IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re:)	Chapter 11
BUILDING MATERIALS HOLDING)	Case No. 09-12074 (KJC)
CORPORATION., et al.,)	(Jointly Administered)
Debtors.)	Related to Docket Nos. 817 & 917
		The Debtors granted Weis an extension to file a Reply until 1/25/10 at 10:00 a.m.

REPLY TO DEBTORS' OBJECTION TO WEIS BUILDERS, INC.'S MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER ENLARGING THE CLAIMS BAR DATE

Weis Builders, Inc. ("Weis"), by and through its undersigned counsel, respectfully submits this Reply (the "Reply") to the Debtors' Objection [D. I. 917] (the "Objection") to Weis Builders, Inc.'s Motion for Entry of an Order Enlarging the Claims Bar Date (the "Motion")² [D.I. 817]. In support of this Reply, Weis respectfully states as follows:

REPLY

1. The Objection observes that Weis had actual notice of the bankruptcy filing and implies that notice of the bankruptcy case in general satisfies notice of the deadline for filing proofs of claim (the "Claims Bar Date"). See Obj. ¶ 5 & 17. This Court made it clear in *Grand Union* that notice of the bankruptcy is not enough to satisfy the requirements of due process. *In re The Grand Union Co.*, 204 B.R. 864, 870 (Bankr. D. Del. 1997) (*stating* ("[a] claimant, who is not apprised with reasonable notice of the bar date, is not bound by the legal effects of the confirmation of the plan and should be allowed to file a late proof of claim."). *See also Chemetron Corp. v. Jones*, 72 F.3d 341, 346 (3d Cir. 1995).

The Debtors consist of the following 12 entities: Building Materials Holding Corporation, BMC West Corporation, SelectBuild Construction, Inc., SelectBuild Northern California, Inc., Illinois Framing, Inc., C Construction, Inc., TWF Construction, Inc., H.N.R. Framing Systems, Inc., SelectBuild Southern California, Inc., SelectBuild Nevada, Inc., SelectBuild Arizona, LLC, and SelectBuild Illinois, LLC.

- 2. In accordance with due process, *Grand Union* requires that debtor's counsel provide a creditor's attorneys notice of the claims bar date if the creditor's counsel was specifically known by the debtors and had a preexisting involvement with debtor's counsel with respect to claims against the debtors. *Id.* at 870. It is clear from the facts set forth in the Motion that Weis's lead counsel in the State Court Action, Burch & Cracchiolo, P.A. ("B&C"), and Debtors' counsel in both the State Court Action and the bankruptcy case had a preexisting involvement which included numerous emails, telephone conversations, letters, voicemessages, and an in-person meeting. Thus, *Grand Union* dictates that notice of the Claims Bar Date should be provided to B&C and the Debtors' failure to do so renders notice of the Claims Bar Date to Weis insufficient.
- debtor is put on notice by certain counsel for a creditor that a creditor intends to file a proof of claim, the debtor has an affirmative duty to include that counsel on the claims bar date notice mailing list. See Tr. AFY Holding Company, 08-12175 (PJW) (March 5, 2009) at pages 25 to 26, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. In this case, B&C clearly indicated to counsel for the Debtors that Weis intended to seek to lift the automatic stay. See MacBeth Affidavit at ¶ 27 & 28 attached to the Motion. Any reasonable bankruptcy attorney would conclude that a creditor that intends to seek to lift the automatic stay to proceed with its claim against the debtor would likewise file a proof of claim. Thus, similar to the debtor in AFY Holdings, the Debtors in this case were undoubtedly put on notice of B&C's intention to file a proof of claim. That notice should have prompted the Debtors to include B&C on the Claims Bar Date notice mailing list. Because the

All capitalized terms used and not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Motion.

Debtors did not do this, this Court should hold in a similar fashion to the court in *AFY Holdings* and enlarge the Claims Bar Date with respect to Weis.

