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ELOUISE PEPION COBELL, et al.,)	
)	
	Plaintiffs,)	Civil Action No. 96-1285 (RCL)
)	
	v.)	(Special Master Alan L. Balaran)
)	
GALE A. NORTON, et al.,)	
)	
	Defendants.)	
)	

Under the scheduling order issued by the Special Master on November 4, 2002, plaintiffs are required to file bills of particulars on or before May 1, 2003 against 37 individuals named in plaintiffs' motion of October 19, 2001 for an order to show cause. Plaintiffs have now moved to extend indefinitely the date on which the bills of particulars must be filed. The United States opposes plaintiffs' request for an extension. Plaintiffs have not shown good cause for the requested extension, and the delay sought by plaintiffs would prejudice both the United States and the Named Individuals in their personal capacities.

Plaintiffs' rather succinct motion filed April 4, 2003 notes that the bills of particulars are due the day Trial 1.5 is scheduled to commence and requests an enlargement "because of the heavy schedule facing plaintiffs in preparing for Trial 1.5." If and to the extent plaintiffs are now claiming that the work required in April 2003 to prepare for Trial 1.5 interferes with preparation

of the bills of particulars, the problem is one of plaintiffs' own making, as demonstrated by the following sequence of events:

- October 19, 2001 - Plaintiffs file a motion for an order to show cause directed to Secretary of the Interior, the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and the 37 Named Individuals.
- March 15, 2002 - The Court directs plaintiffs to "start working on a memorandum to supplement your orders to show cause, where you lay out individual defendant by individual defendant specifications of what the contempt proceedings would be for those 39 people so they each have an opportunity to address what the evidence is and what you are citing against any of those 39." ¹
- November 4, 2002 - The Special Master issues a schedule directing plaintiffs to file bills of particulars supporting the October 19, 2001 motion for orders to show cause against the 37 Named Individuals on or before May 1, 2003.
- December 4, 2002 - The Special Master denies plaintiffs' letter request to extend the due date for the bills of particulars until August 4, 2003.

If the plaintiffs did not know the basis for the charges against the 37 Named Individuals, they should not have filed the motion for an order to show cause in October 2001. If they believed that they have a basis for the motion as to one or more of the 37 Named Individuals, they should have been able to articulate their claims in the 13 months which have passed since the Court directed them to prepare specifications. Moreover, plaintiffs have known for five months that the bills of particulars were due May 1, 2003, and have known for four months that the Special Master would not extend the deadline. Plaintiffs have not even attempted to explain why they will not be able to prepare any bills of particulars which they in good faith believe are meritorious by the scheduled due date.

¹ Transcript of Hearing, March 15, 2002, at 21:8-14.

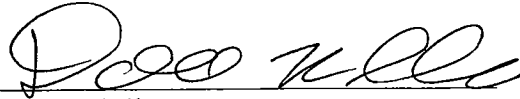
Further delay in these proceedings prejudices both the United States and the Named Individuals in their personal capacities. As articulated in the opposition to plaintiffs' motion filed by Named Individuals Brooks and others on April 8, 2003, the Named Individuals have due process rights to speedy resolution of the contempt charges plaintiffs have made against them. Further delay also would prejudice the United States in preparing a defense of charges against Named Individuals in their official capacities. With the passage of time, potential witnesses change jobs, memories fade and the evidence grows stale. If plaintiffs believe they have a basis for the charges against the 37 Named Individuals, they should make them now, in bills of particulars. If plaintiffs cannot specify the charges by the May 1, 2003 deadline, they should voluntarily dismiss the motion for an order to show cause, or the Court should enter an order of dismissal.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT D. McCALLUM, JR.
Assistant Attorney General

STUART E. SCHIFFER
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

MICHAEL F. HERTZ
Director



Dodge Wells
Senior Trial Counsel
D.C. Bar No. 425194
Tracy L. Hilmer
D.C. Bar No. 421219
Trial Attorney
Commercial Litigation Branch
Civil Division
P.O. Box 261
Ben Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044
(202) 307-0474

DATED: April 16, 2003

ELOUISE PEPION COBELL, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
v.
GALE NORTON, Secretary of the Interior, et al.,
Defendants.

