

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

OUR CHILDREN’S EARTH FOUNDATION, a  
non-profit corporation,

Civil Case No. 18-cv-04765

Plaintiff,

**CONSENT DECREE**

v.

ANDREW WHEELER, in his official capacity  
as Acting Administrator of the United States  
Environmental Protection Agency,

Defendant.

CONSENT DECREE

1  
2 WHEREAS, Plaintiff Our Children’s Earth Foundation ( “OCE” or “Plaintiff”) filed its  
3 Complaint on August 7, 2018, against Defendant Andrew Wheeler, in his official capacity as Acting  
4 Administrator of the EPA (“EPA”), pursuant to section 304(a)(2) of the Clean Air Act (“CAA” or “the  
5 Act”), 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2), to compel EPA to review the existing New Source Performance  
6 Standards (“NSPS”) governing Bulk Gasoline Terminals (“Bulk Gasoline NSPS”) and Electric Arc  
7 Furnaces and Argon-Oxygen Decarburization Vessels in Steel Plants (“Furnaces NSPS”) under CAA  
8 section 111, 42 U.S.C. § 7411, and to review the existing National Emissions Standards for Hazardous  
9 Air Pollutants (“NESHAP”) governing Gasoline Distribution Facilities (Bulk Gasoline Terminals and  
10 Pipeline Breakout Stations) (“Major Source Bulk Gasoline NESHAP”); Gasoline Distribution Bulk  
11 Terminals, Bulk Plants, and Pipeline Facilities (“Area Source Bulk Gasoline NESHAP”); Iron and Steel  
12 Foundries Area Sources (“Foundries NESHAP”); and Wood Preserving Area Sources (“Wood  
13 Preserving NESHAP”) under CAA section 112(d)(6), 42 U.S.C. § 7412(d)(6);

14  
15  
16 WHEREAS, EPA issued the Furnaces NSPS, set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subparts AA and  
17 AAa, in 1984;

18 WHEREAS, EPA issued the Bulk Gasoline NSPS, set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subpart XX in  
19 1983;

20 WHEREAS, EPA issued the Major Source Bulk Gasoline NESHAP, set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part  
21 63, Subpart R, in 2006;

22 WHEREAS, EPA issued the Area Source Bulk Gasoline NESHAP, set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part  
23 63, Subpart BBBBBB, in 2008;

24 WHEREAS, EPA issued the Foundries NESHAP, set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 63, Subpart  
25 ZZZZZ, in 2008;

26 WHEREAS, EPA issued the Wood Preserving NESHAP, set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 63, Subpart  
27 QQQQQQ, in 2007;

1 WHEREAS, Plaintiff alleges that EPA has failed to perform a non-discretionary duty to review,  
2 and if appropriate revise, the Furnaces NSPS and Bulk Gasoline NSPS at least every 8 years pursuant to  
3 42 U.S.C. § 7411(b)(1)(B);

4 WHEREAS, Plaintiff alleges that EPA has failed to perform a non-discretionary duty to review,  
5 and revise if necessary, the Major Source Bulk Gasoline NESHAP, Area Source Bulk Gasoline  
6 NESHAP, Foundries NESHAP, and Wood Preserving NESHAP no less often than every 8 years  
7 pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 7412(d)(6);

8  
9 WHEREAS, beginning on June 1, 2020, EPA will be providing Plaintiff with status reports  
10 every 180 days to inform Plaintiff whether the Agency continues to make reasonable progress toward  
11 meeting the deadlines provided in this Consent Decree, and if it anticipates any difficulties in meeting  
12 those dates, providing an explanation of the difficulty or difficulties;

13 WHEREAS, Plaintiff and EPA (collectively “the Parties”) wish to effectuate a settlement of the  
14 above-captioned matter without expensive and protracted litigation, and without admission of any issue  
15 of law or fact;

16  
17 WHEREAS, the Parties consider this Consent Decree to be an adequate and equitable resolution  
18 of the claims in the above-captioned matter;

19 WHEREAS, EPA has completed the process for public notice and comment required by CAA  
20 section 113(g), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(g); and

21 WHEREAS, the Court, by entering this Consent Decree, finds that this Consent Decree  
22 represents a fair, equitable, and adequate resolution of the claims resolved herein;

23  
24 NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED as follows:

25 1. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims set forth in the Complaint, and to order the relief  
26 contained in this Consent Decree, pursuant to section 304 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7604. The United  
27 States does not contest venue in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California  
28

1 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e). Additionally, the United States stipulates that venue is not improper  
2 under section 304 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7604.

