazardous substances on the part of all Defendants;
- m. By failing to observe accepted relevant industry standards in the operation, maintenance and refurbishment of the City sewer system, and the handling of the toxic substances as alleged herein on the part of Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, MSRM, CRA, NFWB, and CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS;
- n. By improperly entrusting the operation, maintenance and refurbishing of the sewer system to persons not able, competent or adequately trained to handle such operations correctly upon the discovery of hazardous chemicals within the sewer system on the part of Defendants NFWB and CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS.

204. Defendants' negligence, carelessness or recklessness as set forth herein, directly and proximately caused the harm (past and future) suffered by Plaintiffs, including harm to their persons, property and economic security, including the cost of future monitoring of the contamination created by release of hazardous and toxic substances.

205. As a proximate result, each Plaintiff and each infant Plaintiff, as set forth above, has been damaged in sums which exceed the jurisdictional limitations of all courts of limited jurisdiction.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION ABNORMALLY DANGEROUS ACTIVITY (ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 206. The allegations contained in paragraph "1" through "205" inclusive are hereby realleged as more fully set forth herein.
- 207. Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, MSRM, CRA, SCOTT LAWN YARD, NFWB, CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, OP-TECH, and ROY'S knew or should have known that the original Love Canal remediation work and subsequent maintenance and/or monitoring work involved the attempted containment of the highly dangerous OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER chemicals, such Defendants knew or should have known that such chemicals were present (and indeed were already chronically leaching, migrating, surfacing, escaping, and/or moving), and had the potential to be acutely released from the sewer pipes if any work was done negligently, and further that the nearby neighborhood consisted of numerous residential properties, including the property and homes of the Plaintiffs herein, the original Love Canal remediation work and its ongoing maintenance and/or monitoring was an abnormally dangerous activity.
- 208. Since Defendants NFWB, CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, and SCOTT LAWN

 YARD knew or should have known that the sewer system upon which they were working as part

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 66 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

of the Sewer Remediation Program was in close proximity to the Love Canal containment area, they therefore knew or should have known that there was a likelihood that hazardous chemicals would be present and had the potential to be released if any work was done within the sewer system, and further that the nearby neighborhood consisted of numerous residential properties, including the property and homes of the Plaintiffs herein, the maintenance and refurbishment of the sewer system was an abnormally dangerous activity.

- 209. Because Defendants engaged in an abnormally dangerous activity, as alleged herein, they owed the highest duty of care to the Plaintiffs, which each Defendant breached, thereby proximately causing injury to Plaintiffs, as more particularly described herein.
- 210. The activities of Defendants, as alleged herein, presented a high degree of risk of harm to the person and properties of Plaintiffs, and such harm has caused significant injury to Plaintiffs.
- 211. To the extent that Defendants, as alleged herein, may have used reasonable care in their operations, they were unable to eliminate the risk of contamination through such exercise of reasonable care.
- 212. The remediation and subsequent maintenance and/or monitoring of a hazardous waste site, where it was known that hazardous substances were contained, is not a matter of common usage, and the manner in which the Defendants, as alleged herein, attempted to remediate and maintain and/or monitor the Love Canal site in this populated area is and was inappropriate.
- 213. The operation, maintenance and refurbishment of a sewer system nearby a hazardous waste containment site, where it was known that hazardous substances were contained, is not a matter of common usage, and the manner in which the Defendants, as alleged

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 67 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

herein, attempted to maintain and refurbish the sewer system in this populated area is and was inappropriate.

- 214. As a result of the Defendants, as alleged herein, engaging in such abnormally dangerous activities, Plaintiffs sustained injury and suffered losses.
- 215. As a proximate result, each Plaintiff and each infant Plaintiff, as set forth above, has been damaged in sums which exceed the jurisdictional limitations of all courts of limited jurisdiction.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION PRIVATE NUISANCE (ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 216. The allegations contained in paragraph "1" through "215" inclusive are hereby realleged as though more fully set forth herein.
- 217. The acts and omissions of all Defendants as alleged in this Complaint created a private nuisance through substantial and unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of Plaintiffs' property.
 - 218. This nuisance continues to this day, and is likely to continue into the future.
- 219. As a proximate result, each Plaintiff and each infant Plaintiff, as set forth above, has been damaged in sums which exceed the jurisdictional limitations of all courts of limited jurisdiction.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION TRESPASS (ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 220. The allegations contained in paragraph "1" through "219" inclusive are hereby realleged as though more fully set forth herein.
- 221. Through the acts and omissions of Defendants, as alleged in this Complaint, the Defendants have intentionally taken actions which have caused contamination to spread from the

their property and/or property which such Defendants were charged with maintaining and/or property on which such Defendants were performing work, including the Love Canal site and the surrounding sewer system, to the property and homes of the Plaintiffs herein, and trespass upon the Plaintiffs' property and their homes.