This matter comes before the Court on *Plaintiffs' Motion for Enlargement of Time to File Bills of Particular with Respect to the Misconduct of Various Individuals Identified in Plaintiffs' Motion for Order to Show Cause, Filed October 19, 2001*. Upon consideration of the Opposition, Reply thereto, and the entire record of this case, it is hereby

ORDERED that the Plaintiffs' Motion for Enlargement of Time to file bills of particular is, DENIED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that the Plaintiffs file the bills of particular supporting the October 19, 2001 Motion for Order to Show Cause on or before May 1, 2003.

Date: _____

CCs:

Sandra P. Spooner
John T. Stemplewicz
Cynthia L. Alexander
Commercial Litigation Branch
Civil Division
P.O. Box 875
Ben Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044-0875
Fax (202) 514-9163

Alan L. Balaran, Esq.
Special Master
1717 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
12th Floor
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 986-8477

Keith Harper, Esq.
Native American Rights Fund
1712 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-2976
(202) 822-0068
Counsel for Plaintiffs

Dennis M Gingold, Esq.
Mark Kester Brown, Esq.
1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Ninth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 318-2372
Counsel for Plaintiffs

Joseph S. Kieffer, III, Esq.
Special Master Monitor
420 7th Street, N.W.
Apartment 705
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 478-1958

Mary Lou Soller, Esq.
Adam Feinberg, Esq.
Miller & Chevalier
655 15th Street, N.W., Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20005
By First Class Mail
Counsel for Chester Mills and Terence Virden

Earl J. Silbert, Esq.
Robert A. Salerno, Esq.
Adam Hoffinger, Esq.
Piper Rudnick LLP
1200 19th Street, N.W., 7th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036
Counsel for John Cruden, Jack Haugrud and Sarah Himmelhoch

David S. Krakoff, Esq.
Alessio D. Evangelista
Joanna Citron
Christine Stroop Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.
1350 I Street, N.W. , Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-3311
Counsel for Daryl White

Amy Berman Jackson, Esq.
Trout & Richards
1100 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. , Suite 730
Washington, D.C. 20036
Counsel for Edith Blackwell

William H. Briggs, Jr., Esq.
Marc E. Rindner, Esq.
Ross, Dixon & Bell
2001 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1040
Counsel for Phillip Brooks

Michael Bromwich, Esq.
Anne Perry, Esq.
Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20004-2505
Counsel for Sharon Blackwell

B. Michael Rauh, Esq.
Julie Campbell, Esq.
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
1501 M Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Counsel for Neal McCaleb

Barry Boss, Esq.
Asbill, Junkin, Moffitt & Boss
1615 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20009
By Fax: 202-332-6480
Counsel for Stephen Swanson

William Gardner, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
By Fax: 202-739-3001
Counsel for Willa Perlmutter

Barbara Van Gelder, Esq.
Eric Lyttle, Esq.
Wiley, Rein & Fielding LLP
1776 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-2304
By Fax: 202-719-7049

and

Erika C. Birg, Esq.
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
1615 L Street, NW, Suite 1300
Washington, DC 20036
By Fax: 202-223-7421
Counsel for James Eichner

Roger Zuckerman, Esq.
Leslie Kiernan, Esq.
William Taylor, Esq.
Zuckerman, Spader, Goldstein, Taylor & Kolker, LLP
1201 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
Counsel for Robert Lamb and Hilda Manuel

Christopher Mead, Esq.
London & Mead
1225 19th Street, N.W., Suite 320
Washington, D.C. 20036
By Fax: 202-785-4280
Counsel for Ken Rossman

Robert Luskin, Esq.
Patton Boggs
2550 M St., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20037-1350
Counsel for Edward Cohen, Bruce Babbitt and John Leshy

