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 8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
 9 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**  
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11 STATE OF NEVADA, DEPARTMENT OF )  
 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL )  
 12 RESOURCES, DIVISION OF )  
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, BUREAU )  
 13 OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS, )

14 Plaintiff, )

15 MARYLAND SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER, )  
 LLC, a Nevada limited liability company and )  
 16 IRWIN KISHNER, JERRY ENGEL and BANK )  
 of AMERICA N.A., as co-trustees of the )  
 17 HERMAN KISHNER TRUST, MARYLAND )  
 SQUARE, LLC, a Nevada limited liability )  
 18 company, MELVIN SHAPIRO and PHILIP )  
 SHAPIRO, individually and doing business )  
 19 individually and/or as a general partner of "AL )  
 PHILLIPS THE CLEANER" or "AL PHILLIPS )  
 20 THE CLEANER, INC.," estate of PHILIP )  
 SHAPIRO, deceased, SHAPIRO BROS. )  
 21 INVESTMENT CORPORATION, a dissolved )  
 Nevada corporation, AL PHILLIPS THE )  
 22 CLEANERS, INC., a dissolved corporation )  
 (Corporation no. 745-1965), AL PHILLIPS )  
 23 THE CLEANERS, INC., a dissolved )  
 corporation (Corporation no. 11-71), )  
 24

25 Defendants. )  
 26

Case No.

**COMPLAINT FOR:**

- (1) COST RECOVERY PURSUANT TO SECTION 107(a), COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY ACT ("CERCLA");
- (2) DECLARATORY RELIEF PURSUANT TO CERCLA;
- (3) COST RECOVERY PURSUANT TO NRS 459.537; and
- (4) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF PURSUANT TO NRS 445A.695.

27 COMES NOW Plaintiff State of Nevada, Department of Conservation and Natural  
 28 Resources, Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Corrective Actions (hereinafter

1 “State of Nevada” or “Division”), by and through counsel, Catherine Cortez Masto, Attorney  
2 General for the State of Nevada, and William Frey, Senior Deputy Attorney General, and  
3 alleges against Defendants and each of them, as follows:

4 **NATURE OF ACTION AND JURISDICTION**

5 1. This is a civil action instituted by the Division for cost recovery and injunctive  
6 relief as a result of releases of tetrachloroethylene, or perchloroethylene (hereinafter “PCE”),  
7 to soil and groundwater from the former site of an Al Phillips the Cleaner dry cleaning  
8 business located at 3661 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada (hereinafter “former  
9 APTC property”). Authority to bring this action is vested with the Attorney General of the  
10 State of Nevada by Nevada Revised Statutes (“NRS”) 445A.670 and 459.537. In this action,  
11 the Division is asserting claims for cost recovery and declaratory relief pursuant to Section  
12 107 of CERCLA the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability  
13 Act (“CERCLA”), 42 U.S.C. Section 9607, and claims arising under sections 445A.675,  
14 445A.695, 445A.700 and 459.537 of the NRS for cost recovery and injunctive relief. In  
15 addition to the claims asserted in this Complaint, Plaintiff has given notice of intent to bring  
16 claims under Section 7002(a) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C.  
17 Section 6972(a), against Defendants. Plaintiff intends to seek leave to amend this Complaint  
18 to assert claims under RCRA as part of this action.

19 2. This Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28  
20 U.S.C. Section 1331 and Section 113(b) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9613(b), with respect  
21 to the claims arising under CERCLA. This Court also has supplemental jurisdiction pursuant  
22 to 28 U.S.C. Section 1367 with respect to the claims arising under the NRS.

23 3. Venue in this Court is proper pursuant to Section 113(b) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C.  
24 Section 9613(b), and 28 U.S.C. Section 1391(b), because the real property that is the subject  
25 of this action is located within this district.

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**PARTIES**

1  
2 4. Plaintiff is the State of Nevada.

