

CHAPTER 26B**INDUSTRIAL SITE RECOVERY ACT RULES****Authority**

N.J.S.A. 13:1D-1 et seq., 13:1K-6, 58:10B-1 et seq., and 58:10-23.11a et seq.

Source and Effective Date

R.1997 d.498, effective November 17, 1997.
See: 29 N.J.R. 16(a), 29 N.J.R. 4913(a).

Executive Order No. 66(1978) Expiration Date

Chapter 26B, Industrial Site Recovery Act Rules, expires on November 17, 2002.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 26B, Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act Rules, was adopted as R.1987 d.528, effective December 21, 1987 (operative January 1, 1988). See: 19 N.J.R. 681(a), 19 N.J.R. 2435(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978) Chapter 26B was readopted as R.1992 d.497, effective November 18, 1992. See: 24 N.J.R. 2773(b), 24 N.J.R. 4524(a).

Chapter 26B, Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act Rules, was repealed and a new Chapter 26B, Industrial Site Recovery Act Rules, was adopted by R.1997 d.498, effective November 17, 1997. See: Source and Effective Date.

Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Overtuning Environmental Regulations: A Primer on Breaching the Regulatory Walls. John A. McKinney, Jr., J. Wylie Donald, 160 N.J.Law. 48 (Mag.) (April 1994).

New Growth in Old Ground. Bernard A. Weintraub, 147 N.J.L.J. 761 No. 7, S-1 (1997).

Proving Bad Faith in Environmental Coverage Actions. Patrick Nucciarone, Jeffrey A. Cohen, Alexa Richman-La Londe, 149 N.J.L.J. 468 (1997).

CHAPTER TABLE OF CONTENTS**SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 7:26B-1.1 Scope and authority
- 7:26B-1.2 Construction
- 7:26B-1.3 Severability
- 7:26B-1.4 Definitions
- 7:26B-1.5 Forms and submissions
- 7:26B-1.6 Certifications and signatories
- 7:26B-1.7 Department review
- 7:26B-1.8 No further action letter and authorization letter
- 7:26B-1.9 Right of entry and inspection
- 7:26B-1.10 Liability for ISRA compliance
- 7:26B-1.11 Civil penalties

SUBCHAPTER 2. APPLICABILITY

- 7:26B-2.1 Operations and transactions not subject to ISRA
- 7:26B-2.2 Applicability determinations
- 7:26B-2.3 De minimis quantity exemption

SUBCHAPTER 3. GENERAL INFORMATION NOTICE

- 7:26B-3.1 Prenotice filing conference

- 7:26B-3.2 Notification requirements
- 7:26B-3.3 General information notice
- 7:26B-3.4 Revisions to general information notice or withdrawal of required notice by an owner or operator

SUBCHAPTER 4. REMEDIATION AGREEMENT

- 7:26B-4.1 Remediation agreement
- 7:26B-4.2 Remediation agreement amendment

SUBCHAPTER 5. EXPEDITED COMPLIANCE OPTIONS

- 7:26B-5.1 Expedited review
- 7:26B-5.2 Area of concern review
- 7:26B-5.3 Regulated underground storage tank waiver
- 7:26B-5.4 Remediation in progress waiver
- 7:26B-5.5 Limited site review
- 7:26B-5.6 Minimal environmental concern review
- 7:26B-5.7 Limited conveyance
- 7:26B-5.8 Remedial action workplan deferral

SUBCHAPTER 6. REMEDIATION PROCEDURES

- 7:26B-6.1 Preliminary assessment, site investigation and remedial investigation
- 7:26B-6.2 Soil remedial action and remedial action workplan
- 7:26B-6.3 Groundwater or surface water remedial action workplan
- 7:26B-6.4 Remediation funding source requirement
- 7:26B-6.5 Compliance with remediation schedules
- 7:26B-6.6 Completion of remediation
- 7:26B-6.7 Submission and review of a negative declaration

SUBCHAPTER 7. PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

- 7:26B-7.1 Confidentiality claims
- 7:26B-7.2 Access to information; nondisclosure
- 7:26B-7.3 Confidentiality determinations
- 7:26B-7.4 Disclosure of confidential information to other public agencies
- 7:26B-7.5 Disclosure of confidential information to contractors
- 7:26B-7.6 Imminent and substantial danger
- 7:26B-7.7 Security procedures

SUBCHAPTER 8. FEE SCHEDULE AND DIRECT BILLING FEES

- 7:26B-8.1 Fee schedule
- 7:26B-8.2 Oversight costs
- 7:26B-8.3 Oversight cost review
- 7:26B-8.4 Payment of fees

APPENDIX A STANDARD ISRA REMEDIATION AGREEMENT**SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL INFORMATION****7:26B-1.1 Scope and authority**

This chapter constitutes the rules governing the implementation of the Industrial Site Recovery Act, P.L. 1993 c.139 (N.J.S.A. 13:1K-6 et seq.).

7:26B-1.2 Construction

This chapter shall be liberally construed to allow the Department to implement fully its statutory functions pursuant to the Act.

7:26B-1.3 Severability

If any subchapter, section, subsection, provision, clause, or portion of this chapter, or the application thereof to any person, is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in its operations to the subchapter, section, subsection, provision, clause, portion, or application directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered and it shall not affect or impair the remainder of this chapter or the application thereof.

7:26B-1.4 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“Act” or “ISRA” means the Industrial Site Recovery Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1K-6 et seq.

“Agricultural commodity” means any plant or part thereof, or animal or animal product, produced by a person (including farmers, ranchers, vineyardists, plant propagators, Christmas tree growers, aquaculturists, floriculturists, orchardists, foresters, or other comparable persons) primarily for sale, consumption, propagation, or other use by man or animals.

“Applicable remediation standard” means a remediation standard as defined by N.J.A.C. 7:26E-1.8.

“Authorization letter” means a written statement issued by the Department that authorizes an owner or operator of an industrial establishment to transfer ownership or operations or in the case of a cessation of operations, authorizes the cessation of operations as it relates to the owner and operators obligation to remediate the industrial establishment.

“Authorized agent” means the person authorized to receive correspondence or communications, on behalf of the person responsible for conducting the remediation of the industrial establishment, for matters covered by this chapter.

“Change in ownership” means, unless otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2:

1. The sale or transfer of the business of an industrial establishment;

2. The sale or transfer of any of the real property on which the industrial establishment operates, including any of the block(s) and lot(s) upon which the operations of the industrial establishment are conducted and any contiguous block(s) and lot(s) controlled by the same owner or operator that are vacant land;

3. The sale or transfer of title to an industrial establishment or the real property of an industrial establishment by exercising an option to purchase;

4. The sale or transfer of a general partnership interest in a general partnership or in a limited partnership or the sale or transfer of a limited partnership interest in a limited partnership where the limited partner is liable for the obligation of the limited partnership pursuant to the limited partnership agreement or by law, which results in any one of the following:

i. The change in the general partner, or the limited partner where the limited partner is liable for the obligations of the partnership, holding the controlling interest in the direct owner or operator of the industrial establishment;

ii. The reduction, by 10 percent or more of the assets available for remediation of the industrial establishment; or

iii. The change in the general partner or the limited partner where the limited partner is liable for the obligations of the partnership, holding the controlling interest in the indirect owner of the industrial establishment where the indirect owner's assets would be available for remediation pursuant to the criteria listed at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(b). Notwithstanding the reference to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(b), this definition does not require that a person submit an application for an applicability determination in order for a transaction to satisfy the standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(b);

5. The sale or transfer of the sole general partner's entire interest in a limited partnership where the limited partnership is one of the following:

i. The limited partnership is the direct owner or operator of the industrial establishment; or

ii. The limited partnership has the controlling interest in the indirect owner of the industrial establishment where the indirect owner's assets would be available for remediation pursuant to the criteria listed at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(b). Notwithstanding the reference to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(b), this definition does not require that a person submit an application for an applicability determination in order for a transaction to satisfy the standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(b);

6. The reorganization of a general or limited partnership into a corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or other similar business entity;

7. The sale or transfer of stock in a corporation or interest in a limited liability company, resulting in a merger or consolidation involving the direct owner or operator or indirect owner of the industrial establishment;

8. The sale or transfer of stock in a corporation or interest in a limited liability company, resulting in a change in the person holding the controlling interest in the direct owner or operator or indirect owner of the industrial establishment; and

9. The sale or transfer of interests in a limited liability company that owns or operates an industrial establishment, is the direct owner or operator or indirect owner of an industrial establishment, where the indirect owner's assets would be available for remediation pursuant to the criteria listed at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(b), that would reduce, by 10 percent or more, the assets available for remediation of the industrial establishment.