Plato Cacheris, Esq.
John F. Hundley, Esq.
Sydney J. Hoffmann, Esq.
Baker & McKenzie
815 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Counsel for John Berry and Glen Schumaker

R. Christopher Cook, Esq.
Jones Day Reaves & Pogue
51 Louisiana Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-2113
Counsel for Michael Carr

Kathleen E. Voelker, Esq.
1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20036
Counsel for James Douglas

Martha Rogers, Esq.
Leon Rodriguez, Esq.
Ober, Kaler, Grimes & Shriver
1410 H Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20005
Counsel for Timothy Elliott

Lisa Kemler, Esq.
John Kenneth Zwerling, Esq.
Zwerling & Kemler
108 North Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
By Fax: 703-684-9700
Counsel for Deborah Maddox and Terry Steele

Herbert Fenster, Esq.
Jane Ann Neiswender, Esq.
Daniel G. Jarcho, Esq.
McKenna, Long & Aldridge, LLP
370 Seventeenth Street, Suite 4800
Denver, Colorado 80202
Counsel for Gale Norton

James Johnson, Esq.
Jamie Levitt, Esq.
Morrison & Foerster
1290 Sixth Avenue
New York, NY 10104
Counsel for Sabrina McCarthy

E. Lawrence Barcella, Jr.
Scharn Robinson, Esq.
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2400
Counsel for William Myers

Stephen M. Byers, Esq.
Miguel Rodriguez, Esq.
Crowell & Moring
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2595
Counsel for Dominic Nessi

Elizabeth Wallace Fleming, Esq.
Trout & Richards PLLC
1100 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 730
Washington, DC 20036
Counsel for Michael Rossetti

Jeffrey D. Robinson, Esq.
Dwight Bostwick, Esq.
Melissa McNiven, Esq.
Baach, Robinson & Lewis
One Thomas Circle, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20005
Counsel for Lois Schiffer and Anne Shields

Steven J. Roman, Esq.
John A. Gibbons, Esq.
Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Oshinshy
2101 L Street NW
Washington, DC 20037-1526
Counsel for David Shilton and John Bryson

Michael Goodstein, Esq.
Deanna Chang, Esq.
Resolution Law Group, P.C.
5335 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 350
Washington, D.C. 20015
Counsel for Tom Clark

Stanley Brand, Esq.
Andrew D. Herman, Esq.
Brand & Frulla
923 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Counsel for Peter Coppelman

Hamilton P. Fox III, Esq.
Kathleen M. Devereaux, Esq.
Gregory S. Smith, Esq.
Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan LLP
1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2415
Counsel for Charles Findlay


Thomas E. Wilson, Esq.
John A. Ordway, Esq.
Berliner, Corcoran & Rowe, LLP
1101 17th Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20036
Counsel for John Most

Larry A. Nathans, Esq.
Robert W. Biddle, Esq.
Bennett & Nathans, LLP
210 East Lexington Street, Suite 301
Baltimore, MD 21202
Counsel for David Shuey

Eugene R. Fidell, Esq.
Matthew S. Freedus, Esq.
Feldesman, Tucker, Leifur, Fidell & Bank LLP
2001 L Street, N.W., 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036
Counsel for James Simon

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on April 17, 2003 I served the foregoing *Opposition of the United States to Plaintiffs' Motion for Enlargement of Time to File Bills of Particulars With Respect to Plaintiffs' Motion for Order to Show Cause Filed October 19, 2001* in the manner stated upon the persons listed on the attached service list.