3 5. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental  
4 Protection (“Division”) by and through the Division, which has incurred and is continuing to  
5 incur costs related to an environmental investigation and the implementation of mitigation  
6 actions deemed necessary to protect human health and the environment with respect to the  
7 former APTC property, as further described below.

8 6. The Division has the power and duty to administer and enforce the provisions of  
9 NRS 445A.300–445A.730 (Nevada Water Pollution Law) and NRS 459.400-459.600  
10 (Disposal of Hazardous Waste) inclusive; all rules, regulations, and standards promulgated by  
11 the State Environmental Commission; and all orders and permits promulgated by the  
12 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, under authority of NRS 445A.445 (1),  
13 NRS 445A.824 (1), and NRS 459.470-459.480. The Division is authorized by NRS 445A.675  
14 and 459.537 to make findings, issue orders, and commence civil actions

15 7. Defendants Irwin Kishner, Jerry Engel, and Bank of America N.A. are the duly  
16 appointed and acting co-trustees of the Herman Kishner Trust, which was created by a  
17 declaration of trust dated October 17, 1969, by Herman Kishner, as trustor (the “Herman  
18 Kishner Trust”).

19 8. Defendant Maryland Square Shopping Center, LLC (“MSSC”) is a limited liability  
20 company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Nevada.

21 9. Defendant Maryland Square, LLC (“MS”) is a limited liability company organized  
22 and existing under the laws of the State of Nevada.

23 10. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Defendant  
24 Melvin Shapiro is an individual who resides in the State of Nevada and who, at certain times  
25 relevant to this action, conducted business individually and/or as a general partnership under  
26 the fictitious names “Al Phillips The Cleaner” and/or “Al Phillips The Cleaner, Inc.,” and/or was  
27 an officer, director and shareholder of and controlled corporate entities named “Al Phillips The  
28 Cleaners, Inc.” that were formed in the State of Nevada and are now dissolved. Plaintiff is

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1 further informed and believes and on that basis allege, that Defendant Philip Shapiro was an  
2 individual who is now deceased, and who at certain times relevant to this action, conducted  
3 business individually and/or as a general partnership under the fictitious names "Al Phillips  
4 The Cleaner" and/or "Al Phillips The Cleaner, Inc.," and/or was an officer, director and  
5 shareholder of and controlled corporate entities named "Al Phillips The Cleaners, Inc." that  
6 were formed in the State of Nevada and are now dissolved, and that the Estate of Philip  
7 Shapiro is liable to Plaintiff with respect to and to the extent of the obligations of Philip  
8 Shapiro. Each and every reference below to "Philip Shapiro" means and includes both Philip  
9 Shapiro and the Estate of Philip Shapiro.

10 11. Defendant Shapiro Bros. Investment Corp. ("SBIC") is a corporation which was  
11 formed under the laws of the State of Nevada in or about 1972 and which was dissolved in  
12 1984, defendant Al Phillips The Cleaners, Inc. (Corporate No. 745-1965) , a dissolved  
13 Nevada corporation ("Al Phillips I") , is a corporation which was formed under the laws of the  
14 State of Nevada in or about 1965 and dissolved in 1972 and defendant Al Phillips The  
15 Cleaners, Inc. (Corporate No. 11-71), a dissolved Nevada corporation ("Al Phillips II), is a  
16 corporation that was formed under the laws of the State of Nevada in or about 1971 and  
17 dissolved in 1978. Plaintiff is informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that SBIC  
18 conducted business under the fictitious names "Al Phillips The Cleaner" and/or "Al Phillips  
19 The Cleaner, Inc." at certain times relevant to this action and that Defendants Melvin Shapiro  
20 and/or Philip Shapiro each assumed or is otherwise the successor to and liable for the  
21 obligations and liabilities of SBIC, Al Phillips I and Al Phillips II. Plaintiff further alleges that  
22 Defendants Melvin Shapiro and Philip Shapiro each assumed or is otherwise the successor to  
23 and liable for the obligations of any other now-dissolved corporation of which they were  
24 shareholders and which was involved in and/or a party to the transactions and leases  
25 referenced below.