"Closing operations" means, unless otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.4:

1. The cessation of operations which, as measured on a constant, annual date-specific basis, within any five-year period:

i. Results in at least a 90 percent reduction in the total value of the product output from the entire industrial establishment; or

ii. For industrial establishments which product output is undefined:

(1) Results in at least a 90 percent reduction in the number of employees; or

(2) Results in at least a 90 percent reduction in the area of operations of an industrial establishment;

2. Any temporary cessation of operations of an industrial establishment for a period greater than two years;

3. An industrial establishment becomes nonoperational for health or safety reasons as a result of a judicial proceeding or final agency action;

4. The initiation of bankruptcy proceedings pursuant to Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 701 et seq. or the filing of a plan of reorganization that provides for a liquidation pursuant to Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 1101 et seq.;

5. Any change of operations of an industrial establishment that changes the industrial establishment's Standard Industrial Classification number to one that is not subject to ISRA;

6. The termination of a lease or sublease, unless there is no disruption in operations of the industrial establishment; and

7. The assignment of a lease or sublease, unless there is no change in the operator of the industrial establishment

and there is no disruption in operations of the industrial establishment.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection or his or her authorized representative.

"Controlling interest" means the interest held by a person or person(s) who possess(es) the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a corporation, partnership or other business entity based on the criteria in N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(d). Notwithstanding the reference to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(d), this definition does not require that a person submit an application for an applicability determination in order for a person or transaction to satisfy the standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(d).

"Corporate reorganization not substantially affecting ownership" means the restructuring or reincorporation by the management or owners of an entity, which does not diminish the availability of assets for any remediation, diminish the Department's ability to reach those assets, or otherwise hinder the owner's or operator's ability to remediate the industrial establishment based on the criteria in N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(c). Notwithstanding the reference to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(c), this definition does not require that a person submit an application for an applicability determination in order for a transaction to satisfy the standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(c).

"Declaration of environmental restriction" means a document defined as such pursuant to the Procedures for Department Oversight of Contaminated Sites, N.J.A.C. 7:26C.

"Department" means the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

"Direct owner or operator" means any person that directly owns or operates an industrial establishment. A holder of a mortgage or other security interest in the industrial establishment shall not be deemed to be a direct owner or operator of the industrial establishment unless or until it loses its exemption under N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11g4 or obtains title to the industrial establishment by deed of foreclosure, by other deed, or by court order or other process.

"Discharge" means any intentional or unintentional action or omission resulting in the releasing, spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying or dumping of a hazardous substance or hazardous waste into the waters or onto the lands of the State.

"GIN" means General Information Notice described at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-3.3(a).

"Hazardous substance" means any substance defined as such pursuant to the Discharges of Petroleum and Other Hazardous Substances Regulations, N.J.A.C. 7:1E.

"Hazardous waste" means any waste defined as such pursuant to the Solid Waste Management Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1E et seq., that is further defined as a hazardous waste pursuant to the Solid Waste Regulations, N.J.A.C. 7:26-1.6.

"Indirect owner" means any person who holds a controlling interest in a direct owner or operator, holds a controlling interest in another indirect owner, or holds an interest in a partnership which is the indirect owner or a direct owner or operator, of an industrial establishment.

"Industrial establishment" means any place of business or real property at which such business is conducted, having the primary SIC major group number within 22-39 inclusive, 46-49 inclusive, 51 or 76 as designated in, and determined in accordance with, the procedures described in the SIC manual and engaged in operations on or after December 31, 1983, which involve the generation, manufacture, refining, transportation, treatment, storage, handling, or disposal of hazardous substances and wastes on-site, above or below ground unless otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.1. Except as provided below for lease properties, the industrial establishment includes all of the block(s) and lot(s) upon which the business is conducted and those contiguous block(s) and lot(s) controlled by the same owner or operator that are vacant land, or that are used in conjunction with such business. For lease properties, the industrial establishment includes the leasehold and any external tank, surface impoundments, septic systems, or any other structures, vessels, contrivances, or units that provide, or are utilized for, hazardous substances and wastes to or from the leasehold.

"Negative declaration" means a written declaration, submitted by the owner or operator of an industrial establishment, or other person assuming responsibility for the remediation under ISRA and this chapter, to the Department certifying that there has been no discharge of hazardous substances or hazardous wastes on the industrial establishment, or that any such discharge on the industrial establishment or discharge that has migrated from the industrial establishment has been remediated in accordance with procedures approved by the Department and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26E.

"No further action letter" means a written determination by the Department that, based upon an evaluation of the historical use of the industrial establishment, or of an area of concern or areas of concern, as applicable, and any other investigation or action the Department deems necessary, there are no discharged hazardous substances or hazardous wastes present at the industrial establishment or area(s) of concern, or any other property to which discharged hazardous substances or hazardous wastes originating at the industrial establishment have migrated, or that any discharged hazardous substances or hazardous wastes present at the industrial establishment or that have migrated from the industrial establishment have been remediated in accordance with applicable remediation regulations. The Department may issue a "no further action letter" if hazardous substances or hazardous wastes remain on the industrial establishment or any other property with appropriate engineering and institutional controls.

"Operator" means any person, including users, tenants, or occupants, having and exercising direct actual control of the operations of an industrial establishment. A holder of a mortgage or other security interest in the industrial establishment is not an operator of the industrial establishment unless or until it loses its exemption under N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11g4 or obtains title to the industrial establishment by deed of foreclosure, by other deed, or by court order or other process.

"Owner" means any person who owns the real property of an industrial establishment or who owns the industrial establishment. A holder of a mortgage or other security interest in the industrial establishment is not an owner of the industrial establishment unless or until it loses its exemption under N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11g4 or obtains title to the industrial establishment by deed of foreclosure, by other deed, or by court order or other process.

"Person" means any individual or entity, including without limitation, a public or private corporation, company, estate, association, society, firm, partnership, joint stock company, foreign individual or entity, interstate agency or authority, the United States and any of its political subdivisions, the State of New Jersey, or any of the political subdivisions of within the State of New Jersey, or any of the other meanings which apply to the common understanding of the term.

"Preliminary assessment" means the first phase of remediation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26E.

"Remedial action" means those actions taken at an industrial establishment as may be required by the Department including, without limitation, removal, treatment, containment, transportation, securing, or other engineering or institutional controls, whether of a permanent nature or otherwise, designed to ensure that any hazardous substances or hazardous wastes is remediated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26E.

"Remedial action workplan" means a plan defined as such pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26E.

"Remedial investigation" means those actions to investigate a discharge as defined by N.J.A.C. 7:26E.

"Remediation" or "remediate" means all necessary actions to investigate and clean up any known, suspected or threatened discharge of hazardous substances or hazardous wastes, including, without limitation, the preliminary assessment, site investigation, remedial investigation, and remedial action.

"Remediation agreement" means a document the Department issues for the transfer of an industrial establishment prior to the completion of the remediation.

"Restricted use standard" means a remediation standard as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:26E-1.8.

“SIC” means Standard Industrial Classification.

“SIC manual” means the edition of the Standard Industrial Classification manual, prepared by the Office of Management and Budget in the Executive Office of the President of the United States, in effect at the time of the transaction.

“Site investigation” means the collection and evaluation of data defined as such by N.J.A.C. 7:26E.