- 222. This trespass continues to this day and is likely to continue into the future.
- 223. As a proximate result, each Plaintiff and each infant Plaintiff, as set forth above, has been damaged in sums which exceed the jurisdictional limitations of all courts of limited jurisdiction.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION (against OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER) NEGLIGENCE

- 224. The allegations contained in paragraph "1" through "223" inclusive are hereby realleged as though more fully set forth herein.
- 225. Between the years of approximately 1942 and 1953, Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER dumped more than 21,000 tons of toxic chemicals into the Love Canal site.
 - 226. To date, nearly 250 separate chemicals have been identified in the dump.
- 227. Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER has also caused Plaintiffs' exposure to countless toxins through the negligent operation of the Occidental Plant, continuing to the present day, as well as the negligent and/or reckless disposal of chemical waste as detailed herein.
- 228. Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER knew or should have known that the dumping of chemicals at the Love Canal site as well as the operation of the Occidental Plant and the negligent and/or reckless disposal of chemical waste as detailed herein presented a serious risk of injury to persons and property.

229. Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER had a duty to warn Plaintiffs of the dangers to which they were exposed as a result of OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's contamination of the Love Canal neighborhood, operation of the Occidental Plant, and negligent and/or reckless disposal of chemical waste as detailed herein.

- 230. Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's negligence, carelessness or recklessness, as set forth herein, directly and proximately caused the harm (past and future) suffered by Plaintiffs, including harm to their persons, property and economic security, including the cost of future monitoring of the contamination created by the presence of hazardous and toxic substances.
- 231. As a proximate result, each Plaintiff and each infant Plaintiff, as set forth above, has been damaged in sums which exceed the jurisdictional limitations of all courts of limited jurisdiction.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION (against OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER) ABNORMALLY DANGEROUS ACTIVITY

- 232. The allegations contained in paragraph "1" through "231" inclusive are hereby realleged as though more fully set forth herein.
- 233. Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER knew or should have known that the dumping of more than 21,000 tons of chemical waste upon land in proximity to a residential area as well as the operation of a chemical manufacturing facility and the disposal of chemical waste as detailed herein in proximity to a residential area constituted an abnormally dangerous activity.
- 234. Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER also knew or should have known that, because the land upon which it dumped the contaminants was in proximity to what eventually

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 70 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

became a residential area and two school buildings, that there was a likelihood that hazardous chemicals would escape into the homes and property of individuals living in the area.

- 235. Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER also knew or should have known that its operations at the Occidental Plant, as well as its chemical waste disposal operations as detailed herein, would and/or was likely to contaminate the neighboring residential neighborhood with toxins.
- 236. Because Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER engaged in an abnormally dangerous activity, it owed the highest duty of care to the Plaintiffs, which it breached, thereby proximately causing injury to Plaintiffs, as more particularly described herein.
- 237. Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's activities presented a high degree of risk of harm to the person and properties of Plaintiffs, and such harm has caused significant injury to Plaintiffs.
- 238. To the extent that Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER may have used reasonable care in its dumping of hazardous chemicals onto the Love Canal site or in the operation of the Occidental Plant (including inter alia the disposal of waste from that facility), it was unable to eliminate the risk of contamination and harm to Plaintiffs through such exercise of reasonable care.
- 239. The operation of a hazardous waste site and a chemical plant is not a matter of common usage, and the manner in which Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER disposed of hazardous materials on the Love Canal site, operated the Occidental Plant, and otherwise disposed of chemical waste as detailed herein, in proximity to a residential area, is and was inappropriate.

240. As a result of Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's engaging in such abnormally dangerous activities, Plaintiffs sustained injury and suffered losses.

241. As a proximate result, each Plaintiff and each infant Plaintiff, as set forth above, has been damaged in sums which exceed the jurisdictional limitations of all courts of limited jurisdiction.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION (against OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER) PRIVATE NUISANCE

- 242. The allegations contained in paragraph "1" through "241" inclusive are hereby realleged as though more fully set forth herein.
- 243. The acts and omissions of Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER in dumping more than 21,000 tons of hazardous waste in proximity to a residential area, and in operating the Occidental Plant and otherwise disposing of chemical waste, as alleged in this Complaint, created a private nuisance through substantial and unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of Plaintiffs' property.
 - 244. This nuisance continues to this day, and is likely to continue into the future.
- 245. As a proximate result, each Plaintiff and each infant Plaintiff, as set forth above, has been damaged in sums which exceed the jurisdictional limitations of all courts of limited jurisdiction.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION (against OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER) TRESPASS

- 246. The allegations contained in paragraph "1" through "246" inclusive are hereby realleged as though more fully set forth herein.
- 247. By dumping more than 21,000 tons of hazardous substances in the Love Canal area and by operating the Occidental Plant and including its chemical disposal operations as

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 72 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

detailed herein, Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER has intentionally taken actions which have caused contamination to spread from the Love Canal site and from the Occidental Plant to the property and homes of Plaintiffs herein, and trespass upon the Plaintiffs' property and their homes.