26 12. Defendants, and each of them, are and were at all times relevant herein doing  
27 business in Clark County, Nevada and are responsible for compliance with the applicable  
28 environmental laws and regulations.

**BACKGROUND**

1  
2 13. PCE is a common dry cleaning solvent and is a hazardous substance as  
3 defined by CERCLA and Nevada Administrative Code (“NAC”) 445A.3454. The maximum  
4 contaminant level, or federal drinking water standard, for PCE in water is 5 micrograms per  
5 liter (µg/l) (hereinafter “MCL”).

6 14. An “Al Phillips the Cleaner” commercial dry cleaning business was operated at  
7 the former APTC property from 1969 until 2000.

8 15. Defendants MS, MSSC, and the Herman Kishner Trust and their predecessors  
9 in interest each at certain times between 1969 and present owned or own that certain real  
10 property commonly known as 3651 to 3681 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada,  
11 including 3661 South Maryland Parkway on which the former APTC property is located.

12 16. Defendants Melvin Shapiro, Philip Shapiro, SBIC, Al Phillips I and Al Phillips II,  
13 and their predecessors and successors in interest, and Al Phillips, The Cleaners, Inc. , a  
14 Nevada corporation formed in 1984 (“APTC”), operated a commercial dry cleaning business  
15 at the former APTC property between 1969 and 2000.

16 17. On November 29, 2000, environmental consultants hired by certain Defendants  
17 notified the Division of a detection of PCE in groundwater at the former APTC property.

18 18. Investigations performed by environmental consultants hired by certain  
19 Defendants (“Defendants’ Investigations”) have provided the Division with data that the  
20 Division contends demonstrates that PCE was released to soil at the former APTC property  
21 and has migrated in groundwater forming a plume of groundwater contamination (“plume”).  
22 The plume has expanded beyond the former APTC property, with concentrations greater than  
23 the MCL to a distance more than 4,000 feet offsite, to the east of Boulevard Mall at 3528  
24 South Maryland Parkway, underneath a residential neighborhood (“residential neighborhood”)  
25 and past the Las Vegas National Golf Course property at 1911 E. Desert Inn Road.

26 19. Defendants’ Investigations and investigations performed in 2007 and 2008 by  
27 environmental consultants hired by Division have provided data that the Division contends

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1 demonstrates that, at certain locations within the residential neighborhood, PCE in the plume  
2 has volatilized into soil gas in the shallow soil between the water table and the ground  
3 surface.

4 20. The Division provided to Defendants MS, MSSC, and the Herman Kishner Trust  
5 and to DCI USA, Inc. on behalf of APTC in a letter dated June 19, 2007, a Notice of Intent  
6 that:

- 7 a. the Division intended to expend state funds to address potential human  
8 exposures to PCE in the neighborhood between the Boulevard Mall and  
9 Las Vegas National Golf Course; and
- 10 b. the Division would seek cost recovery from parties determined to be  
11 responsible for releases from the former APTC property.

12 21. On or about July 7, 2008, APTC, DCI, and their parent companies declared  
13 Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the US Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware.

14 22. The Division sent a letter dated August 28, 2008 to Defendants MS, MSSC, and  
15 the Herman Kishner Trust that stated:

- 16 a. the Division had expended approximately \$160,000 to determine  
17 whether PCE posed a potential human exposure in the neighborhood  
18 between the Boulevard Mall and Las Vegas National Golf Course;
- 19 b. the Division intended to expend additional state funds to address human  
20 exposures to PCE; and
- 21 c. The Division would seek cost recovery from parties determined to be  
22 responsible for releases of contaminants from the former APTC  
23 property.