Kevin P. Kingston

By Hand Delivery and by facsimile:

Alan L. Balaran, Esq.
Special Master
1717 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
12th Floor
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 986-8477

By facsimile, pursuant to written agreement:

Keith Harper, Esq.
Native American Rights Fund
1712 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-2976
(202) 822-0068
Counsel for Plaintiffs

Dennis M Gingold, Esq.
Mark Kester Brown, Esq.
1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Ninth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 318-2372
Counsel for Plaintiffs

and by U.S. Mail upon:

Elliott Levitas, Esq.
1100 Peachtree Street, Suite 2800
Atlanta, GA 30309-4530
Counsel for Plaintiffs

Copy by Facsimile and U.S. Mail upon:

Joseph S. Kieffer, III, Esq.
Special Master Monitor
420 7th Street, N.W.
Apartment 705
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 478-1958

By first-class mail, postage prepaid, and/or
by facsimile pursuant to written agreement:

Mary Lou Soller, Esq.
Adam Feinberg, Esq.
Miller & Chevalier
655 15th Street, N.W., Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20005
By First Class Mail
Counsel for Chester Mills and Terence Virden

Earl J. Silbert, Esq.
Robert A. Salerno, Esq.
Adam Hoffinger, Esq.
Piper Rudnick LLP
1200 19th Street, N.W., 7th Floor,
Washington, D.C. 20036
By Email to: earl.silbert@piperrudnick.com
By Email to:
robert.salerno@piperrudnick.com
By Email to:
adam.hoffinger@piperrudnick.com
*Counsel for John Cruden, Jack Haugrud
and Sarah Himmelhoch*

David S. Krakoff, Esq.
Alessio D. Evangelista
Joanna Citron
Christine Stroop
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.
1350 I Street, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-3311
By Email to: dkrakoff@bdlaw.com
By Email to: aevangelista@bdlaw.com
By Email to: jcitron@bdlaw.com
By Email to: cstroop@bdlaw.com
Counsel for Daryl White

Amy Berman Jackson, Esq.
Trout & Richards
1100 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 730
Washington, D.C. 20036
By Email to: abj@troutrichards.com
Counsel for Edith Blackwell

Michael Bromwich, Esq.
Anne Perry, Esq.
Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20004-2505
By Email to:
Michael_Bromwich@ffhsj.com
By Email to: perryan@ffhsj.com
Counsel for Sharon Blackwell

B. Michael Rauh, Esq.
Julie Campbell, Esq.
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
1501 M Street, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
By Email to: mrauh@manatt.com
By Email to: jcampbell@manatt.com
Counsel for Neal McCaleb

Barry Boss, Esq.
Asbill, Junkin, Moffitt & Boss
1615 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20009
By Fax: 202-332-6480
Counsel for Stephen Swanson

William Gardner, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
By Fax: 202-739-3001
Counsel for Willa Perlmutter

William H. Briggs, Jr., Esq.
Marc E. Rindner, Esq.
Ross, Dixon & Bell
2001 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1040
By Email to: bbriggs@rdbl原因.com
By Email to: mrindner@rdbl原因.com
Counsel for Phillip Brooks

Barbara Van Gelder, Esq.
Eric Lyttle, Esq.
Wiley, Rein & Fielding LLP
1776 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-2304
By Fax: 202-719-7049
and
Erika C. Birg, Esq.
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
1615 L Street, NW, Suite 1300
Washington, DC 20036
By Fax: 202-223-7421
Counsel for James Eichner

Roger Zuckerman, Esq.
Leslie Kiernan, Esq.
William Taylor, Esq.
Zuckerman, Spader, Goldstein, Taylor &
Kolker, LLP
1201 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
By First Class Mail
Counsel for Robert Lamb and Hilda Manuel

Christopher Mead, Esq.
London & Mead
1225 19th Street, N.W.
Suite 320
Washington, D.C. 20036
By Fax: 202-785-4280
Counsel for Ken Rossman

Robert Luskin, Esq.
Patton Boggs
2550 M St., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20037-1350
By Email to: RLuskin@PattonBoggs.com
*Counsel for Edward Cohen, Bruce Babbitt
and John Leshy*

Plato Cacheris, Esq.
John F. Hundley, Esq.
Sydney J. Hoffmann, Esq.
Baker & McKenzie
815 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
By Email to:
carolyn.j.coffman@bakernet.com
By Email to: sydneyhoffman@aol.com
Counsel for John Berry and Glen Schumaker

R. Christopher Cook, Esq.
Jones Day Reaves & Pogue
51 Louisiana Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-2113
By Email to:
christophercook@JonesDay.com
Counsel for Michael Carr