- 248. This trespass continues to this day and is likely to continue into the future.
- 249. As a proximate result, each Plaintiff and each infant Plaintiff, as set forth above, has been damaged in sums which exceed the jurisdictional limitations of all courts of limited jurisdiction.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION LOSS OF SERVICES and SUPPORT

- 250. The allegations contained in paragraph "1" through "249" inclusive are hereby realleged as though more fully set forth herein.
- 251. At all relevant times, Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY was and still is entitled to the services of the infant plaintiff DYLAN J. BRADLEY.
- 252. By reason of the foregoing misconduct on the part of each of the Defendants,
 Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY has been deprived of the services and support of the infant
 plaintiff DYLAN J. BRADLEY and has suffered and will continue to suffer substantial
 economic damages and was otherwise damaged.
- 253. At all relevant times, Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY was and still is entitled to the services and support of the infant plaintiff TREVOR A. BRADLEY.
- 254. By reason of the foregoing misconduct on the part of each of the Defendants, Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY has been deprived of the services and support of the infant plaintiff TREVOR A. BRADLEY and has suffered and will continue to suffer substantial economic damages and was otherwise damaged.

255. At all relevant times, Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY was and still is entitled to the services and support of the infant plaintiff CHASE Q. BRADLEY.

- 256. By reason of the foregoing misconduct on the part of each of the Defendants, Plaintiff JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY has been deprived of the services and support of the infant plaintiff CHASE Q. BRADLEY and has suffered and will continue to suffer substantial economic damages and was otherwise damaged.
- 257. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs ZACHARY and MELANIE HERR were and still are entitled to the services and support of the infant plaintiff COLETON HERR.
- 258. By reason of the foregoing misconduct on the part of each of the Defendants, Plaintiffs ZACHARY and MELANIE HERR have been deprived of the services and support of the infant plaintiff COLETON HERR and have suffered and will continue to suffer substantial economic damages and was otherwise damaged.
- 259. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs ZACHARY and MELANIE HERR were and still are entitled to the services and support of the infant plaintiff HEATHER HERR.
- 260. By reason of the foregoing misconduct on the part of each of the Defendants, Plaintiffs ZACHARY and MELANIE HERR have been deprived of the services and support of the infant plaintiff HEATHER HERR and have suffered and will continue to suffer substantial economic damages and was otherwise damaged.
- 261. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs NATHAN and ELENA KORSON were and still are entitled to the services and support of the infant plaintiff LOGAN J. KORSON.
- 262. By reason of the foregoing misconduct on the part of each of the Defendants, Plaintiffs NATHAN and ELENA KORSON have been deprived of the services and support of

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 74 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

the infant plaintiff LOGAN J. KORSON and have suffered and will continue to suffer substantial economic damages and was otherwise damaged.

263. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiffs JOANN ABBO-BRADLEY, ZACHARY HERR, MELANIE HERR, NATHAN KORSON, and ELENA KORSON have been damaged in an amount to be determined by the jury at trial, but far in excess of the jurisdictional requirements of all lower courts.

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION LOSS OF SPOUSAL COMPANIONSHIP SERVICES and SUPPORT

- 264. The allegations contained in paragraph "1" through "263" inclusive are hereby realleged as though more fully set forth herein.
- 265. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs ZACHARY HERR and MELANIE HERR are spouses of each other, and as such, each is entitled to the other's services, society, comfort, consortium, companionship and support.
- 266. By reason of the intentional, negligent, careless, reckless, and/or otherwise tortious conduct as described herein on the part of the Defendants, Plaintiff ZACHARY HERR has been deprived of the services, society, comfort, consortium, companionship, and support of his wife, Plaintiff MELANIE HERR, and has suffered and will continue to suffer substantial economic damages and was otherwise damaged.
- 267. By reason of the intentional, negligent, careless, reckless, and/or otherwise tortious conduct as described herein on the part of the Defendants, Plaintiff MELANIE HERR has been deprived of the services, society, comfort, consortium, companionship, and support of his wife, Plaintiff ZACHARY HERR, and has suffered and will continue to suffer substantial economic damages and was otherwise damaged.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 75 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

268. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs ELENA KORSON and NATHAN KORSON are spouses of each other, and as such, each is entitled to the other's services, society, comfort, consortium, companionship and support.