“Transferring ownership or operations” means:

1. Any transaction or proceeding through which an industrial establishment undergoes a change in ownership;
2. The sale or transfer of more than 50 percent of the assets of an industrial establishment, excluding real property within any five-year period as measured on a constant, annual date-specific basis. The term does not include the sale or transfer of equipment or machinery in order to replace, modify, or retool existing equipment or machinery;
3. The execution of a lease for a period of 99 years or longer for an industrial establishment;
4. The dissolution of an entity that is an owner or operator or indirect owner of an industrial establishment, except for any dissolution of an indirect owner of an industrial establishment whose assets would have been unavailable for the remediation of the industrial establishment if the dissolution had not occurred; or
5. Any transfer of an industrial establishment to a trust, except where grantor and beneficiary are identical or are members of the same family. As used in this paragraph, “family” means any of the relations included at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.1(a)4.

“Unrestricted use standard” means a remediation standard as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:26E.

7:26B-1.5 Forms and submissions

Any forms or applications required by this chapter may be obtained from and returned to the following address:

Division of Responsible Party Site Remediation
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street
PO Box 028
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0028

7:26B-1.6 Certifications and signatories

(a) Any person submitting an application, workplan, report or other submission to the Department pursuant to ISRA and this chapter shall include the certification provided at (c) below, as applicable. The person submitting the certification provided at (c) below shall sign the certification in accordance with (e) below.

(b) Any person submitting a remediation agreement application or remediation agreement amendment application to the Department pursuant to ISRA and N.J.A.C. 7:26B-4 shall include the certifications provided at (d)1, 2 and 3 below in addition to the certification required pursuant to (a) above, prior to the Department’s issuance of the remediation agreement or a remediation agreement amendment. The person submitting the certifications provided at (d)1, 2 and 3 below shall sign the certifications in accordance with (e) below.

(c) The following certification is for any application, workplan, report or other request to the Department pursuant to ISRA and this chapter:

“I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this application and all attached documents, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, To the best of my knowledge the submitted information is true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant civil penalties for knowingly submitting false, inaccurate or incomplete information and that I am committing a crime of the fourth degree if I make a written false statement which I do not believe to be true. I am also aware that if I knowingly direct or authorize the violation of N.J.S.A. 13:1K-6 et seq., I am personally liable for the penalties set forth at N.J.S.A. 13:1K-13.”

(d) The following certifications are for any remediation agreement application or remediation agreement amendment application submitted to the Department pursuant to ISRA and N.J.A.C. 7:26B-4:

1. The owner or operator of the industrial establishment shall execute the following certification:

“I hereby certify that I am fully aware of the requirements of the Industrial Site Recovery Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1K-1 et seq., as it pertains to the remediation of the industrial establishment subject to this remediation agreement. Specifically, I am fully aware of the responsibilities of the owner or operator of the industrial establishment to remediate the site in accordance with ISRA and this chapter. I acknowledge that a remediation agreement has been requested to allow the transaction referenced in the remediation agreement application to proceed prior to completion of all ISRA compliance requirements and that the person entering into the remediation agreement is agreeing to comply with all ISRA requirements. I further acknowledge that the execution of a remediation agreement shall not release [Person] from any responsibilities [Person] have pursuant to ISRA and this chapter.”

2. The owner or operator of the industrial establishment shall execute the following certification:

“I hereby certify that I acknowledge that the transaction and industrial establishment that are the subject of this remediation agreement is a transfer of ownership

or operations of an industrial establishment as defined by ISRA and N.J.A.C. 7:26B. I further acknowledge that [Person] is subject to penalties for violations of ISRA and this N.J.A.C. 7:26B. I am fully aware of [Person's] responsibilities to allow the Department access to the subject industrial establishment and of the requirements to prepare and submit any documents relevant to the remediation of the subject industrial establishment as required by the Department."

3. The purchaser, transferee, or lessee of the industrial establishment shall execute the following certification:

"I hereby certify that [Person] is the transferee and/or new lessee of the industrial establishment subject to this remediation agreement. I have read this application and am aware of the requirements and conditions of ISRA and the remediation agreement. [Person] expressly agrees to allow the Department, seller, previous owner, previous operator, any other person subject to the remediation agreement, and any of their respective agents or assignees the right to enter the industrial establishment after the ISRA-subject transaction has taken place and/or the lease has been executed for completion of the remediation of the industrial establishment. Additionally, I acknowledge and understand that if a nonpermanent remedial action is warranted at the subject industrial establishment, institutional controls and engineering controls as defined in ISRA, N.J.S.A. 58:10B-1 et seq., N.J.A.C. 7:26C, N.J.A.C. 7:26E and N.J.A.C. 7:26B may be necessary at the industrial establishment."

(e) The certifications required by (a) and (b) above shall be executed as follows:

1. For a corporation or limited liability company, by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president;

2. For a partnership or sole proprietorship, by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively;

3. For a municipality, state, Federal or other public agency, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official; or

4. By a duly authorized representative of the corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, municipality, state or Federal or other public agency, as applicable. A person is deemed to be a duly authorized representative if the person is authorized in writing by an individual described in (e)1, 2 or 3 above and the authorization meets the following criteria:

i. The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the industrial establishment or activity, such as the position of plant manager, or a superintendent or person of equivalent responsibility (a duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position);

ii. The written authorization is submitted to the Department; and

iii. If an authorization is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the industrial establishment or activity, a new authorization satisfying the requirements of this section shall be submitted to the Department prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications to be signed by an authorized representative.

(f) All signatures required by this section shall be notarized.

7:26B-1.7 Department review

(a) The Department shall review and approve or disapprove all submissions by an owner or operator based on the following criteria:

1. Whether the remediation workplan and report was prepared, implemented or completed in compliance with N.J.A.C. 7:26C, 7:26E and this chapter;

2. Whether all the information and documents required to be submitted to the Department have been submitted; and

3. Whether the information submitted is sufficient, complete or accurate.

(b) The Department shall inform the owner or operator, in writing, of the results of the Department's review of the submission, including any deficiencies in the submittal or required additional remediation. The owner or operator shall then complete all required additional remediation and address any deficiencies prior to the Department's issuance of a no further action letter or authorization letter.

7:26B-1.8 No further action letter and authorization letter

(a) The Department shall issue a no further action letter upon the Department's approval of the remediation of an industrial establishment or area of concern pursuant to ISRA and this chapter. The scope of the no further action letter shall be consistent with the scope of the remediation that the Department has approved.

(b) The Department's issuance of a no further action letter pursuant to ISRA and this chapter may include an authorization for the owner or operator to close operations or transfer ownership or operations of the industrial establishment as designated in the General Information Notice pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-3.2.

(c) The Department may authorize an owner or operator to transfer ownership or operations of an industrial establishment, or in the case of a cessation of operations authorize the cessation as it relates to ISRA compliance, through the issuance of an authorization letter without, or prior to the issuance of, a no further action letter in the following circumstances:

1. The Department's issuance of a remediation agreement or remediation agreement amendment pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-4;

2. The Department's approval of a regulated underground storage tank waiver application pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-5.3(e);

3. The Department's approval of a remediation in progress waiver application pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-5.4(d);

4. The Department's approval of a minimal environmental concern review application pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-5.6(e); and

5. The Department's approval of a remedial action workplan deferral pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-5.8(d).

(d) The issuance of an authorization letter pursuant to (c) above may not relieve the owner or operator or any person responsible for conducting the remediation of the industrial establishment, of the obligations to remediate the industrial establishment pursuant to ISRA, this chapter and any other applicable law.

7:26B-1.9 Right of entry and inspection

(a) The owner or operator shall expressly consent in writing pursuant to ISRA and this chapter to entry of the industrial establishment by the Department and its authorized representatives, upon the presentation of credentials, to inspect the site, buildings and records related to environmental issues and to take samples from the site, in which case the owner or operator shall be provided with split samples upon his or her request, photograph the site and the buildings, and to make copies of the records.

(b) The buyer or transferee of the industrial establishment that has been sold subsequent to obtaining an approved remedial action workplan or remediation agreement from the Department shall:

1. Allow the Department and/or its authorized representatives, upon the presentation of credentials, to enter the transferred premises to inspect the site, buildings and records related to environmental issues, and to take samples from the site, photograph the site and the buildings and to make copies of the records; where the Department takes samples from the site, the buyer or transferee shall be provided with split samples upon his or her request; and

2. Allow access to the transferred premises by the duly authorized representatives of the seller or transferor to implement a duly approved remedial action workplan or comply with the conditions of a remediation agreement.

