

II. JOINT PRELIMINARY REPORT AND DISCOVERY PLAN

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
_____ DIVISION

v. : Civil Action No. _____
 :
 :
 :
 :
 :
 :

Joint Preliminary Report and Discovery Plan

1. Description of Case:

(a) Describe briefly the nature of this action.

(b) Summarize, in the space provided below, the facts of this case. The summary should not be argumentative nor recite evidence.

(c) The legal issues to be tried are as follows:

(Rev. 03/01/11 _____)

APP~~5~~ B - 1

(d) The cases listed below (include both style and action number) are:

(1) Pending Related Cases:

(2) Previously Adjudicated Related Cases:

2. This case is complex because it possesses one or more of the features listed below (please check):

- _____ (1) Unusually large number of parties
- _____ (2) Unusually large number of claims or defenses
- _____ (3) Factual issues are exceptionally complex
- _____ (4) Greater than normal volume of evidence
- _____ (5) Extended discovery period is needed
- _____ (6) Problems locating or preserving evidence
- _____ (7) Pending parallel investigations or action by government
- _____ (8) Multiple use of experts
- _____ (9) Need for discovery outside United States boundaries
- _____ (10) Existence of highly technical issues and proof
- _____ (11) Unusually complex discovery of electronically stored information

3. Counsel:

The following individually-named attorneys are hereby designated as lead counsel for the parties:

Plaintiff:

Defendant:

4. Jurisdiction:

Is there any question regarding this Court's jurisdiction?

____ Yes ____ No

If "yes," please attach a statement, not to exceed one page, explaining the jurisdictional objection. When there are multiple claims, identify and discuss separately the claim(s) on which the objection is based. Each objection should be supported by authority.

5. Parties to This Action:

(a) The following persons are necessary parties who have not been joined:

(b) The following persons are improperly joined as parties:

(c) The names of the following parties are either inaccurately stated or necessary portions of their names are omitted:

(d) The parties shall have a continuing duty to inform the Court of any contentions regarding unnamed parties necessary to this action or any contentions regarding misjoinder of parties or errors in the statement of a party's name.

6. Amendments to the Pleadings:

Amended and supplemental pleadings must be filed in accordance with the time limitations and other provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 15. Further instructions regarding amendments are contained in LR 15.

(a) List separately any amendments to the pleadings that the parties anticipate will be necessary:

(b) Amendments to the pleadings submitted LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS after the Joint Preliminary Report and Discovery Plan is filed, or should have been filed, will not be accepted for filing, unless otherwise permitted by law.

7. Filing Times ~~For~~for Motions:

All motions should be filed as soon as possible. The local rules set specific filing limits for some motions. These times are restated below.

All other motions must be filed WITHIN THIRTY DAYS after the beginning of discovery, unless the filing party has obtained prior permission of the court to file later. Local Rule 7.1A(2).

(a) *Motions to Compel*: before the close of discovery or within the extension period allowed in some instances. Local Rule 37.1.

(b) *Summary Judgment Motions:* within thirty days after the close of discovery, unless otherwise permitted by court order. Local Rule 56.1.

(c) *Other Limited Motions:* Refer to Local Rules 7.2A; 7.2B, and 7.2E, respectively, regarding filing limitations for motions pending on removal, emergency motions, and motions for reconsideration.

(d) *Motions Objecting to Expert Testimony:* Daubert motions with regard to expert testimony no later than the date that the proposed pretrial order is submitted. Refer to Local Rule 7.2F.

8. Initial Disclosures:

The parties are required to serve initial disclosures in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26. If any party objects that initial disclosures are not appropriate, state the party and basis for the party's objection. NOTE: Your initial disclosures should include electronically stored information. Refer to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(B).

9. Request for Scheduling Conference:

Does any party request a scheduling conference with the Court? If so, please state the issues which could be addressed and the position of each party.

10. Discovery Period:

The discovery period commences thirty days after the appearance of the first defendant by answer to the complaint. As stated in LR 26.2A, responses to initiated discovery must be completed before expiration of the assigned discovery period.

Cases in this Court are assigned to one of the following three discovery tracks: (a) zero month discovery period, (b) four months discovery period, and (c) eight months discovery period. A chart showing the assignment of cases to a discovery track by filing category is contained in Appendix F. The track to which a particular case is assigned is also stamped on the complaint and service copies of the complaint at the time of filing.