24 23. Concentrations of PCE in the groundwater plume continue to be present at  
25 concentrations greater than 1,000 µg/l at some locations underneath the residential  
26 neighborhood, which is more than 200 times the MCL. This is a significant degradation of  
27 waters of the state. Addressing the contamination will require an assessment of the extent  
28 and magnitude of the contamination, completion of a feasibility study, risk assessment and

1 pilot testing for a groundwater cleanup remedy, the design and implementation of a remedy to  
2 clean up groundwater and PCE-contaminated soils at the former APTC property, and  
3 provisions for maintenance and repair of mitigation systems installed by the Division in certain  
4 residences located above the sub-surface plume. As of January 22, 2009, the Division has  
5 incurred costs of \$265,623.50 in responding to the potential human exposure to PCE  
6 resulting from releases from the former APTC property and in addressing the presence and  
7 remediation of the plume. The Division also will in the future incur additional costs to  
8 investigate and remediate releases from the former APTC property.

9 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

10 (For Cost Recovery under Section 107 of CERCLA)

11 24. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth herein, all of the  
12 allegations of Paragraphs 1 to 23.

13 25. PCE and other chemicals detected in the plume are hazardous substances  
14 within the meaning of Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601(14).

15 26. The former APTC property at which the releases and threatened releases  
16 described in this Complaint occurred (the "Site") constitutes a "facility" within the meaning of  
17 Sections 101(22) and 101(9) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Sections 9601(22) and 9601(9).

18 27. Each of the Defendants is a "person" as such term is defined in Section 101(21)  
19 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601(21).

20 28. Each of the Defendants is a liable party within the meaning of Section 107(a) of  
21 CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9607(a), with respect to the Site.

22 29. Releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances into the  
23 environment within the meaning of Sections 101(14), 101(22) and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42  
24 U.S.C. Sections 9601(14) and (22) and Section 9607(a), have occurred at and from the Site.

25 30. As a result of such releases, Plaintiff has incurred and is continuing to incur  
26 costs of response within the meaning of sections 101(23) to (25) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C.  
27 Sections 9601(23) and (25). All response costs have been incurred by Plaintiff in a manner

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1 that satisfies the requirements of section 107(a)(4), 42 U.S.C. Section 9607(a)(4), in that the  
2 underlying activities are not inconsistent with the applicable requirements of the National  
3 Contingency Plan, 40 C.F.R. Part 400.

4 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
5 (For Declaratory Relief under CERCLA)

6 31. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth herein, all of the  
7 allegations of Paragraphs 1 to 23 and 25 to 30.

8 32. Pursuant to Section 113(g)(2) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9613(g)(2),  
9 Plaintiff is entitled to a declaratory judgment that Defendants are jointly and severally liable for  
10 any further costs of response incurred in response to the releases or threatened releases of  
11 PCE and other hazardous substances at the Site which are not inconsistent with the  
12 applicable requirements of the National Contingency Plan.

13 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
14 (For Cost Recovery under NRS)

15 33. The Division incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth herein, all the  
16 allegations of Paragraphs 1 to 23.

17 34. Defendants, and each of them, meet the definition of an owner or operator of  
18 the former APTC property, as those terms are defined at NAC 445A.2265 and 445A.22655.

19 35. NRS 445A.465 states in relevant parts:

20 1. Except as authorized by a permit issued by the Department  
21 pursuant to the provisions of NRS 445A.300 to 445A.730, inclusive,  
22 and regulations adopted by the Commission, it is unlawful for any  
23 person to:

24 d. Allow a pollutant discharged from a point source or fluids  
25 injected through a well to remain in a place where the pollutant or  
26 fluids could be carried into the waters of the State by any means.

27 36. NRS 445A.675 provides that the Division may commence a civil action.

28 37. The Division may respond to a leak, spill, or accident using funds from the  
Account for Hazardous Waste Management pursuant to NRS 459.537.