(c) The owner or operator or other person subject to ISRA or who is a party to a remediation agreement shall as necessary:

1. Have appropriate technical, scientific, and engineering representatives, as necessary, accompany the Department and its authorized representative during the inspection; and

2. Provide all assistance, through appropriate technical, scientific and engineering representative(s), to the Department and its authorized representative(s) during any site inspection.

7:26B-1.10 Liability for ISRA compliance

(a) Except as provided in (e) below and notwithstanding (f), (g) and (h) below, both the owner and operator are strictly liable without regard to fault, for compliance with ISRA and this chapter.

(b) At the Department's discretion, any other person, including, without limitation, a purchaser, transferee, or mortgagee, may sign a remediation agreement; however, such persons shall become responsible for the remediation of the industrial establishment for compliance with ISRA.

(c) An owner or operator shall not transfer ownership or operations of an industrial establishment until:

1. The Department has issued a no further action letter for the industrial establishment pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.8(a);

2. The Department has approved a remedial action workplan for the industrial establishment pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.7(b);

3. The owner or operator has executed a remediation agreement or remediation agreement amendment issued by the Department pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-4.1(b); or

4. The Department has issued an authorization letter to the owner or operator pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.8(c).

(d) An owner or operator that is closing operations shall be required to amend the General Information Notice submitted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-3.2(a) for any subsequent transfer of ownership or operations of the industrial establishment that occurs prior to (c)1 or 2 above.

(e) Any person, other than the owner or operator of the industrial establishment, that has obtained title to the industrial establishment by deed of foreclosure, by other deed or transfer, or by court order or other process, shall not be deemed an owner or operator of that industrial establishment where the operator had closed operations prior to the transfer of title and where no new industrial establishment has operated under the person's ownership. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as a waiver or release of liability by the Department of an owner or operator subject to the requirements of this chapter for the industrial establishment.

(f) Where the owner of an industrial establishment is a landlord and the operator of the industrial establishment is a tenant, and there has been a failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter, the landlord or the tenant may petition the Department to seek ISRA compliance from that party who is responsible pursuant to the provisions of the lease, to comply with the requirements of this chapter. The petitioning party shall submit the following to the Department at the address provided at N.J.A.C. 7:26C-1.5:

1. A written request to the Department to seek ISRA compliance from that party that is responsible pursuant to the provisions of a lease; and

2. A copy of the signed lease between the landlord and tenant.

(g) Based on the information submitted pursuant to (f)1 and 2 above, the Department may determine that the lease clearly defines the responsibilities of either person to comply with the provisions of this chapter. The Department shall seek ISRA compliance from the person deemed responsible pursuant to the lease. The Department's determination shall not be construed as a waiver or release of liability by the Department of any other person who may be subject to the requirements of this chapter for the industrial establishment.

(h) The Department may compel compliance by both parties if the Department determines that the lease does not clearly define the responsibilities of the owner or operator of the industrial establishment, or upon the failure by the person responsible pursuant to the lease to comply with the provisions of this chapter.

7:26B-1.11 Civil penalties

(a) Any person who knowingly gives or causes to be given any false information or who fails to comply with the provisions of the Act or this chapter shall be liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 for each offense. If the violation is of a continuing nature, each day during which it continues shall constitute an additional and separate offense.

(b) Penalties shall be collected in a civil action by a summary proceeding under the Penalty Enforcement Law, N.J.S.A. 2A:58-1 et seq.

(c) Any officer or management official of an industrial establishment who knowingly directs or authorizes the violation of any provision of ISRA or this chapter shall be personally liable for any penalties provided by ISRA or this chapter.

(d) In its discretion, the Department may compromise and settle any claim for a penalty pursuant to ISRA or this chapter.

SUBCHAPTER 2. APPLICABILITY

7:26B-2.1 Operations and transactions not subject to ISRA

(a) The following transactions shall not be considered closing operations or transferring of operations or ownership:

1. Corporate reorganization not substantially affecting the ownership or control of the industrial establishment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(c);

2. A transaction or series of transactions involving the transfer of stock and/or assets among corporations under common ownership if the transaction or transactions will not result in:

i. The diminution of the net worth of the corporation that directly owns or operates the industrial establishment by more than 10 percent; or

ii. A greater or equal amount of assets are available for the remediation of the industrial establishment before and after the transaction or transactions;

3. A transaction or series of transactions involving the transfer of stock and/or assets resulting in the merger or de facto merger or consolidation of the indirect owner with another person, when the indirect owner's assets would have been unavailable for remediation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(b) if the transaction or transactions had not occurred;

4. A transaction or series of transactions involving the transfer of stock and/or assets resulting in a change in the person holding the controlling interest of an indirect owner of an industrial establishment, when the indirect owner's assets would have been unavailable for remediation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-2.2(b) if the transaction or transactions had not occurred;

5. A transfer where the transferor is the sibling, spouse, child, parent, grandparent, spouse of child, child of a sibling, or sibling of a parent, of the transferee;

6. A transfer to confirm or correct any deficiencies in the recorded title of an industrial establishment;

7. A transfer to release a contingent or reversionary interest except for any transfer of a lessor's reversionary interest in leased real property;

8. A transfer of an industrial establishment by devise or intestate succession;

9. The granting or termination of an easement or a license to any portion of an industrial establishment;

10. The sale or transfer of real property or closing operations of an industrial establishment pursuant to a condemnation proceeding initiated pursuant to the "Eminent Domain Act of 1971," N.J.S.A. 20:3-1 et seq.;

2. The Department has determined that the General Information Notice is administratively incomplete and the

person is required to correct any deficiencies or complete additional remediation activities, as specified.

7:26B-3.4 Revisions to the general information notice or withdrawal of required notice by an owner or operator

(a) An owner or operator may withdraw the notice required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-3.2(a) if the owner or operator determines it is no longer necessary to obtain a no further action letter or authorization letter from the Department. Such withdrawal, stating the reason for the withdrawal, shall be made in writing and certified in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.6.

(b) An owner or operator submitting a general information notice shall notify the Department, in writing, of any changes, amendments or other necessary modifications to the information contained in the general information notice, within 30 calendar days of the person's discovery that the information provided to the Department in the person's original General Information Notice is incorrect, inaccurate or incomplete.

SUBCHAPTER 4. REMEDIATION AGREEMENT**7:26B-4.1 Remediation agreement**

(a) An owner or operator requesting that the Department enter into a remediation agreement to allow the transfer of ownership or operations of the industrial establishment to occur prior to the Department's approval of a negative declaration or remedial action workplan for the industrial establishment shall submit a remediation agreement application to the Department at the address provided at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.5 which includes the following:

1. A completed general information notice pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-3.3, if not previously submitted;
2. A detailed description of the transaction;
3. Identification of the person(s) responsible for compliance with the remediation agreement, ISRA and this chapter;
4. A detailed cost estimate for remediation of the industrial establishment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26C-7;
5. Identification of the type of remediation funding source(s) to be submitted in an amount equal to the cost estimate in (a)4 above;
6. The certifications by the owner, operator, transferee and/or lessee, as applicable, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.6;
7. Payment of all applicable fees required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8.1; and
8. Any additional information requested by the Department from a specific owner or operator.

(b) The Department shall send two original remediation agreements to the authorized agent within 14 calendar days after the Department's receipt of the information required pursuant to (a) above. The owner or operator of the industrial establishment or other authorized signatory shall sign both originals and return one executed original remediation agreement to the Department in accordance with the time schedule provided in the remediation agreement.

(c) The language for the remediation agreement shall conform to the language in the standard remediation agreement pursuant to Appendix A, incorporated herein by reference, to the greatest extent practicable, as determined by the Department.

7:26B-4.2 Remediation agreement amendment

(a) An owner or operator of an industrial establishment may request an amendment to the remediation agreement to allow a transfer of ownership or operations, subsequent to the transaction described in the remediation agreement, to occur prior to the Department's approval of a negative declaration or remedial action workplan for the industrial establishment.

(b) An owner or operator requesting an amendment to the remediation agreement pursuant to (a) above shall submit a remediation agreement application in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-4.1, to the Department at the address provided at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.5.