Kathleen E. Voelker, Esq.
1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20036
By Email to: kathleenvoelker@aol.com
Counsel for James Douglas

Martha Rogers, Esq.
Leon Rodriguez, Esq.
Ober, Kaler, Grimes & Shriver
1410 H Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20005
By Email to: mprogers@ober.com
By Email to: lrodriguez@ober.com
Counsel for Timothy Elliott

Lisa Kemler, Esq.
John Kenneth Zwerling, Esq.
Zwerling & Kemler
108 North Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
By Fax: 703-684-9700
Counsel for Deborah Maddox and Terry Steele

Herbert Fenster, Esq.
Jane Ann Neiswender, Esq.
Daniel G. Jarcho, Esq.
McKenna, Long & Aldridge, LLP
370 Seventeenth Street, Suite 4800
Denver, Colorado 80202
By Email to: hfenster@mckennalong.com
By Email to:
jneiswender@mckennalong.com
By Email to: djarcho@mckennalong.com
Counsel for Gale Norton

James Johnson, Esq.
Jamie Levitt, Esq.
Morrison & Foerster
1290 Sixth Avenue
New York, NY 10104
By Email to: jamesjohnson@mofo.com
By Email to: jlevitt@mofo.com
Counsel for Sabrina McCarthy

E. Lawrence Barcella, Jr.
Scharn Robinson, Esq.
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2400
By Fax: 202-508-9700
Counsel for William Myers

Stephen M. Byers, Esq.
Miguel Rodriguez, Esq.
Crowell & Moring
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2595
By Email to: sbyers@crowell.com
By Email to: mrodriguez@crowell.com
Counsel for Dominic Nessi

Elizabeth Wallace Fleming, Esq.
Trout & Richards PLLC
1100 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 730
Washington, DC 20036
By First Class Mail
Counsel for Michael Rossetti

Jeffrey D. Robinson, Esq.
Dwight Bostwick, Esq.
Melissa McNiven, Esq.
Baach, Robinson & Lewis
One Thomas Circle, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20005
By Email to: jeffrey.robinson@baachrobinson.com
By Email to: dwightbostwick@baachrobinson.com
By Email to: melissa.mcniven@baachrobinson.com
Counsel for Lois Schiffer and Anne Shields

Steven J. Roman, Esq.
John A. Gibbons, Esq.
Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Oshinsky
2101 L Street NW
Washington, DC 20037-1526
By Email to: romanS@dsmo.com
By Email to: gibbonsj@dsmo.com
Counsel for David Shilton and John Bryson

Michael Goodstein, Esq.
Deanna Chang, Esq.
Resolution Law Group, P.C.
5335 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 350
Washington, D.C. 20015
By Fax: 202-686-4843
Counsel for Tom Clark

Stanley Brand, Esq.
Andrew D. Herman, Esq.
Brand & Frulla
923 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
By First Class Mail
Counsel for Peter Coppelman

Hamilton P. Fox III, Esq.
Kathleen M. Devereaux, Esq.
Gregory S. Smith, Esq.
Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan LLP
1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2415
By Fax: 202-637-3593
Counsel for Charles Findlay

Thomas E. Wilson, Esq.
John A. Ordway, Esq.
Berliner, Corcoran & Rowe, LLP
1101 17th Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20036
By Email to: bjones@bcr-dc.com
By Email to: jao@bcr-dc.com
Counsel for John Most

Larry A. Nathans, Esq.
Robert W. Biddle, Esq.
Bennett & Nathans, LLP
210 East Lexington Street, Suite 301
Baltimore, MD 21202
By First Class Mail
Counsel for David Shuey

Eugene R. Fidell, Esq.
Matthew S. Freedus, Esq.
Feldesman, Tucker, Leifur, Fidell & Bank
LLP
2001 L Street, N.W., 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036
By Email to: efidell@feldesmantucker.com
By Email to:
mfreedus@feldesmantucker.com
Counsel for James Simon