

CAMP LEJEUNE PLAINTIFFS' LEADERSHIP COUNSEL

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE CAMP LEJEUNE WATER LITIGATION
DECEMBER 18, 2024

Dear Counsel and *Pro Se* Plaintiffs:

The Court conducted a status hearing on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, attended by Plaintiffs' Leadership Group ("PLG") and DOJ counsel. The Honorable Magistrate Judge Robert Jones presided. The Court heard updates from the parties regarding several matters, including:

1. Update on the Number and Status of Administrative Claims

- DOJ indicates that the Department of Navy is continuing to remove duplicate administrative claims. Upon completion of this process, the total number of administrative claims will likely be between 400,000 and 500,000.

2. Elements of a CLJA Claim and General Framework for Trial

- DOJ counsel indicated that they had submitted a proposal to the PLG for the general framework for Phase 1 and Phase 2 trials. PLG indicated to the Court that the timing for finalizing the Phase 1 and Phase 2 framework for trial should be determined after Phase 1 and Phase 2 expert depositions have been taken. The parties agreed to confer at the conclusion of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 expert depositions with respect to an agreement for the framework for Phase 1 and Phase 2 trials.

3. Expert Examinations

- The parties have agreed that no DOJ attorneys may be present for examinations of Plaintiffs by PLG experts. No attorneys from either side will be allowed to be present for examinations of Plaintiffs by DOJ experts. Trial Plaintiffs, however, are allowed to have a member of their family attend the examination by a DOJ expert.

4. Other Matters

- PLG advised the Court that on December 9, 2024, the last day for PLG's submission of general causation expert reports, the EPA announced final rules banning many uses of perchloroethylene (PCE or Perc) and trichloroethylene (TCE) in the United States. Given the timing of the issuance of the EPA's final rules banning PCE and TCE, PLG's general causation experts did not have sufficient time within which to include the EPA's final rules and underlying data in their reports. PLG gave notice that it intends to rely on the EPA's final rules and the studies, findings, and other data upon which the EPA's final rules are based in prosecuting these cases.
- The parties have agreed to work on stipulations regarding Phase I after Phase I depositions are taken but before briefing.

The transcript of the December 17, 2024 hearing will be posted by Plaintiffs' Leadership Group on its website upon receipt of same.

The next status conference with the Honorable Magistrate Judge Robert Jones will be held on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in Wilmington.

Please continue to monitor our website for real-time updates: <https://camplejeunecourtinfo.com/>.

Respectfully
Plaintiffs' Leadership,

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