(c) The Department shall send two original remediation agreement amendments to the authorized agent within 14 calendar days after the Department's receipt of the information required pursuant to (b) above. The owner or operator of the industrial establishment or other authorized signatory shall sign both originals and return one executed original remediation agreement amendment to the Department in accordance with the time schedule provided in the remediation agreement amendment.

SUBCHAPTER 5. EXPEDITED COMPLIANCE OPTIONS**7:26B-5.1 Expedited review**

(a) An owner or operator may, upon the submittal of the notice required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-3.2(a), apply to the Department for an expedited review in accordance with (c) below.

(b) The Department's approval of an expedited review application authorizes the owner or operator of an industrial establishment that was previously remediated to close operations or transfer ownership or operations of the industrial establishment without further remediation when there has been no discharge subsequent to the last remediation or a

subsequent discharge occurred and the subsequent discharge has been remediated and approved by the Department.

(c) To apply for an expedited review, the owner or operator shall submit a completed expedited review application, certified in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.6, to the Department at the address provided at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.5, which includes the following:

1. The name and location of the site, including street address, city or town, municipality, county, zip code, tax block and lot numbers of the site and the ISRA case number;

2. A certification by the owner or operator that:

- i. A remedial action workplan or equivalent plan, has previously been implemented and the Department has issued a no further action letter or equivalent approval for the industrial establishment;

- ii. The Department has approved a negative declaration for the industrial establishment; or

- iii. The Department or the United States Environmental Protection Agency has approved an equivalent remediation of the industrial establishment pursuant to ISRA, the Spill Compensation and Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11a et seq., Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6901 et seq., the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9601 et seq. or any other applicable State or Federal law;

3. A certification by the owner or operator that:

- i. The owner or operator has completed a preliminary assessment report and site investigation report, as applicable, at the industrial establishment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26E, to identify areas of concern that are new or have continued in use since the issuance of a no further action letter, negative declaration approval, or equivalent remediation approval; and

- (1) Based on the preliminary assessment report and site investigation report referenced in (c)3i above, there has been no discharge of a hazardous substance or hazardous waste at the industrial establishment, subsequent to the issuance of the no further action letter or the equivalent approval; or

- (2) Based on the preliminary assessment report and site investigation report referenced in (c)3i above, a discharge of a hazardous substance or hazardous waste at the industrial establishment has occurred subsequent to the issuance of the no further action letter, or the equivalent approval. The owner or operator shall identify the discharge(s), describe the action taken to remediate the discharge(s) and demonstrate that the remediation was approved by the Department;

4. A certification by the owner or operator of the industrial establishment, that for any underground storage tank system which is covered by the provisions of N.J.S.A. 58:10A-21 et seq., and N.J.A.C. 7:14B, the owner or operator is in compliance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 58:10A-21 et seq., and N.J.A.C. 7:14B;

5. A copy of the most recent no further action letter, or other equivalent approval, as applicable, for the entire industrial establishment and/or a copy of the document evidencing the Department's approval as referenced in (a)3i(2) above;

6. A completed negative declaration in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-6.6;

7. Any additional information required by the Department from a specific owner or operator; and

8. Payment of all applicable fees required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8.1.

(d) The Department shall review the expedited review application in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.7, and may perform a site inspection or require the owner or operator to submit the preliminary assessment report and/or site investigation report, if necessary. The owner or operator is not required to submit the preliminary assessment report and site investigation report unless the Department requests the submission of the reports in writing. The Department shall approve the expedited review application by the issuance of a no further action letter pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.8(a) or disapprove the expedited review application and require the owner or operator to remediate the industrial establishment in accordance with ISRA, this chapter and N.J.A.C. 7:26E.

7:26B-5.2 Area of concern review

(a) The owner or operator may, upon the submittal of the notice required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-3.2(a), apply to the Department for an area of concern review in accordance with (c) below, for any area(s) of concern at the industrial establishment for which a remediation has previously been conducted and approved by the Department.

(b) The Department's approval of an area of concern review application relieves the owner or operator from remediating each area of concern at the industrial establishment that was previously remediated and where there has not been any subsequent discharges at that area of concern.

(c) To apply for an area of concern review, the owner or operator shall submit a completed area of concern review application, certified in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.6, to the Department at the address provided at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.5, which includes the following:

1. The name and location of the site, including street address, city or town, municipality, county, zip code, tax block and lot numbers of the site and the ISRA case number;

(b) Any disclosure made pursuant to this section shall not be deemed a waiver of a confidentiality claim, nor shall the disclosure of itself be grounds for any determination that information is no longer entitled to confidential treatment.

(c) Within 30 calendar days after the disclosure of the information, the Department shall notify in writing the person who supplied the confidential information of:

1. Its disclosure;
2. The date on which disclosure was made;
3. The name of the person to which disclosure was made; and
4. A description of the information disclosed.

7:26B-7.7 Security procedures

(a) Submissions to the Department pursuant to this chapter will be opened only by persons authorized by the Department engaged in administering this chapter.

(b) Only those Department employees whose activities necessitate access to information for which a confidentiality claim has been made, shall open any envelope which is marked "CONFIDENTIAL" and is addressed as provided at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-1.5.

(c) The Department shall store all submissions entitled to confidential treatment as determined at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-7.3 in locked cabinets.

(d) Any record made or maintained by Department employees, representatives, or contractors which contains confidential information shall contain appropriate indicators identifying the confidential information.

SUBCHAPTER 8. FEE SCHEDULE AND DIRECT BILLING FEES

7:26B-8.1 Fee schedule

(a) Except as provided below, the owner or operator shall pay all applicable fees required by this section in accordance N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8.4, upon submittal to the Department of each and every request, application or submission listed below.

1. Applicability determination application	\$ 200.00
2. Area of concern waiver application†	200.00
3. Confidentiality claim	250.00
4. De minimis quantity exemption application	200.00
5. Expedited review application†	250.00
6. General Information Notice	100.00
7. Limited site review application†	450.00
8. Limited conveyance application†	500.00
9. Negative declaration review	100.00
10. Preliminary assessment report	250.00
11. Regulated underground storage tank waiver application†	500.00

12. Remedial action workplan deferral application†	750.00
13. Remediation agreement application	1,000.00
14. Remediation agreement amendment application	500.00
15. Remediation in progress waiver application†	250.00
16. Site investigation report	500.00

† This fee includes the costs of the Department's review of the General Information Notice required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-3.2(a). Any person submitting this fee shall not be required to submit a separate General Information Notice fee.

(b) The applicable fees required by (a) above are nonrefundable.

(c) The fees required by (a) above are not one time fees but rather the fees required to perform the review of each specific submittal to the Department.

(d) Any fees required pursuant to (a) above that are subject to N.J.A.C. 7:1L shall be payable in installments in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:1L.

7:26B-8.2 Oversight costs

(a) The owner or operator conducting the remediation of an industrial establishment pursuant to ISRA and this chapter shall submit payment to the Department, to the address provided at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8.4, within 30 calendar days after receipt from the Department of a bill of the Department's oversight costs for the period being charged for all oversight activities not specifically included in the fee schedule at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8.1, and for the Department's review, response or approval of the oversight activities described below:

1. Remedial investigation workplan or report or implementation thereof;
2. Remedial action workplan or report or implementation thereof;
3. A minimal environmental concern application submitted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-5.6;
4. Any information, including but not limited to, applications, workplans for, or reports of remedial investigation, remedial action or review of the implementation thereof at the industrial establishment, and for any other review or approval required by the Department, submitted to the Department subsequent to the Department's approval of the limited site review application pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-5.5(e)2 or 3;
5. Any information, including, but not limited to, applications, workplans for, or reports of remedial investigation, remedial action or review of the implementation thereof at the industrial establishment, submitted to the Department subsequent to the Department's issuance of a certificate of limited conveyance pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-5.7; and

6. Any other activity, review or approval required by the Department not listed in N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8.1(a) or (a)1 through 5 above.

(b) The Department shall send a bill based on the formula in (d) below to the owner or operator of the industrial establishment or other person responsible for conducting the remediation at regular intervals throughout the duration of the remediation.

(c) The Department shall include the following information in the bill for the Department's oversight costs referenced in (a) above:

1. The ISRA case job code;
2. The name of each staff member performing work on the ISRA case;
3. The number of hours spent by each staff member working on the ISRA case; and
4. A calculation of the amount due pursuant to (d) below.