3 2. For the **Electric Arc Furnaces and Argon-Oxygen Decarburization Vessels in Steel Plants**

4 source category:

5 a. No later than November 1, 2021, EPA shall either: (i) sign a determination that “review is  
6 not appropriate in light of readily available information on the efficacy of [the] standard,”  
7 *i.e.*, 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subparts AA and AAa (“NSPS Subparts AA & AAa”), under  
8 section 111(b)(1)(B) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7411(b)(1)(B); or (ii) review NSPS Subparts  
9 AA & AAa under section 111(b)(1)(B) and sign either: (A) a proposed rule containing  
10 revisions to NSPS Subparts AA & AAa; or (B) a proposed determination not to revise  
11 NSPS Subparts AA and AAa.  
12

13 b. If EPA signs a proposed rule or a proposed determination pursuant to paragraph 2.a(ii)  
14 above, then no later than November 1, 2022, EPA shall sign either: (i) a final rule  
15 containing revisions to NSPS Subparts AA and AAa under section 111(b)(1)(B) of the  
16 Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7411(b)(1)(B); or (ii) a final determination under section 111(b)(1)(B)  
17 not to revise NSPS Subparts AA and AAa.  
18

19 3. For the **Bulk Gasoline Terminals** source category:

20 a. No later than December 1, 2021, EPA shall either: (i) sign a determination that “review is  
21 not appropriate in light of readily available information on the efficacy of [the] standard,”  
22 *i.e.*, 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subpart XX (“NSPS Subpart XX”), under section 111(b)(1)(B) of  
23 the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7411(b)(1)(B); or (ii) review NSPS Subpart XX under section  
24 111(b)(1)(B) and sign either: (A) a proposed rule containing revisions to NSPS Subpart  
25 XX; or (B) a proposed determination not to revise NSPS Subpart XX.  
26

27 b. If EPA signs a proposed rule or a proposed determination pursuant to paragraph 3.a(ii)  
28 above, then no later than December 1, 2022, EPA shall sign either: (i) a final rule

1 containing revisions to NSPS Subpart XX under section 111(b)(1)(B) of the Act, 42  
2 U.S.C. § 7411(b)(1)(B); or (ii) a final determination under section 111(b)(1)(B) not to  
3 revise NSPS Subpart XX.

4 4. For the **Gasoline Distribution Facilities (Bulk Gasoline Terminals and Pipeline Breakout**  
5 **Stations)** source category,

6 a. No later than December 1, 2021, EPA shall review the Major Source Bulk Gasoline  
7 NESHAP and sign either: (i) a proposed rule containing revisions to the Major Source  
8 Bulk Gasoline NESHAP, 40 C.F.R. Part 63, Subpart R (“NESHAP Subpart R”), under  
9 section 112(d)(6) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(d)(6); or (ii) a proposed determination  
10 under section 112(d)(6) not to revise NESHAP Subpart R.

11  
12 b. No later than December 1, 2022, EPA shall sign either: (i) a final rule containing  
13 revisions to NESHAP Subpart R under section 112(d)(6) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. §  
14 7412(d)(6); or (ii) a final determination under section 112(d)(6) not to revise NESHAP  
15 Subpart R.  
16

17 5. For the **Gasoline Distribution Bulk Terminals, Bulk Plants, and Pipeline Facilities** source  
18 category,

19 a. No later than December 1, 2021, EPA shall review the Area Source Bulk Gasoline  
20 NESHAP and sign either: (i) a proposed rule containing revisions to the Area Source  
21 Bulk Gasoline NESHAP, 40 C.F.R. Part 63, SubpartBBBBBB (“NESHAP Subpart  
22 BBBBBB”), under section 112(d)(6) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(d)(6); or (ii) a  
23 proposed determination under section 112(d)(6) not to revise NESHAP Subpart  
24 BBBBBB.  
25

26 b. No later than December 1, 2022, EPA shall sign either of the following: (i) a final rule  
27 containing revisions to NESHAP SubpartBBBBBB under section 112(d)(6) of the Act,  
28

1 42 U.S.C. § 7412(d)(6); or (ii) a final determination under section 112(d)(6) not to revise  
2 NESHAP Subpart BBBBBB.

3 6. For the **Iron and Steel Foundries Area Sources** source category, no later than August 31,  
4 2020, EPA shall sign either of the following: (i) a final rule containing revisions to the Foundries  
5 NESHAP, 40 C.F.R. Part 63, Subpart ZZZZZ (“NESHAP Subpart ZZZZZ”) under section 112(d)(6) of  
6 the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(d)(6); or (ii) a final determination under section 112(d)(6) not to revise  
7 NESHAP Subpart ZZZZZ.  
8

9 7. For the **Wood Preserving Area Sources** source category,

10 a. No later than March 1, 2022, EPA shall review the Wood Preserving NESHAP and sign  
11 either: (i) a proposed rule containing revisions to the Wood Preserving NESHAP, 40  
12 C.F.R. Part 63, Subpart QQQQQQ (“NESHAP Subpart QQQQQQ”), under section  
13 112(d)(6) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7412(d)(6); or (ii) a proposed determination under  
14 section 112(d)(6) not to revise NESHAP Subpart QQQQQQ.  
15

16 b. No later than March 1, 2023, EPA shall sign either: (i) a final rule containing revisions to  
17 NESHAP Subpart QQQQQQ under section 112(d)(6) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. §  
18 7412(d)(6); or (ii) a final determination under section 112(d)(6) not to revise NESHAP  
19 Subpart QQQQQQ.  
20

21 8. Upon signing any of the documents described in Paragraphs 2-7, the appropriate EPA official  
22 shall expeditiously forward it or them to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

23 9. Within five (5) business days after forwarding the materials described in Paragraphs 2-7 to the  
24 Office of the Federal Register, EPA shall send copies of such materials to Plaintiff.

25 10. The deadlines set forth in Paragraphs 2-7 hereof may be modified only by: (a) written stipulation  
26 of the Parties with notice to the Court; or (b) the Court following motion of any party to this Consent  
27 Decree, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and upon consideration of any response by the  
28 non-moving party.

1 11. The Parties shall not challenge the terms of this Consent Decree or this Court's jurisdiction to  
2 enter and enforce this Consent Decree. Upon entry, no party shall challenge the terms of this Consent  
3 Decree.

4 12. Except as provided herein, nothing in this Consent Decree shall be construed to limit or modify  
5 any discretion accorded to EPA by the CAA or by general principles of administrative law in taking the  
6 actions that are the subject of this Consent Decree.

7 13. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be construed to confer upon this Court jurisdiction to  
8 review any issues that are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States Courts of Appeals  
9 pursuant to CAA section 307(b)(1), 42 U.S.C. § 7607(b)(1). Nothing in the terms of this Consent Decree  
10 shall be construed to waive, limit, or modify any remedies, rights to seek judicial review, or defenses the  
11 Parties may have under CAA section 307(b)(1), 42 U.S.C. § 7607(b)(1).  
12

13 14. Any notices required or provided for by this Consent Decree shall be made in writing, via email  
14 or other means if the documents cannot be readily transmitted via email, and sent to the following:

15 For Plaintiff Our Children's Earth:  
16

17 Christopher A. Sproul, Esq.  
18 Environmental Advocates  
19 5135 Anza Street  
20 San Francisco, CA 94121  
21 Tel: (415) 533-3376  
22 Fax: (415) 358-5695  
23 Email: csproul@enviroadvocates.com

24 Annie Beaman  
25 Our Children's Earth Foundation  
26 1625 Trancas St. #2218  
27 Napa, CA 94558  
28 (510) 910-4535  
Email: annie.beaman@gmail.com

