

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 451 of 1994

324.21323b Joint and several liability; recovery of costs.

Sec. 21323b.

(1) Except as provided in section 21323a(2), a person that is liable under section 21323a is jointly and severally liable for all of the following:

(a) All costs of corrective action lawfully incurred by the state relating to the selection and implementation of corrective action under this part.

(b) All costs of corrective action reasonably incurred under the circumstances by any other person.

(c) Damages for the full value of injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources, including the reasonable costs of assessing the injury, destruction, or loss resulting from the release.

(2) The costs of corrective action recoverable under subsection (1) shall also include all costs of corrective action reasonably incurred by the state prior to the promulgation of rules relating to the selection and implementation of corrective action under this part. A person challenging the recovery of costs under this subsection has the burden of establishing that the costs were not reasonably incurred under the circumstances that existed at the time the costs were incurred.

(3) The amounts recoverable in an action under this section may include interest, attorney fees, witness fees, and the costs of litigation to the prevailing or substantially prevailing party. The interest shall accrue from the date payment is demanded in writing, or the date of the expenditure or damage, whichever is later. The rate of interest on the outstanding unpaid balance of the amounts recoverable under this section shall be the same rate as is specified in section 6013(8) of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.6013.

(4) In the case of injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources under subsection (1)(c), liability shall be to the state for natural resources belonging to, managed by, controlled by, appertaining to, or held in trust by the state or a local unit of government. Sums recovered by the state under this part for natural resource damages shall be retained by the department for use only to restore, repair, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the natural resources injured or acquire substitute or alternative resources. There shall be no double recovery under this part for natural resource damages, including the costs of damage assessment or restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition, for the same release and natural resource.

(5) A person shall not be required under this part to undertake corrective action for a permitted release. Recovery by any person for corrective action costs or damages resulting from a permitted release shall be pursuant to other applicable law, in lieu of this part. With respect to a permitted release, this subsection does not affect or modify the obligations or liability of any person under any other state law, including common law, for damages, injury, or loss resulting from a release of a regulated substance or for corrective action or the costs of corrective action.

(6) If the department determines that there may be an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, safety, or welfare or to the environment because of an actual or threatened release from an underground storage tank system, the attorney general may bring an action against any person that is liable under section 21323a or any other appropriate person to secure the relief that may be necessary to abate the danger or threat. The court has jurisdiction to grant such relief as the public interest and the equities of the case may require.

(7) The costs recoverable under this section may be recovered in an action brought by the state or any other person.

History: Add. 2012, Act 108, Imd. Eff. May 1, 2012

Popular Name: Act 451

Popular Name: NREPA