(d) The Department's oversight costs are based on the Department's costs of working on activities for an ISRA case. These costs are based upon the formula: Oversight Costs = A + B;

1. Where A = (Number of coded hours × Hourly Salary Rate) × (Salary Additive Factor) × (Fringe Benefit Factor) + (Number of coded hours × Hourly Salary Rate) × (Indirect Cost Factor) specifically:

i. Number of coded hours represents the sum of hours each employee has coded to the site-specific job number. Actual hours for all State employees including without limitation case managers, geologists, technical coordinators, samplers, inspectors, supervisors, section chiefs, and bureau chiefs using the site-specific job number, will be included in the formula calculations;

ii. The hourly salary rate is each employee's annual salary divided by the number of working hours in a year;

iii. The salary additive rate represents the prorated percentage of charges attributable to NJDEP employees' reimbursable "down time." Reimbursable "down time" includes vacation time, administrative leave, compensatory time used, sick leave, holiday time, emergency or early closing, jury duty, absent with pay, convention, injury in the line of duty (SLI), military allowance with pay, union negotiating sessions, lost time on first day of injury, counseling-employee advisory service, union business activities, grievances/hearings/Department conferences, civil service examinations, absent with pay in lieu of working holiday, and workers' compensation/SLI. The calculation for the salary additive is the sum of the reimbursable "down time" divided by the net Department regular salary for a given fiscal year. The net Department regular salary is calculated by subtracting from the Department regular salary employees' non-reimbursable "down time." Non-reimbursable "down time" includes absent without pay, fire called by State Fire Warden, conferences and seminars, voluntary furlough, family leave, and suspension without pay;

iv. The fringe benefit rate represents the Department's charges for the following benefits: pension, health benefits including prescription drug and dental care program, workers compensation, temporary disability insurance, unused sick leave and FICA. The fringe benefit rate is developed by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB negotiates the rate with the United States Department of Health and Human Services on an annual basis. The rate is used by all State agencies for estimating and computing actual charges for fringe benefit costs related to Federal, dedicated and non-state funded programs;

v. The indirect cost rate represents the rate which has been developed for the recovery of indirect costs in the Site Remediation Program. This indirect rate is developed by the Department on an annual basis in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Treasury OMB Circular Letter 86-17 and the Federal OMB Circular A-87, "Cost Principles for State and Local Governments";

vi. The components of the indirect cost rate include operating and overhead expenses that cannot be coded as direct salary charges for a particular case, such as the salary and non-salary costs incurred by the Site Remediation Program. In addition, the indirect cost rate includes the Site Remediation Program's proportionate share of the costs associated with the Offices of the Commissioner, the Division of Financial Management and General Services, and the Division of Personnel;

vii. The indirect cost rate also includes operating costs such as office and data processing equipment, and telephones as well as building rent and the Department's share of statewide costs as determined by the Department of Treasury in the Statewide Cost Allocation Plan. The Statewide Cost Allocation Plan pertains to central services costs which are approved on a fixed basis and included as part of the costs of the Department during a given fiscal year ending June 30; and

viii. The total of these indirect costs is divided by the total costs of the Site Remediation Program to determine the indirect cost rate; and

2. Where B = (Direct Costs) specifically: Direct costs represent any non-salary direct, site-specific costs including, but not limited to, laboratory analysis or contractor expenses. These costs will be billed directly as a formula add on.

(e) Interest shall accrue on the unpaid balance of oversight costs, beginning at the end of the 30 calendar day period established at (a) above, at the rate established by Rule 4:42 of the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey.

(f) The Department shall develop and publish a notice in the New Jersey Register on an annual basis providing the salary additive rate, fringe benefit rate and the indirect cost rate the Site Remediation Program shall use for the fiscal year.

(g) The Department shall not issue a no further action letter to the owner or operator or any other person responsible for conducting the remediation shall not receive a "no further action" letter from the Department unless all oversight costs for work previously billed by the Department have been paid. The Department may discontinue oversight or review of a submittal until all oversight costs for work previously billed are paid. In addition, the Department may consider the failure to pay the oversight costs and fixed costs to be a violation of the applicable statutory and regulatory authorities and may initiate actions to recover its oversight costs and take any other enforcement actions.

7:26B-8.3 Oversight cost review

(a) To contest an oversight cost calculated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8.2(d), any person shall, within 30 calendar days after the person's receipt of the bill for the oversight cost from the Department, submit a written request to the Department, at the address provided at (c) below, for an oversight cost review pursuant to (d) below.

(b) The Department shall not accept an oversight cost review request if the request is based on the following:

1. An employee's hourly salary rate;
2. The Department's salary additive rate, indirect rate, or fringe benefit rate; or
3. Management decisions of the Department, including decisions regarding who to assign to a case, how to oversee the case or how to allocate resources for case review.

(c) The requestor shall submit an oversight cost review request to the Department at the following address:

Attention: Oversight Cost Review Request
 Assistant Director, Industrial Site Evaluation Element
 Division of Responsible Party Site Remediation
 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
 401 E. State Street
 PO Box 028
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0028.

(d) The requestor shall include the following information in its request for an oversight cost review:

1. A copy of the Department's bill in question;
2. Payment of all uncontested charges, if not previously paid;

3. A list of the specific oversight cost charges contested;

4. The factual questions at issue in each of the contested charges;

5. The name, mailing address and telephone number of the person making the request;

6. Information supporting the request or other written documents relied upon to support the request;

7. An estimate of the amount of time required for an informal meeting with Department representatives; and

8. A request, if necessary, for a barrier free meeting or hearing location for physically disabled persons.

(e) If any information or the payment required by (d) above is not included, the Department shall deny a request for an oversight cost review.

(f) Upon the Department's receipt of a request for a oversight cost review, the Department shall attempt to resolve any of the factual issues in dispute. If the Department determines that an oversight cost imposed was incorrect, the Department shall adjust the oversight cost and issue a new bill which shall be due and payable within 30 calendar days after receipt.

(g) The Department may, if it determines that the factual issues involving an oversight cost dispute cannot be resolved informally, determine the matter to be a contested case and transfer it to the Office of Administrative Law for an adjudicatory hearing. An adjudicatory hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1.

(h) If the Department does not determine the matter to be a contested case and, therefore, not subject to an adjudicatory hearing, the Department shall issue written notification for this determination. This determination shall be considered a final agency action.

(i) If the requestor does not file a request for an oversight cost review within 30 calendar days after the requestor's receipt of the bill for the oversight cost from the Department, the full amount of the oversight cost shall be due and owing. If the bill is not paid, the Department may take any action in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8.2(g) above or otherwise allowed by law.

7:26B-8.4 Payment of fees

All fees required by this subchapter shall be made by certified check, attorney check, money order, or by personal check shall be made payable to "Treasurer, State of New Jersey." Unless otherwise authorized by the Department, all fees shall be mailed to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Responsible Party Site Remediation, 401 E. State Street, PO Box 028, Trenton,

New Jersey 08625-0028. Courier and hand deliveries may be made to 401 East State Street, 5th Floor, Trenton, New Jersey.

APPENDIX A

STANDARD ISRA REMEDIATION AGREEMENT

The standard ISRA remediation agreement contains references to [Person], [amount], and other blank brackets []. Upon the Department's issuance or entry of remediation agreement, the Department will replace these terms and blank spaces with the appropriate information for that specific oversight document.

Matter bracketed [] is not intended for deletion, but rather is intended to be descriptive of the variable information that may be contained in the final document.

IN THE MATTER OF :
 THE [Name of the site] SITE : REMEDIATION
 AND [Name of operator] : AGREEMENT
 AND [Name of owner] :
 ISRA Case #[]

This Remediation Agreement is issued and entered into pursuant to the authority vested in the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, (hereinafter the "NJDEP") by N.J.S.A. 13:1D-1 et. seq., and the Industrial Site Recovery Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1K-6 et. seq., and duly delegated to the Assistant Director for the Industrial Site Evaluation Element within the Division of Responsible Party Site Remediation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1B-4.