For Defendant Wheeler:

Chief, Environmental Defense Section  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 7611

1 Washington, DC 20044  
2 Tel: (202) 514-2219

3 Associate General Counsel, Air and Radiation Law Office  
4 Office of General Counsel  
5 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
6 WJC: MC-2344A  
7 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
8 Washington, DC 20460  
9 Tel.: (202) 564-7606  
10 Fax: (202) 564-5603

11 15. The obligations imposed on EPA under this Consent Decree can only be undertaken using  
12 appropriated funds. No provision of this Consent Decree shall be interpreted as or constitute a  
13 commitment or requirement that EPA obligate funds in contravention of the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31  
14 U.S.C. § 1341, or any other applicable statute. The Parties recognize that the possibility exists that a  
15 lapse in the appropriations that fund EPA could delay compliance with the timetables in this Consent  
16 Decree. If a lapse in appropriations for EPA occurs within 120 days before any deadline in this Consent  
17 Decree, that deadline shall be automatically extended one day for each day of the lapse in  
18 appropriations. Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude EPA from seeking an additional extension  
19 through stipulation of the Parties or modification of this Consent Decree under Paragraph 10.

20 16. In the event of a dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation or implementation of  
21 any aspect of this Consent Decree, the disputing party shall provide the other party with a written notice  
22 outlining the nature of the dispute and requesting informal negotiations. The Parties shall meet and  
23 confer to attempt to resolve the dispute. If the Parties cannot reach an agreed-upon resolution within ten  
24 (10) business days after receipt of the notice, any party may move the Court to resolve the dispute.

25 17. No motion or other proceeding seeking to enforce this Consent Decree or for contempt of court  
26 shall be filed unless the procedure set forth in Paragraph 16 has been followed.

27 18. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to determine and effectuate compliance with this Consent  
28 Decree. When EPA's obligations under Paragraphs 2-9 have been completed, and the Plaintiff's  
anticipated claims for costs of litigation have been resolved, the above-captioned matter shall be



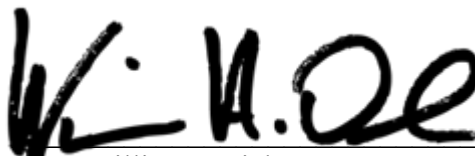
1 dismissed with prejudice. EPA shall file the appropriate notice with the Court so that the Clerk may  
2 close the file.

3 19. If for any reason the Court declines to approve this Consent Decree in the form presented, this  
4 agreement is voidable at the sole discretion of either Party and the Proposed Consent Decree's terms  
5 may not be used as evidence in any litigation between the Parties.

6 20. The Parties treat this Consent Decree as jointly drafted, and any rules of construction that  
7 construe any ambiguities in this document against the drafting party shall be inapplicable in any dispute  
8 concerning the interpretation of this Consent Decree.

9 21. The undersigned representatives of each Party certify that they are fully authorized by the Party  
10 or parties they represent to bind that Party to the terms of this Consent Decree.

11 IT IS SO ORDERED this 10th day of May, 2019

12  
13 

14  
15 Hon. William Orrick  
16 United States District Judge

17 For Plaintiff

18 /S/Christopher Sproul  
19 Christopher Sproul (State Bar No. 126398)  
20 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES  
21 5135 Anza Street  
22 San Francisco, California 94121  
23 Telephone: (415) 533-3376  
24 Facsimile: (415) 358-5695  
25 Email: [csroul@enviroadvocates.com](mailto:csroul@enviroadvocates.com),

26 Attorney for Plaintiff  
27 Our Children's Earth Foundation

28 Dated: 5/8/2019

For Defendant

Jeffrey Bossert Clark  
Assistant Attorney General  
Environment & Natural Resources Division

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/S/Simi Bhat  
Simi Bhat  
Environmental Defense Section  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044

Dated: 5/9/2019

I hereby attest that I have on file all holographic signatures corresponding to any signatures indicated by a conformed signature (/S/) within this e-filed document.