- 269. By reason of the intentional, negligent, careless, reckless, and/or otherwise tortious conduct, as described herein, on the part of the Defendants, Plaintiff ELENA KORSON has been deprived of the services, society, comfort, consortium, companionship, and support of his wife, Plaintiff NATHAN KORSON, and has suffered and will continue to suffer substantial economic damages and was otherwise damaged.
- 270. By reason of the intentional, negligent, careless, reckless, and/or otherwise tortious conduct, as described herein, on the part of the Defendants, Plaintiff NATHAN KORSON has been deprived of the services, society, comfort, consortium, companionship, and support of his wife, Plaintiff ELENA KORSON, and has suffered and will continue to suffer substantial economic damages and was otherwise damaged.
- 271. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiffs ZACHARY HERR, MELANIE HERR, NATHAN KORSON, and ELENA KORSON have each been damaged in an amount in excess of \$75,000.00 and in an amount to be determined by the jury at trial, but far in excess of the jurisdictional requirements of all lower courts.

PRAYER FOR PUNITIVE DAMAGES AGAINST DEFENDANTS OCCIDENTAL
CHEMICAL CORPORATION, GLENN SPRINGS HOLDING, INC., CONESTOGAROVERS & ASSOCIATES, MILLER SPRINGS REMEDIATION MANAGEMENT,
INC., CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, AND NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

272. The allegations contained in paragraph "1" through "271" inclusive are hereby realleged as though more fully set forth herein.

INDEX NO. E146816/2012 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 52 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 76 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

273. The conduct of Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER in dumping more than 21,000 tons of toxic waste on land adjacent to a residential area was done with utter disregard to the potential adverse health effects which could ensue.

- 274. The conduct of Defendants OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER, GSH, CRA, MSRM, CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, and NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD, in assuring the Plaintiffs that they are at no risk of harm to their health and safety, when they knew or should have known that exposure to the toxic chemicals, as alleged herein, in fact put the Plaintiffs at significant risk of injury and disease, was done with the intention of attempting to avoid litigation and to be held responsible for the contamination of the Plaintiffs' property and home, and the exposure of the Plaintiffs to such hazardous chemicals, and was done with utter disregard to the potential adverse health effects that could ensue.
- 275. The conduct of Defendant OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER in emitting dangerous toxins from the Occidental Plant, and onto and/or into the neighboring residential area and onto and/or into the adjacent water treatment facility, as well as OCCIDENTAL/HOOKER's toxic waste operations in the Niagara Falls, NY community as detailed herein, was done with utter disregard to the potential adverse health effects which could ensue. All of the aforementioned conduct was wanton and reckless, malicious, and demonstrates a conscious indifference and utter disregard of its effect upon the health, safety and rights of others, including Plaintiffs.
- 276. As a result of these activities as alleged hereinabove, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the finder of fact.

AD DAMNUM

WHEREFORE:

INDEX NO. E146816/2012

NYSCEF DOC. NO Case 1:20-cv-00136-FPG-JJM Document 3-1 Filed 02/01/20 Page 77 of 78 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/06/2020

Each of the plaintiffs separately demands compensatory damages in each of the above enumerated clams in amounts exceeding the jurisdictional limitations of all courts of lesser jurisdiction;

Each of the Plaintiffs separately demands punitive and exemplary damages in an amount to be determined by the trier of fact;

Each of the Plaintiffs separately demands the recovery of costs, disbursements or any other elements of damages or expenses which might be recoverable as a matter of law and/or equity; and

Each of the Plaintiffs separately demands such other relief as to the Court may seem just and proper.

DATED: New York, New York January 6, 2020

Yours, etc.,

By: /s/Melissa L Stewart

PHILLIPS & PAOLICELLI, LLP

Steven J. Phillips Melissa L. Stewart 747 Third Ave, 6th Floor New York, New York 10027 Telephone: (212) 388-5100

WATERS & KRAUS, LLP

Peter Kraus (admitted *pro hac vice*) Charles Siegel (admitted *pro hac vice*) Leslie MacLean (admitted *pro hac vice*) Caitlyn Silhan (admitted *pro hac vice*) 3141 Hood Street, Suite 720 Dallas, Texas 75219 Telephone: (214) 357-7252

FANIZZI & BARR, PC Paul K. Barr

INDEX NO. E146816/2012

2303 Pine Avenue Niagara Falls, NY 14301 Telephone: (716) 284-8888

CHRISTEN CIVILETTO MORRIS, ESQ.

8313 West Point Drive East Amherst, New York 14051 (716) 741-8555

Attorneys for Plaintiffs