FINDINGS

1. The property that is the subject of this Remediation Agreement is operated by [full name of the direct owner] and owned by [full name of current property owner], and is located at [address] and is designated as Block [], Lot [] on the tax maps of the [Township, Borough, City, etc.] of [], [] County, New Jersey (hereinafter the "[]" or "Site"). The Standard Industrial Classification ("SIC") numbers which best describe the operations at the [] industrial establishment is []. [Paragraph 1 will be repeated as 1.A, 1.B, etc. for each industrial establishment subject to this Remediation Agreement]

2. On [date], [Corporation/entity/individual] submitted to NJDEP an application for a Remediation Agreement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-4.1. This Remediation Agreement application is incorporated herein by reference and includes the following information:

A. Transaction

Seller: []

Buyer: []

Description: []

B. Person(s) executing this Remediation Agreement and responsible for conducting the remediation of the [] industrial establishment. (hereinafter referred to as "Responsible Person(s)").

Lead Responsible Person:

Name: []

Business Association: []

Address: []

Telephone No. [() -] Fax No. [() -]

Responsible Person: [Any other Person(s)]

Name: []

Business Association: []

Address: []

Telephone No. [() -] Fax No. [() -]

3. NJDEP and the [Responsible Person(s)] expressly agree that the terms and conditions of this Remediation Agreement shall apply separately to each of the industrial establishments listed in Paragraph 1 above. Furthermore, NJDEP and the [Responsible Person(s)] agree to administer and complete all applicable ISRA program requirements, including the remediation funding source requirements and any other remedial measures undertaken pursuant to this Remediation Agreement and ISRA, for the industrial establishment.

4. The transaction described in Paragraph 2.A above is the transfer of ownership or operations of an industrial establishment as defined by ISRA. NJDEP and [Responsible Person(s)] expressly agree that the transaction described in Paragraph 2.A above is subject to ISRA. [Responsible Person(s)] has requested that NJDEP prepare a Remediation Agreement which, when effective, will allow the transaction described in Paragraph 2.A above to be consummated prior to the completion of all administrative and remediation requirements pursuant to ISRA.

5. By entering into this Remediation Agreement, [Responsible Person(s)] neither admits to any fact, fault or liability under any statute or regulation concerning the condition of the Site [if applicable] nor waives any rights or defenses with regard to the site except as specifically provided in this Remediation Agreement.

6. [OPTIONAL—[Responsible Person(s)] shall submit to NJDEP a certified check made payable to the “Treasurer, State of New Jersey” for \$[] .00, no later than [Responsible Person(s)] execution and submittal to NJDEP of the Remediation Agreement. NJDEP’s acceptance of the penalty shall not be construed as a waiver of NJDEP’s right to compel [Responsible Person(s)] to specifically perform their obligations under this Remediation Agreement.]

7. [Additional provisions may be added at the NJDEP’s discretion with the agreement of [Responsible Person(s)].]

AGREEMENT

I. Remediation

1. [Responsible Person(s)] agrees to remediate the [] industrial establishment and to submit the following documents as established below:

A. Within [()] calendar days after the NJDEP’s receipt of the General Information Notice (GIN) or such additional time as authorized by NJDEP, [Responsible Person(s)] shall submit a preliminary assessment report, site investigation report, and remedial investigation workplan, as applicable, prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26E or [Responsible Person(s)] shall submit a Negative Declaration for the [] industrial establishment.

B. Within [()] calendar days after the NJDEP’s receipt of the General Information Notice (GIN) or within [()] calendar days from receipt of NJDEP’s written approval of the Remedial Investigation Workplan or longer as authorized by NJDEP, [Responsible Person(s)] shall submit a Remedial Investigation Report in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26E or [Responsible Person(s)] shall submit a Negative Declaration for the [] industrial establishment.

C. Within [()] calendar days after the NJDEP’s receipt of the General Information Notice (GIN) or within [()] calendar days from receipt of NJDEP’s written approval of the Remedial Investigation Report or longer as authorized by NJDEP, [Responsible Person(s)] shall submit a Remedial Action Workplan as applicable, prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26E or [Responsible Person(s)] shall submit a negative declaration for the [] industrial establishment.

D. The NJDEP will review all documents in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B and N.J.A.C. 7:26E.

2. If NJDEP determines any submittal made under this section is inadequate or incomplete, the NJDEP shall provide [Responsible Person(s)] with written notification of each deficiency, and [Responsible Person(s)] shall revise and resubmit the required information within thirty (30) calendar days or longer as authorized by NJDEP from receipt of such notification.

3. If the NJDEP determines that no further action is required at the [] industrial establishment, [Responsible Person(s)] shall submit a negative declaration, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B–6.6, within thirty (30) calendar days or longer as authorized by NJDEP from receipt of the NJDEP’s request for the submission of the negative declaration.

4. Nothing in this Remediation Agreement shall be construed to limit, restrict or prohibit any person(s) responsible for conducting the remediation of the [] industrial establishment from implementing any applicable ISRA compliance options in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B–5 to satisfy the requirements of ISRA.

5. If at any time that this Remediation Agreement is in effect the NJDEP determines that the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:26E are not being achieved or that additional remediation is required to protect the public health and safety or the environment, [Responsible Person(s)] shall conduct such additional remediation as the NJDEP directs.

6. The NJDEP will consider a request for an extension of time to perform any requirement under this Remediation Agreement, provided that any extension request is submitted to the NJDEP fourteen (14) calendar days prior to any applicable deadline to which the extension request refers.

II. Remediation Funding Source

7. [Responsible Person(s)] shall establish and maintain a remediation funding source in a form pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26C–7 in the amount of \$[] .00]

8. Upon submission of the remediation funding source and annually thereafter, [Responsible Person(s)] shall submit a remediation funding source surcharge payment in an amount equal to one percent of the required amount of the remediation funding source. [Responsible Person(s)] shall submit to the NJDEP a cashier’s or certified check payable to the “New Jersey Economic Development Authority” for the full amount of the remediation funding source surcharge. No surcharge is due on the amount of the remediation funding source established as self-guarantee or the amount of the remediation funding source that is established by financial assistance or a grant from the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund.

9. Whenever the remediation cost increases, [Responsible Person(s)] shall cause the amount of the remediation funding source to be increased to an amount at least equal to the new estimate within thirty (30) calendar.

10. Whenever the remediation cost decreases, [Responsible Person(s)] may file a written request to NJDEP to decrease the amount in the remediation funding source. If NJDEP approves, [Responsible Person(s)] may decrease the remediation funding source upon receipt of NJDEP’s written approval to the person who established the remediation

funding source and to the person or institution providing the remediation funding source.

11. NJDEP shall return the remediation funding source established upon [Responsible Person(s)] submission of a substitute remediation funding source or upon NJDEP's issuance of a no further action letter for the [] industrial establishment.

12. In the event that NJDEP determines that [Responsible Person(s)] has failed to perform any of its obligations under this Remediation Agreement or ISRA, NJDEP shall notify the [Responsible Person(s)] in writing of the obligation(s) with which it has not complied and [Responsible Person(s)] shall revise and resubmit the required information within a reasonable period of time not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days or longer as authorized by NJDEP from receipt of such notification. If [Responsible Person(s)] fails to revise and resubmit the required information the schedule established above, NJDEP may perform the remediation in place of [Responsible Person(s)] making disbursements from the remediation funding source and may pursue any additional rights and remedies in accordance with N.J.S.A. 58:10B-3(g). Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent NJDEP from seeking civil or civil administrative penalties, costs and damages or any other legal or equitable relief against [Responsible Person(s)].

III. Project Coordination

13. Within seven (7) calendar days after the effective date of this Remediation Agreement, [Responsible Person(s)] shall submit to the NJDEP the name, title, address and telephone number of the individual who shall be [Responsible Person]'s technical contact for the NJDEP for all matters concerning this Remediation Agreement and [Responsible Person(s)] shall designate an agent for the purpose of service for all matters concerning this Remediation Agreement and shall provide the NJDEP with the agent's name and address.

