

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

HONORABLE THOMAS J. McAVOY

UNIFORM PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

ENTHONE INC.

Civil No. 1:15-CV-233 (TJM/RFT)

vs.

BASF CORPORATION

Counsel for all parties having reported on the status of this action as directed by the Court, and the Court having considered the positions of the respective counsel regarding a schedule for the progression of the case,

IT IS ORDERED that:

1) **THE DEADLINES SET IN THIS SCHEDULING ORDER SUPERSEDE THE DEADLINES SET FORTH IN FED. R. CIV. P.26(a)(3) AND ARE FIRM AND WILL NOT BE EXTENDED, EVEN BY STIPULATION OF THE PARTIES, ABSENT GOOD CAUSE. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b).**

2) **VENUE MOTIONS** are to be filed **within sixty (60) days of the date of this Order** following the procedures set forth in Local Rule 7.1 (b)2 and are to be made returnable before the assigned Magistrate Judge.

3) **JURISDICTION MOTIONS** are to be filed **within sixty (60) days of the date of this Order** following the procedures set forth in Local Rule 7.1 (b)1 (unless a party who is not an attorney is appearing pro se, in which case L.R. 7.1 (b)2 should be followed) and are to be made returnable before the assigned District Judge.

4) **JOINDER OF PARTIES:** Any application to join any person as a party to this action shall be made on or before **July 3, 2015**.

5) **AMENDMENT OF PLEADINGS:** Any application to amend any pleading in this action shall be made on or before **August 21, 2015**.

**6) DISCOVERY:** All discovery in this matter is to be **completed** on or before **See attached Exhibit A**. Service of discovery requests must be made a sufficient number of days before this deadline to allow responses to be served before the cut-off. Please refer to Local Rule 16.2 (Discovery Cut-Off).

**Special procedures for management of expert witnesses:**

There shall be binding disclosure of the identity of expert witnesses (including a curriculum vitae) as set forth below.

**(a) Expert Reports:** With regard to experts who are retained or specially employed to provide expert testimony in the case or whose duties as an employee of the party regularly involve giving expert testimony:

**(1)** No later than, **See attached Exhibit A**, set in paragraph 6 above, **plaintiff(s)** shall identify such expert(s) and, unless waived, shall serve on the other parties the expert's written report pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B).

**(2)** No later than, **See attached Exhibit A, 45 days prior to the discovery deadline** set in paragraph 6 above, **defendant(s)** shall identify any expert(s) and, unless waived, shall serve on the other parties the expert's written report pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B).

**(3)** No **deposition of experts** shall be taken until **after** the exchange of the expert reports.

**(4)** No later than, **See attached Exhibit A, 30 days prior to the discovery deadline** set in paragraph 6 above, the parties must identify all experts who will contradict or rebut evidence on the same subject matter identified by another party under subparagraphs 6(a)(1) and (2) above, and unless waived, shall serve on the other parties such expert's written report pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B).

**(5)** Motions to preclude expert witness testimony must be filed and served on or before the motion deadline as set forth in paragraph seven (7) below.

**NOTE:** If a **treating physician** is expected to be called as a witness, he or she must be identified **at least 90 days prior to the close of discovery**. The production of written reports prepared by treating physicians, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B), is encouraged as an aid to settlement but is not required. In the case of any treating professional or other expert witness not required by the court's rules to provide a written report, the party anticipating calling the witness must also disclose, at least 90 days prior to the close of discovery, the subject matter on which the witness is expected to present evidence under Federal Rule of Evidence 702, 703, or 705 and a summary of the facts and opinions to which the witness is expected to testify, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(C).

(b) The failure to comply with the deadlines set forth in subparagraph (a) above may result in the imposition of sanctions, including the preclusion of testimony, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f).

(c) In order to avoid the possibility of the unavailability of an expert witness at the time set for trial, counsel may preserve the testimony of such witness as outlined in paragraph 11(B)(2) below for use at trial. In the absence of same, the trial will proceed without such testimony.

**7) MOTIONS** other than those made under paragraphs 2 and 3 above, motions are to be **filed** on or before **See attached Exhibit A.**

**a) NON-DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS.** Non-dispositive motions (except venue motions-paragraph 2 above-and motions for injunctive relief) shall **NOT** be filed until after a conference with the Magistrate Judge, which is to be arranged through the Courtroom Deputy Clerk assigned to the Magistrate Judge. Before requesting such a conference to resolve discovery disputes, the parties must have complied with Local Rule 7.1 (d).

Non-dispositive motions, including discovery motions, shall be filed in accordance with Local Rule 7.1 (b)2 and, except for motions for injunctive relief, shall be made returnable before the assigned Magistrate Judge. Motions for injunctive relief shall be made returnable before the assigned District Judge unless the case has been referred to a Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) (“consent” jurisdiction).

**b) DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS:**

Dispositive motions shall be made returnable before the assigned District Judge, unless the case has been assigned to a Magistrate Judge on consent of the parties pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c).