Please state below the subjects on which discovery may be needed:

If the parties anticipate that additional time beyond that allowed by the assigned discovery track will be needed to complete discovery or that discovery should be conducted in phases or be limited to or focused upon particular issues, please state those reasons in detail below:

11. Discovery Limitation and Discovery of Electronically Stored Information:

(a) What changes should be made in the limitations on discovery imposed under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or Local Rules of this Court, and what other limitations should be imposed?

(b) Is any party seeking discovery of electronically stored information?

_____ Yes

_____ No

If "yes,"

(1) The parties have discussed the sources and scope of the production of electronically stored information and have agreed to limit the scope of production (e.g., accessibility, search terms, date limitations, or key witnesses) as follows:

(2) The parties have discussed the format for the production of electronically stored information (e.g., Tagged Image File Format (TIFF or .TIF files), Portable Document Format (PDF), or native), method of production (e.g., paper or disk), and the inclusion or exclusion and use of metadata, and have agreed as follows:

In the absence of agreement on issues regarding discovery of electronically stored information, the parties shall request a scheduling conference in paragraph 9 hereof.

12. Other Orders:

What other orders do the parties think that the Court should enter under Rule 26(c) or under Rule 16(b) and (c)?

13. Privileged or Protected Material

Do the parties anticipate any issues about claims for privilege or of protection with respect to trial-preparation materials?

	Yes	No
1. I have a good understanding of the company's financial statements.		
2. I have a good understanding of the company's business model.		
3. I have a good understanding of the company's competitive advantage.		
4. I have a good understanding of the company's market position.		
5. I have a good understanding of the company's management team.		
6. I have a good understanding of the company's risk factors.		
7. I have a good understanding of the company's growth opportunities.		
8. I have a good understanding of the company's financial performance.		
9. I have a good understanding of the company's operational performance.		
10. I have a good understanding of the company's customer satisfaction.		
11. I have a good understanding of the company's employee satisfaction.		
12. I have a good understanding of the company's social and environmental impact.		
13. I have a good understanding of the company's corporate governance.		
14. I have a good understanding of the company's legal and regulatory environment.		
15. I have a good understanding of the company's industry trends.		
16. I have a good understanding of the company's future prospects.		
17. I have a good understanding of the company's overall value.		
18. I have a good understanding of the company's reputation.		
19. I have a good understanding of the company's brand.		
20. I have a good understanding of the company's products and services.		

If “yes,”

The parties have discussed their views and proposals on any such issues, including the timing and method for complying with Rule 26(b)(5)(A) and whether, if they agree on a procedure to assert the claims after production, to ask the Court to include their agreement in an order under Federal Rule of Evidence 502. The parties have agreed as follows:

14. Settlement Potential:

(a) Lead counsel for the parties certify by their signatures below that they conducted a Rule 26(f) conference that was held on _____, 20____, and that they participated in settlement discussions. Other persons who participated in the settlement discussions are listed according to party.

For plaintiff: Lead counsel (signature):

Other participants:

For defendant: Lead counsel (signature):

Other participants:

(b) All parties were promptly informed of all offers of settlement and following discussion by all counsel, it appears that there is now:

() A possibility of settlement before discovery.

() A possibility of settlement after discovery.

() A possibility of settlement, but a conference with the judge is needed.

() No possibility of settlement.

(c) Counsel() do or () do not intend to hold additional settlement conferences among themselves prior to the close of discovery. The proposed date of the next settlement conference is _____, 20____.

(d) The following specific problems have created a hindrance to settlement of this case.

1415. Trial by Magistrate Judge:

Note: Trial before a Magistrate Judge will be by jury trial if a party is otherwise entitled to a jury trial.

(a) The parties (_____) do consent to having this case tried before a magistrate judge of this Court. A completed Consent to Jurisdiction by a United States Magistrate Judge form has been submitted to the clerk of court this _____ day _____, of 20__.

(b) The parties (_____) do not consent to having this case tried before a magistrate judge of this Court.

Counsel for Plaintiff

Counsel for Defendant

SCHEDULING ORDER

Upon review of the information contained in the Joint Preliminary Report and Discovery Plan form completed and filed by the parties, the Court orders that the time limits for adding parties, amending the pleadings, filing motions, completing discovery, and discussing settlement are as set out in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of this Court, except as herein modified:

| IT IS SO ORDERED, this _____ day of _____,
20____.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE