MINUTE ENTRY FALLON, J. NOVEMBER 8, 2005

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

PATRICK JOSEPH TURNER, ET AL.	*	CIVIL ACTION
VERSUS	*	NO. 05-4206 CONSOLIDATED CASE
MURPHY OIL USA, INC.	*	SECTION "L" (2)
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THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL CASES		

A monthly status conference was held on this date in the Courtroom of Judge Eldon E. Fallon. In attendance on behalf of Plaintiffs were Sidney Torres, Roberta Burns, Daniel Becnel, Val Exnicios, Richard Arsenault, Michael Stag, Darryl Becnel, Mickey Landry, Donni Young, Scott Bickford, Dawn Barrios, Van Robichaux, Ronnie Penton, Joseph Bruno, Robert Becnel, Diane Zink, Irving Warshauer, Jerald Andry, Gerald Meunier, William Bradley, Gregory DiLeo, E. Carroll Rogers, Walter Leger, Benjamin Beychok, Linda Nelson, Darleen Jacobs, Sal Gutierrez, Denise Kerma, Michael Hingle, and Rebecca Cunard. In attendance for Defendants were George Frilot, Kerry Miller, Danny Dysart, and A.J. Krouse. At the conference, counsel reported to the Court on the topics set forth in the Joint Agenda of Plaintiffs' and Defendant's Liaison Counsel.

1. Introductory Matters and Case Management

Because this was the first monthly status conference in this matter, the Court explained how the case will be managed from this point forward. The Court shall hold monthly status

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conferences in open court, and shall hold meetings with liaison counsel prior to the monthly conferences. The Court shall establish a Web site devoted to the Murphy Oil case which shall contain the contact information for the various Plaintiffs' and Defendant's committees and counsel and the Court's Orders related to the litigation. Plaintiffs' counsel shall be organized as follows. There shall be a Plaintiffs' Committee in which each case filed is represented by one member. The Court has appointed an Executive Committee of five counsel; this group shall serve as interim class counsel in this matter. The Court has also appointed Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel, Sidney Torres, who shall act as lead interim class counsel.

2. Joint Protective/Preservation Order

Counsel previously had asked the Court to enter a protective order and confidentiality agreement regarding Plaintiffs' inspection and testing at the Murphy Oil refinery. Counsel have submitted the Confidentiality and Protective Order to the Court. The Court has signed the order, and IT IS ORDERED that it shall be filed into the record of this proceeding. Counsel indicated that the first inspection will occur this week.

3. Plaintiffs' First Request for Entry Upon Land for Inspection and Other **Purposes and For Inspection Protocol**

Plaintiffs have filed an inspection protocol which shall govern the first inspection and testing at Defendant's facility. Defendants have represented that the protocol is unopposed. The Court has now signed the inspection protocol.

4. Plaintiffs' Motion and Order for Appointment of Interim Class Counsel

As the Court explained, IT IS ORDERED that the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee shall serve as Interim Class Counsel in this matter. At the request of Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' Motion and Order for Appointment of Interim Class Counsel is hereby WITHDRAWN.

5. Settlement Class Discussions

The Court encouraged counsel to explore the possibilities of a global settlement program before beginning extensive discovery. Counsel will meet in Court this week to discuss this matter further. Another status conference with the Executive Committee and liaison counsel to report to the Court on the progress of their discussions shall occur on Monday, November 14, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

6. **Next Monthly Status Conference**

The next monthly status conference shall be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. Liaison counsel shall meet in Chambers at 8:30 a.m. prior to the conference.