**8) TRIAL DATES:**

**a)** If no dispositive motion is filed by the date set in paragraph 7 above, the case will be marked trial ready and counsel and the parties should be prepared to proceed to trial as of that date. Otherwise, the case will be marked trial ready as of **August 22, 2016.**

It is anticipated that the trial will take approximately **10** days to complete.

**b)** Trial is scheduled for **October 12, 2016 at 10:00 AM,** at the Federal Courthouse in **Albany, New York.**

This is a **JURY** trial.

Trial dates are firm unless changed by the assigned Magistrate Judge or District Judge. Counsel and the parties are advised that the trial date may be moved up in accordance with 8(a) above. The unavailability of any witness, expert or otherwise, will not be grounds for a continuance. In order to avoid the possibility of going forward with the trial without the testimony of an unavailable witness, counsel, where appropriate, shall preserve same before the trial ready date by written or video-taped deposition for possible use at trial.

Counsel are directed to report to the trial judge's chambers at least one-half hour prior to the commencement to discuss jury selection and any other issues related to trial.

**9) SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE:** A settlement conference pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(d) may be scheduled by the Court prior to the trial or as requested by the parties. In addition to counsel, a representative of each party with with full settlement authority shall attend the settlement conference, or be available by telephone.

Prior to the settlement conference the parties are to have initiated settlement discussions. Plaintiff shall submit a **realistic demand** to defendant at least ten days before the conference, and defendant shall respond at least three days before the conference and shall submit a counteroffer, if appropriate. Failure to comply with these directions may result in sanctions.

**10) ASSESSMENT OF JUROR COSTS:** The parties are advised that pursuant to Local Rule 47.3, whenever any civil action scheduled for a jury trial is postponed, settled, or otherwise disposed of in advance of the actual trial, then, except for good cause shown, all juror costs, including Marshal's fees, mileage, and per diem, shall be assessed against the parties and/or their counsel as directed by the Court, unless the Court and the Clerk's Office are notified at least one full business day prior to the day on which the action is scheduled for trial in time to advise the jurors that it will be unnecessary for them to attend.

**11) PRETRIAL SUBMISSIONS:**

**Mandatory Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3) Disclosures (Jury and Non-Jury Cases)**

**i) Not later than thirty days before the Trial Ready Date** (as defined in paragraph 8(a) above) counsel shall provide to all other parties and electronically file with the Court the disclosures required under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3).

**Note:** The unavailability of any witness, expert or otherwise, will not be grounds for a continuance. In order to the possibility of going forward with the trial without the testimony of an unavailable witness, counsel, where appropriate, shall preserve same before the trial ready date by

written or video-taped deposition for possible use at trial. Please refer to the attached instruction sheet for use of video-taped depositions.

Those initial pretrial disclosures must include the following:

a) The name and, if not previously provided, the address and telephone number of each witness, separately identifying those whom the party expects to present and those whom the party may call if the need arises;

b) The designation of those witnesses whose testimony is expected to be presented by means of a deposition (including video-taped deposition), specifically identifying the pertinent portions of the deposition testimony to be offered; and

c) An identification of each document or other exhibit, including summaries of other evidence, separately identifying those which the party expects to offer and those which the party may offer if the need arises.

**ii) Within fourteen days after service of the Rule 26(a)(3) initial pretrial disclosures**, any party served with such Rule 26(a)(3) disclosures shall serve and electronically file with the court a list of any objections to the proposed use of deposition testimony designated by another party and objections to the admissibility of exhibits described in the initial disclosures, together with a summary of the grounds for objection.

**Note:** All objections not disclosed in a timely manner in accordance with this rule, other than objections under Fed. R. Evid. 402 and 403, are waived unless excused by the Court for good cause.

**iii) Non-Jury Trials: One week before the Trial Ready Date** counsel shall electronically file with the court their joint pretrial stipulation (see subparagraph A below) and all depositions (including video-taped depositions) to be used at trial (see subparagraph D below). In addition to this and the required mandatory pretrial disclosures referenced above (i.e., witness, deposition excerpt, and exhibit lists), **one week before the Trial Ready Date** counsel for each party shall electronically file with the court, with a copy to opposing counsel, **(1)** prepared findings of fact and conclusions of law; **(2)** a letter brief concerning any evidentiary issues (see subparagraph C below); and **(3)** a trial brief (see subparagraph E below).

**iv) Jury Trials: One week before the Trial Ready Date** counsel shall electronically file with the court their joint pretrial stipulation (see subparagraph A below) and all depositions (including video-taped depositions) to be used at trial (see subparagraph D below). In addition, **one week before the Trial Ready Date** counsel for each party shall electronically file with the court, with a copy to opposing counsel, **(1)** Court Ordered Voir Dire (attachment #1); **(2)** proposed voir dire; **(3)** a letter brief concerning any evidentiary issues (see subparagraph C below); **(4)** a trial

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