38. The Division must pursue recovery of costs incurred in responding to a leak,  
spill, or accident from any person who is responsible for the accident, leak, or spill, or who

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owns or controls the hazardous waste, hazardous material or a regulated substance, or the area used for the disposal of the waste, material, or substance pursuant to NRS 459.537.

39. The Division has incurred and is continuing to incur costs to address releases and threatened releases of PCE from the former APTC property for which Defendants, and each of them, are liable.

40. The Division requests reimbursement of such costs from Defendants, and each of them, as provided by NRS 459.537.

**FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
(For Injunctive Relief under NRS 445A.695)

41. The Division incorporates by reference as though fully set herein, all the allegations of Paragraphs 1 to 23, 34, and 36.

42. The Division may pursue injunctive relief pursuant to NRS 445A.695. NAC 445A.2269 states in relevant parts:

1. Except as authorized provided in this section, if the owner or operator of a facility, or his designated agent, is required to give notice of a release pursuant to NAC 445A.345 to 445A.348, inclusive, the Division shall require the owner operator to conduct an assessment of the condition of the soil or water, or both, to determine the extent and magnitude of the contamination.
2. An assessment conducted pursuant to subsection 1 must:
  - a. Identify the relevant pathways specifically related to the site that affect public health and the environment; and
  - b. Be approved by the Division.

43. NAC 445A.22695 provides that an owner or operator shall immediately take any action necessary to mitigate and abate imminent and substantial hazards to public health or safety created by the release of a hazardous substance, hazardous waste, or regulated substance.

44. NAC 445A.22725 provides that the Director may require an owner or operator to take corrective action if the release contaminates groundwater and the level of contamination exceeds the action level established by NAC 445A.22735, including pursuant to NAC 445A.2273, requiring such an owner or operator to submit to the Division a plan and schedule for completing the corrective action.

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1 45. By allowing PCE, a pollutant, to remain in place in the soil and groundwater,  
2 Defendants, and each of them, are in violation of NRS 445A.465.

3 46. The Division is entitled to an injunctive relief with no requirement of establishing  
4 a lack of an adequate remedy for irreparable harm, pursuant to NRS 445A.695.

5 47. The Division requests a mandatory injunction requiring Defendants, and each of  
6 them, to: complete an assessment of the extent and magnitude of the contamination resulting  
7 from releases from the former APTC property that is approved by the Division; monitor  
8 groundwater; submit timely reports; submit a corrective action plan for soil and groundwater;  
9 and implement the corrective action plan approved by the Division or as approved by the  
10 Division with modification.

11 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays for the following relief:

- 12 1. On the First Claim for Relief, for recovery of costs of response pursuant to  
13 Section 107(a) of CERCLA.
- 14 2. On the Second Claim for Relief, for a declaratory judgment regarding the  
15 obligations of others to fund costs incurred in the future;
- 16 3. On the Third Claim for Relief, for payment of past and future costs incurred by  
17 the Division, as provided for by NRS 459.537; and
- 18 4. On the Fourth Claim for Relief, for a mandatory injunction requiring Defendants  
19 to:
  - 20 a. resume a schedule for quarterly groundwater monitoring of all Site-  
21 related wells, following the schedule set forth in Division letter dated  
22 March 1, 2007, or otherwise quarterly;
  - 23 b. complete an assessment of the extent and magnitude of contamination,  
24 as deemed necessary by the Division;
  - 25 c. complete a feasibility study, risk assessment and pilot testing for a  
26 groundwater cleanup remedy, as deemed necessary and approved by  
27 the Division;

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- d. design and implement a remedy to clean up PCE-contaminated groundwater, at a location upgradient of the residential neighborhood, as deemed necessary and approved by the Division;
- e. design and implement a remedy for cleanup of PCE-contaminated soils at the former APTC property; and
- f. perform maintenance and repair of home mitigation systems installed by the Division.

5. For reasonable costs and attorneys' fees.

6. For such further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED this 4th day of May, 2009.

CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO  
Attorney General

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