

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

No. 90-162C
and Consolidated Cases

(Filed May 23, 2013)

* * * * *	*
STEPHEN ADAMS, <i>et al.</i> ,	*
	*
<i>Plaintiffs,</i>	*
	*
v.	*
	*
THE UNITED STATES,	*
	*
<i>Defendant.</i>	*
* * * * *	*

ORDER

On May 22, 2013, defendant filed a Joint Status Report (JSR) on the behalf of the parties in the subject matter. Therein, defendant reports that a tentative settlement agreement with respect to all outstanding claims in this litigation is “still in the process of being considered by those in the chain of review” at Justice. JSR at 1. The parties jointly request that their next joint status report be filed on or before June 26, 2013. *Id.*

Plaintiffs and defendant do not agree, however, as to whether a telephonic status conference should be held to “establish[] a timeline for achieving approval of the settlement agreement.” *Id.* at 2. The current global settlement process was announced to the court in February 2013. *See* Joint Status Report of February 20, 2013, at 1. On March 20, 2013, the parties were “pleased to report that [they] have reached a tentative agreement with respect to all outstanding claims in this litigation. Thus, all that remains is for the necessary authorizations to be obtained.” Joint Status Report of March 20, 2013, at 1. Plaintiffs are concerned about further delays in authorization of the settlement agreement (and payment to plaintiffs). JSR at 1-2.

The court agrees with plaintiffs that authorization of the settlement has taken

a long time. Defendant argues, however, that less than a month has passed since the latest changes were made to the settlement agreement. JSR at 2. In these circumstances, the court prefers to afford the government a chance to finalize the authorization of the settlement agreement by the time the next joint status report is due to be filed. For this reason, the court will not convene a telephonic status conference before June 26, 2013.

Accordingly, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the parties shall **FILE a Joint Status Report**, on or before **June 26, 2013**, to apprise the court of the status of the resolution of the claims in the subject matter.

/s/Lynn J. Bush
LYNN J. BUSH
Judge