

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
3)
4 CAMP LEJEUNE WATER)
LITIGATION,) DOCKET NO. 7:23-CV-00897-RJ
5)
Plaintiff,)
6)
v.)
7)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
8)
Defendant.)

9
10 TRANSCRIPT OF STATUS CONFERENCE
BEFORE THE HONORABLE JUDGE ROBERT B. JONES, JR.
11 MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025; 11:07 AM
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

12
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 THE BAILIFF: All rise. This Honorable U.S. District
3 Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina is now in
4 session. Honorable Robert Jones presiding. Please be seated
5 and come to order.

6 THE COURT: Good morning, everyone. This is Judge
7 Jones. Is Mr. Bell on the phone? Is Mr. Bain on the phone?

8 MR. BAIN: Yes, Your Honor, I'm here.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Did we hear Mr. Bell?

10 MR. BELL: Good morning, Your Honor. I'm on. I
11 could not unmute.

12 THE COURT: Very good. Okay. How did the parties
13 want to be heard on status?

14 MR. BELL: Your Honor, from the plaintiff's
15 standpoint on PLG, we don't think there's anything that we
16 need to bring to your attention today.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Bain?

18 MR. BAIN: Yes, Your Honor. One thing I would like
19 to bring to your attention is that the parties have been
20 working on some amendments to the discovery schedule, both to
21 accommodate the damages discovery that needs to be done, which
22 we discussed with Your Honor at the last status conference.

23 THE COURT: Right.

24 MR. BAIN: But also given that we have some
25 mediations coming up in July and August, the parties have been



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1 working out a amended schedule for the briefing for phase 2
2 and phase 3, if the Court is agreeable with it. And happy to
3 run down what I think is a tentative agreement on that now for
4 Your Honor if you would like to hear that.

5 THE COURT: Yeah, just give me an idea of it.
6 Understanding that the parties have not yet reached an
7 agreement, I'd like to just kind of get a thumbnail sketch of
8 what you're talking about.

9 MR. BAIN: Yeah, I think that we've reached an
10 agreement pretty much as the dates. We're still working out
11 the order for submitting that to the Court. The lifecare
12 planning and home renovation residual experts will be -- you
13 know, plaintiff rebuttal, if any, will be due on July --

14 THE COURT: I'm sorry, July what?

15 MR. BAIN: July 2nd.

16 THE COURT: Um-hum.

17 MR. BAIN: And then for the general causation
18 briefing, which was to be due on June 30th, a week from today,
19 the parties have agreed to combine that briefing with the
20 specific causation briefing to be due on September 10th, 2025.
21 And this is to give us an opportunity to focus on the
22 mediations that are coming up in July and August.

23 The opposition briefs would be due for both general
24 and specific causation on November 10th, and the reply briefs
25 for general and specific causation would be due December 12th.

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1 So that's essentially it.

2 For the economic damages portion that we've been
3 discussing, we have worked out an agreement to try to get some
4 additional fact discovery done with respect to offsets, and
5 given a couple of months to get that done, we would be (audio
6 interference) the plaintiffs disclose their reports on October
7 13th, 2025. Our responsive reports would be due on December
8 1st, 2025, and the rebuttal from the plaintiffs would be on
9 January 5th, 2026.

10 The discovery would be closed and all depositions
11 would be (audio interference) by February 19th, 2026. I
12 should say the briefing for general and specific causation
13 does not otherwise affect the other discovery deadlines. We
14 still endeavor to try to finish discovery for the previous
15 schedule, which would be I think, all discovery being closed
16 by this summer.

17 THE COURT: Okay. All right. That gives me an idea
18 of what you all are discussing.

19 Mr. Bell, did you want to respond to any of that?

20 MR. BELL: No. Your Honor, we've worked with the
21 Government to come up with those dates, and we agree with
22 them.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I guess submit a joint
24 motion when you feel like you're in a position to do that, and
25 we'll take it up.



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1 Anything else from the parties, Mr. Bell? Mr. Bain?

2 MR. BELL: Nothing from PLG, Your Honor.

3 MR. BAIN: Your Honor, we'll try to get those filed
4 with the Court early this week. We're waiting to hear from
5 the plaintiffs on response to the offers that we prepared.
6 Our briefing is currently due on the 30th. And so we'd like
7 to be able to get some guidance from the Court that we can go
8 forward with this proposed extension as soon as possible.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Well, let's see it.

10 Mr. Bell, I did have a question about any amendment
11 to track 3. Is there to be any amendment to track 3
12 submissions by the PLG?

13 MR. BELL: One minute, Your Honor. Your Honor, we're
14 still working on that. We should have an answer for you
15 shortly, but it's an interesting part of what we're doing. So
16 we'll either get back with you or when we have our next status
17 conference --

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MR. BELL: -- we'll answer that.

20 THE COURT: That's a perfect segue. I have, I think,
21 our next status conference as Tuesday, July the 8th; is that
22 right?

23 MR. BELL: Yes, Your Honor. That's in person?

24 THE COURT: Yes. Okay. All right.

25 MR. BAIN: Your Honor?

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1 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

2 MR. BAIN: Your Honor, there's one more thing I'd
3 just like to bring up, is that you may recall that we
4 discussed a motion that we were thinking of filing, which had
5 to do with general causation opinions and specific causation
6 reports. We did have a meet and confer with the plaintiffs on
7 that, and we will be filing that either today or tomorrow.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MR. BELL: And Judge, because that contains personal
10 information, the parties have agreed to file it and respond
11 under seal.

12 THE COURT: I understand.

13 MR. BELL: If that's okay with the Court.

14 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

15 MR. BELL: Okay.

16 MR. CARPENITO: Your Honor, this is Joshua Carpenito
17 on behalf of the United States. May I be heard?

18 THE COURT: Go ahead.

19 MR. CARPENITO: I just want to clarify. The parties
20 have agreed to file under seal with respect to that motion --

21 THE COURT: Right.

22 MR. CARPENITO: -- a handful of exhibits that are
23 marked as confidential. But as it relates to the entirety of
24 the motion, we did not plan on filing the entire thing under
25 seal. I just wanted to clarify that point.

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1 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Anything else?

2 MR. BELL: No, Your Honor.

3 MR. BAIN: No, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Yeah. Now, that's being filed
5 electronically, correct?

6 MR. BELL: That's correct, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: As a sealed document?

8 MR. CARPENITO: That is correct, as a proposed sealed
9 exhibit --

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MR. CARPENITO: -- under -- yeah.

12 THE COURT: All right. We'll be on the lookout for
13 it.

14 All right. Thank you very much.

15 MR. CARPENITO: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 MR. BELL: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right. Take care. We're adjourned.

18 THE BAILIFF: All rise. The Honorable Court will be
19 in recess until 2 p.m.

20 (Court is adjourned)

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Dated this 13th day of July, 2025.

/s/ Elana Friedman

ELANA FRIEDMAN, CDLT-160

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