

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
<i>Plaintiff,</i>)	
)	
v.)	Civil Action No. 13:127 (RWR)
)	Judge Richard W. Roberts
ANHEUSER-BUSCH InBEV SA/NV, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
<i>Defendants.</i>)	
)	

JOINT MOTION TO EXTEND THE STAY

Plaintiff and Defendants (the “Parties”), with the consent of the Proposed Intervenor Defendants Constellation Brands, Inc. (“Constellation”) and Crown Imports LLC (collectively, “Proposed Intervenor Defendants”), respectfully move for the entry of the attached proposed Order for a limited extension of the stay that is currently in place until April 9, 2013.

On January 31, 2013, the United States filed a Complaint alleging that Defendant Anheuser-Busch InBev’s (“ABI”) proposed acquisition of Defendant Grupo Modelo, S.A.B. de C.V. (“Grupo Modelo”) was likely to lessen competition substantially in violation of Section 7 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 18. On February 14, 2013, the Defendants announced a revised transaction that relates to the proposed acquisition alleged in the Complaint. As part of Defendant ABI’s proposed acquisition of the 50% of Grupo Modelo it does not already own, ABI would, along with other assets, sell to Constellation a brewery in Mexico that currently produces certain Grupo Modelo beers for sale in the United States, and would grant perpetual brand licenses to Constellation for Grupo Modelo brands in the United States. On February 22, 2013, the Court ordered a stay of these proceedings [Doc. No. 21] to allow the Plaintiff time to investigate the revised transaction.

Since the February 22, 2013 stay, the Parties and Proposed Intervenor Defendants have made substantial progress toward a resolution of this matter based on the terms of the revised transaction.

The parties request additional time to continue their discussions and, should the parties reach a resolution, complete the necessary court filings pursuant to the Antitrust Procedures and Penalties Act (“APPA”), 15 U.S.C. § 16(b)-(h), which applies to civil antitrust cases brought and settled by the United States.

SETTLEMENT PROCESS:

The APPA requires that the United States and the Court take certain steps before a proposed consent judgment may be entered. Should the parties reach a resolution, that agreement will be filed with the Court as a proposed consent judgment, along with a Competitive Impact Statement that, *inter alia*, sets forth the alleged violation of the antitrust laws, and how the proposed relief eliminates the anticompetitive effects of the acquisition. 15 U.S.C. § 16(b). After a sixty-day period for public comment, the Court may enter the proposed consent judgment if it is found to be “in the public interest.” *United States v. Abitibi-Consolidated Inc.*, 584 F. Supp. 2d 162, 164 (D.D.C. 2008).

POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

Courts have “broad discretion” to stay proceedings. *Clinton v. Jones*, 520 U.S. 681, 706 (1997). “[T]he power to stay proceedings is incidental to the power inherent in every court to control the disposition of the causes on its docket with economy of time and effort for itself, for counsel, and for litigants.” *Landis v. North Am. Co.*, 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936); *see also* Fed. R. Civ. P. 1.

An extension of the stay will likely enable the parties to complete their discussions regarding the possibility of a resolution. Further, extending the stay will also enable the parties and nonparties who would likely otherwise receive Rule 45 document subpoenas to avoid incurring substantial litigation expenses that would ultimately prove unnecessary if a settlement were reached. Should the parties agree on a settlement, the Court would have an opportunity to review the settlement pursuant to the APPA, and determine whether the proposed settlement is in the public-interest.

Dated: March 15, 2013

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Respectfully submitted,

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SEEN AND AGREED:

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[PROPOSED] ORDER

In light of the parties’ representations in their joint motion to extend the stay, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties’ joint motion [22] to extend the stay in this case be, and hereby is GRANTED. This case is STAYED and ADMINISTRATIVELY CLOSED through April 9, 2013, and all pending deadlines are tolled. It is further

ORDERED that if the parties reach a resolution, that agreement, consistent with the Antitrust Procedures and Penalties Act, 15 U.S.C. § 16(b)-(h), which applies to civil antitrust cases brought and settled by the United States, will be promptly filed with the Court as a proposed consent judgment, along with a Competitive Impact Statement that, *inter alia*, sets forth the alleged violation of the antitrust laws, and how the proposed relief eliminates the anticompetitive effects of the acquisition. 15 U.S.C. § 16(b). It is further

ORDERED that all parties file by April 9, 2013 a joint status report and proposed scheduling order if the case is not resolved before then.

SIGNED this ___ day of March, 2013

RICHARD W. ROBERTS
United States District Judge