SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

This SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE (Agreement) is entered into between the STATE OF CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (ARB), with its principal place of business at 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814, and Nordic Hamburg Ship management GmbH & Co. KG (NHS), with its principal place of business at Cremon 32, 20457, Hamburg, Germany.

I. RECITALS

1) Health and Safety Code (HSC) sections 39650 through 39675 mandate the reduction of the emission of substances that have been determined to be toxic air contaminants (TAC). In 1998, following an exhaustive 10-year scientific assessment process, the Air Resources Board (ARB) identified particulate matter from diesel-fueled engines as a TAC.

2) California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 13, section 2299.2 (b) provides that the regulation applies to any person who own, operates, charters, rents, or leases any ocean-going vessel that operates in Regulated California Waters (RCW).

3) CCR, title 13, section 2299.2 (e) (1) sets forth the operational requirements for fuel sulfur content limits for Auxiliary Diesel Engines, Main Engines, and Auxiliary Boilers.

4) CCR, title 13, section 2299.2 (e) (2) sets forth the recordkeeping, reporting, and monitoring requirements.

5) ARB, with the cooperation of NHS, has documented that NHS failed to properly complete the operational requirements of the regulation on August 20, 2013. On August 20, 2013, the vessel Nordic Visby operated within RCW on heavy fuel oil in violation of this regulation.

6) Failure to properly complete the operational requirements of the regulation is a violation of state law resulting in penalties. HSC sections 39674, 39675, 42400 et seq., 42402 et seq., and 42410, authorize civil or administrative penalties not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000) or ten thousand dollars ($10,000) for each day that the violation occurs.

7) Any person who owns, operates, charters, rents, or leases any ocean-going vessel that operates in RCW can elect to pay a noncompliance fee (NCF). Persons shall pay the applicable fees prior to leaving the California port or at a later date approved by the Executive Officer. The NCF for a First Port Visited is $45,500.

8) In order to resolve these violations, NHS has taken, or agrees to take, the actions enumerated below under "RELEASE." Further, ARB accepts this Agreement in termination and settlement of this matter.

9) In consideration of the foregoing, and of the promises and facts set forth herein, the parties desire to settle and resolve all claims, disputes, and obligations relating to the above-listed violations, and voluntarily agree to resolve this matter by means of this Agreement. Specifically, ARB and NHS agree as follows:

II. TERMS AND RELEASE

In consideration of ARB not filing a legal action against NHS for the violations referred to above, ARB and NHS agree as follows:

1) Upon execution of this Agreement, the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars ($1,500.00) shall be paid on behalf of NHS within seven (7) business days following the execution of this agreement as follows: **$1,500.00** to the **Air Resources Board**. Checks shall be made payable to the "Air Resources Board." If electronic payment is needed, contact Mr. Scott Underhill at sunderhi@arb.ca.gov for this information. Checks with the signed agreement shall be sent to:

   Mr. Scott Underhill
   Air Pollution Specialist/Investigator
   Enforcement Division
   Air Resources Board
   9480 Telstar Ave. No. 4
   El Monte, CA 91731

2) NHS shall not violate CCR, title 13, section 2299.2 nor CCR, title 17, section 93118.2 (Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM)).

3) NHS shall accurately comply with fuel switchover and keep accurate records.

4) This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between ARB and NHS concerning the subject matter hereof, and supersedes and replaces all prior negotiations and agreements between ARB and NHS concerning the subject matter hereof.

5) No agreement to modify, amend, extend, supersede, terminate, or discharge this Agreement, or any portion thereof, is valid or enforceable unless it is in writing and signed by all parties to this Agreement.

6) Severability. Each provision of this Agreement is severable, and in the event that any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement remains in full force and effect.

7) This agreement shall be interpreted and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard to California's choice-of-law rules.

8) This Agreement is deemed to have been drafted equally by the Parties; it will not be interpreted for or against either party on the ground that said party drafted it.

9) SB 1402 Statement

Senate Bill 1402 (Dutton, Chapter 413, statutes of 2010) requires ARB to provide information on the basis for the penalties it seeks (see HSC section 39619.7). This information, which is provided throughout this settlement agreement, is summarized here.

The manner in which the penalty amount was determined, including a per unit or per vehicle penalty.

Penalties must be set at levels sufficient to discourage violations. The penalties in this matter were determined in consideration of all relevant circumstances, including the 8 factors specified in HSC section 43024.

The per unit penalty in this case is a maximum of $10,000 per unit per day for strict liability violations pursuant to HSC section 39674. The penalty obtained in this case is $1,000 per unit per hour, for a total penalty of $1,500 after considering all factors specified in HSC section 43024. In particular, the penalty reflects penalties obtained in other ocean-going vessel fuels violation cases and the cooperation of NHS with the investigation.

The provision of law the penalty is being assessed under and why that provision is most appropriate for that violation.

The penalty provision being applied in this case is HSC section 39674 because NHS failed to comply with the ATCM adopted under HSC section 39600 et seq.

Is the penalty being assessed under a provision of law that prohibits the emission of pollution at a specified level, and, if so a quantification of excess emissions, if it is practicable to do so.

Since the fuel used did not meet regulatory requirements, all of the emissions from it were excess and illegal. However, without information on engine usage and emission rates, quantifying these excess emissions is not practicable.

10) NHS acknowledges that ARB has complied with SB 1402 in prosecuting and settling this case. Specifically, ARB has considered all relevant facts, including those listed at HSC sections 42403 and 43024, has explained the manner in which the penalty amount was calculated (including a per unit or per vehicle penalty, if appropriate), has identified the provision of law under which the penalty is being assessed, and has considered and determined that this penalty is being assessed under a provision of law that prohibits the emission of pollutants at a specified level. However, since the exact hours of noncompliant operation and the individual emission rates of the engines in violation are not known, it is not practical to quantify the excess emissions.

11) Penalties were determined based on the unique circumstances of this matter, considered together with the need to remove any economic benefit from noncompliance, the goal of deterring future violations and obtaining swift compliance, the consideration of past penalties in similar cases negotiation, and the potential costs and risk associated with litigating these particular violations. Penalties in future cases might be smaller or larger on a per unit basis.

12) The penalty reflects ARB's assessment of the relative strength of its case against NHS, the desire to avoid the uncertainty, burden, and expense of litigation, obtain swift compliance with the law and remove any unfair advantage that NHS may have secured from its actions.

13) Now therefore, in consideration of the payment on behalf of NHS to the Air Resources Board, ARB hereby releases NHS and its principals, officers, agents, predecessors, and successors from any and all claims for past violations of HSC sections 39650 through 39675 and CCR, title 13, section 2299.2, that ARB may have based on the circumstances described in paragraph (3) of the Recitals. The undersigned represent that they have the authority to enter into this Agreement.

California Air Resources Board

By: _____

Name: James R. Ryden
Title: Chief, Enforcement Division
Date: 1-6-14

Nordic Hamburg Shipmanagement GmbH & Co. KG

By: _____

Dec. 12th 2013

Name: Richard Grube
Title: Managing Director
Date:

Internal Voucher No.	
Company/Vessel	
Nordic Visby	
Account	Contra account
Posting text	
Fine USCG	
Checked by	Approved by
Date	Date
15.10.13	15-10-13