14. Unless otherwise directed by NJDEP, any submission to be made to NJDEP in accordance with this Remediation Agreement and ISRA shall be directed to:

[Assistant Director
Industrial Site Evaluation Element]
Division of Responsible Party Site Remediation
401 East State Street
PO Box 028
Trenton, NJ 08625-0028

IV. Oversight Cost Reimbursement

15. All submissions required pursuant to this Remediation Agreement shall be accompanied by all appropriate fees pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8.

16. Within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt from the NJDEP of a written summary, conforming to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8.2, of the NJDEP's oversight costs, including all accrued interest incurred pursuant to the paragraph below, determined pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8, [Responsible Person(s)] shall submit to the NJDEP a cashier's or certified check payable to the "Treasurer, State of New Jersey" and submitted with DEP Form 062A in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8.4, for the full amount of the NJDEP's oversight costs. Nothing contained in the paragraph shall be construed to limit or restrict any person's ability to contest any oversight costs calculated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8.2(d) in accordance with the oversight cost review procedures at N.J.A.C. 7:26B-8.3.

17. Interest shall accrue on the unpaid balance of oversight costs, beginning at the end of the thirty (30) calendar day period established in the preceding paragraph, at the rate established by Rule 4:42 of the current edition of the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey.

V. Force Majeure

18. If any event specified in the following paragraph occurs which [Responsible Person] believes or should believe will or may cause delay in the compliance or cause non-compliance with any provision of this Remediation Agreement, [Responsible Person] shall notify the NJDEP in writing within seven (7) calendar days of the start of delay or knowledge of the anticipated delay, as appropriate, referencing this paragraph and describing the anticipated length of the delay, the precise cause or causes of the delay, any measures taken or to be taken to minimize the delay, and the time required to take any such measures to minimize the delay. [Responsible Person] shall take all necessary action to prevent or minimize any such delay.

19. The NJDEP will extend in writing the time for compliance for a period no longer than the delay resulting from such circumstances as determined by the NJDEP only if:

(a) [Responsible Person] has complied with the notice requirements of the preceding paragraph;

(b) Any delay or anticipated delay has been or will be caused by fire, flood, riot, strike or other circumstances beyond the control of [Responsible Person]; and

(c) [Responsible Person] has taken all necessary action to prevent or minimize any such delay.

20. The burden of proving that any delay is caused by circumstances beyond the control of [Responsible Person] and the length of any such delay attributable to those circumstances shall rest with [Responsible Person].

21. "Force Majeure" shall not include the following:

(a) Delay in an interim requirement with respect to the attainment of subsequent requirements;

(b) Increases in the cost or expenses incurred by [Responsible Person] in fulfilling the requirements of this Remediation Agreement;

(c) Contractor's breach, unless [Responsible Person] demonstrates that such breach falls within paragraph 19 above; and

(d) Failure to obtain access required to implement this Remediation Agreement, unless denied by a court of competent jurisdiction.

VI. Reservation of Rights

22. By entering into this Remediation Agreement, the NJDEP does not waive its right to seek, assess or collect civil or civil administrative penalties or any other legal or equitable relief against [Responsible Person(s)] for past, present and future violations by [Responsible Person(s)] of any New Jersey environmental statutes or regulations.

23. The NJDEP reserves the right to require [Responsible Person(s)] to take or arrange for the taking of any and all additional measures if the NJDEP determines that such actions are necessary to protect human health or the environment.

24. [Responsible Person(s)] admits that it has agreed to comply with the terms of this Remediation Agreement. Neither the entry into this Remediation Agreement nor the conduct of [Responsible Person(s)] hereunder, shall be construed as any admission of fact, fault or liability by the [Responsible Person(s)] under any applicable laws or regulations.

25. Except as otherwise set forth herein, by the execution of this Remediation the NJDEP does not release any person, including without limitation, [] from any liabilities or obligations such person may have pursuant to ISRA and the ISRA regulations, or any other applicable authority, nor does the NJDEP waive any of its rights or remedies pursuant thereto.

VII. General Provisions

26. No modification or waiver of this Remediation Agreement shall be valid except by written amendment to this Remediation Agreement duly executed by [Responsible Person(s)] and the NJDEP. Any amendment to this Remediation Agreement shall be executed by the NJDEP and [Responsible Person(s)]. The NJDEP reserves the right to require the resolution of any outstanding violations ISRA or this Remediation Agreement prior to executing any such amendment.

27. This Remediation Agreement shall be binding, jointly and severally, on each signatory, its successors, assignees

and any trustee in bankruptcy or receiver appointed pursuant to a proceeding in law or equity. No change in the ownership or corporate status of any signatory or of the industrial establishment or site shall alter signatory's responsibilities under this Remediation Agreement.

28. [Responsible Person(s)] agrees not to contest the authority or jurisdiction of the NJDEP to issue this Remediation Agreement; [Responsible Person(s)] further agrees not to contest the terms or conditions of this Remediation Agreement except as to interpretation or application of such specific terms and conditions that are being enforced in any action brought by the NJDEP to enforce the provisions of this Remediation Agreement.

29. [Responsible Person(s)] shall provide to the NJDEP written notice of the dissolution of its corporate or partnership identity, the liquidation of the majority of its assets or the closure, termination or transfer of operations at least five (5) calendar days prior to such action. [Responsible Person(s)] shall also provide written notice to the NJDEP of a filing of a petition for bankruptcy no later than five business days after such filing. These requirements shall be in addition to any other statutory requirements arising from the dissolution of corporate or partnership identity, the liquidation of the majority of assets, or the closure, termination or transfer of operations.

30. For persons executing this Remediation Agreement on behalf of a corporate entity, [Responsible Person(s)] shall submit to the NJDEP, along with the executed original Remediation Agreement, documentary evidence in the form of a corporate resolution, that the signatory has the authority to bind [Responsible Person(s)] to the terms of this Remediation Agreement.

31. [Responsible Person(s)] expressly agrees that in the event that [Responsible Person(s)] fails or refuses to perform any obligation(s) under this Remediation Agreement as determined by the NJDEP, the NJDEP shall have the right to exercise any option or combination of options available to the NJDEP under this Remediation Agreement, or any other statute.

32. Except as otherwise provided, the requirements of this Remediation Agreement shall be deemed satisfied upon the receipt by [Responsible Person(s)] of written notice from the NJDEP that [Responsible Person(s)] has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the NJDEP, that [Responsible Person(s)] has completed the substantive and financial obligations imposed by this Remediation Agreement. Such written notice shall not relieve [Responsible Person(s)] from the obligation to conduct future investigation or remediation activities pursuant to Federal, State or local laws for matters not addressed by this Remediation Agreement.

33. Compliance with the terms of this Remediation Agreement shall not excuse any Person(s) from obtaining and complying with any applicable federal, state or local permits, statutes, regulations and/or orders while carrying out the obligations imposed by ISRA through this Remediation Agreement. The execution of this Remediation Agreement shall not excuse any Person(s) from compliance with all other applicable environmental permits, statutes, regulations and/or orders and shall not preclude NJDEP from requiring that the Person(s) obtain and comply with any permits, and/or orders issued by NJDEP under the authority of the Water Pollution Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10A-1 et seq., the Solid Waste Management Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq., and the Spill Compensation and Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11 et seq., for the matters covered herein. The terms and conditions of any such permit shall not be preempted by the terms and conditions of this Remediation Agreement if the terms and conditions of any such permit are more stringent than the terms and conditions of this Remediation Agreement. Should any of the measures to be taken by the Person(s) during the remediation of any ground water and surface water pollution result in a new or modified discharge as defined in the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) regulations, N.J.A.C. 7:14A-1 et seq., then the Person(s) shall obtain a NJPDES permit or permit modification from NJDEP prior to commencement of said activity.

34. This Remediation Agreement shall be effective upon the execution of this Remediation Agreement by the NJDEP and the [Responsible Person(s)]. [Responsible Person(s)] may consummate the transaction described at Paragraph 2.A above, upon the execution of this Remediation Agreement. [Responsible Person(s)] shall return a fully executed Remediation Agreement to the NJDEP together with the signature authorization required above within five business days from the effective date.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Date: _____ By: _____

[_____, Assistant Director
Responsible Party Cleanup Element]

[NAME OF PERSON EXECUTING AGREEMENT]

Date: _____ By: _____
of _____

Print Full Name Signed Above

Title