- 4. The cases that the Debtors cite to in support of the Objection are easily distinguished from the facts in this case. Specifically, the case law that the Debtors rely on are governed by federal and local rules of appellate procedure that have no applicability to the issues at bar. For example, the Debtors cite to *Marcangelo v. Boardwalk Regency* in support of their argument that relief requesting an extension of an expired deadline should not be granted when notice was sent to local counsel and not to a party's lead counsel. Obj. ¶ 11. *Marcangelo v. Boardwalk Regency*, 47 F.3d 88 (3d Cir. 1995). In *Marcangelo*, however, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling was premised primarily on "Local Rule 4(C) [that] provides that the clerk's office will send copies of court orders only to local counsel, even when out-of-state counsel has appeared pro hac vice." The court in *Marcangelo* also relied on the text of Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 4(a)(6). *Id*.
- 5. As a result, *Marcangelo* and the other cases that the Debtors rely upon are wholly inapplicable to the facts in this case. The controversy in this case centers on notice of a claims bar date governed by due process principles set forth in *Grand Union*, not notice of entry of a court order governed by specific local rules of appellate procedure. Moreover, in the cases relied upon by the Debtors, the rules specifically prescribed to whom notice was to be provided by the clerk of the court and specifically excluded out of state counsel. It is no surprise that failure of out of state counsel to have received notice did not provide a basis to extend the deadline to appeal. The cases cited by the Debtors in support of the Objection are clearly irrelevant and inapplicable.

- 6. The Debtors also contend that "[i]f Weis is allowed to file late, every single other late filer will be able to make essentially the same argument that their late claims should be allowed." Obj. ¶ 20. In *Inacom*, the Delaware District Court disagreed with the Delaware Bankruptcy Court regarding whether allowance of a claim would open the floodgates of litigation. *See In re Inacom Corp.*, 2004 WL 2283599 (Bankr. D. Del. 2004). In that case, the District Court concluded that the Debtors' failure to identify any other *similarly situated* creditor weighed in favor of granting the requested relief.³
- 7. The Debtors' argument incorrectly presupposes the fact that every other late filer is in a similar situation as Weis. It is difficult to believe that every single other late filer will claim that its failure to timely file a proof of claim was a result of the following facts: (i) notice of the Claims Bar Date sent to the creditor's local counsel, but not to lead counsel; (ii) the notice sent to local counsel incorrectly listed the attorney and law firm as the creditor on the proof of claim forms; (iii) the creditor's name did not appear anywhere in the documents; (iv) the underlying state court action was a construction litigation dispute wherein counsel regularly seek recovery of their fees and expenses from insurance if their claim is successful, and thus, it was reasonable for local counsel to believe that the proof of claim form related solely to him and his firm, and not to the creditor directly; and (v) the creditor's lead counsel had a preexisting involvement which included numerous exchanges and interactions with debtor's counsel in both the bankruptcy case and the underlying state court action. The Debtors have not identified any similarly situated creditor who filed or plans to file a motion to enlarge the Claims Bar Date.
- 8. Finally, the Debtors assert that extending the Claims Bar Date as it relates to Weis would "be a fruitless enterprise because 'Weis seeks to recover on any judgment it obtains

In *Inacom*, the claimant filed a motion to reconsider its claim, rather than a motion to enlarge the bar date.

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against the Debtors <u>solely</u> from available insurance coverage" and that no such coverage exists due to the existence of provisions regarding self insured retention ("SIR") and deductibles. Obj. ¶ 22. As explained at length in the Motion, Weis is identified as an Additional Insured on three of the Debtors' insurance policies (collectively, the "Policies"). One of these polices includes an SIR and the remaining two include deductible policies.

- 9. The Debtors ignore the differences between an SIR and a deductible. Deductibles differ from SIRs in several important respects, the key distinguishing characteristic of a deductible being that it is payable by the insured at the end of the claim rather than at the beginning. As a result, an insured who has obtained a policy with a deductible, as opposed to an SIR, has "first dollar coverage." In other words, the insurer is obligated to pay defense costs of a potentially covered claim from the beginning and the amount of the deductible will be assessed only after the claim is resolved. In contrast, SIRs require the insured to pay the "first dollars" expended in a claim before the insurance carrier's obligations arise.
- 10. In this case, Weis would receive "first dollar coverage" on the deductible policies. The insurers have a direct contractual obligation to Weis to cover its claims. As a named Additional Insured Party on the policies, Weis now seeks recovery from these policies. Thus, Weis seeks to enlarge the bar date for the sole purpose of proceeding against the Debtors' insurance carriers.

For the reasons set forth herein and in the Motion, the Court should grant the proposed Order attached to the Motion: (i) granting Weis fourteen (14) days from the entry of the Order approving the Motion to file its Claim which will be deemed as timely filed; and (ii) granting Weis such other and further relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

Dated: January 25, 2010

ASHBY & GEDDES, P.A.

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Attorneys for Weis Builders, Inc.

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

IN RE: . Case No. 08-12175 (PJW)

. (Jointly Administered)

AFY HOLDING COMPANY . Chapter 11

. 824 Market Street

AMERICAN FIBERS AND YARNS COMPANY . Wilmington, DE 19801

COMPANY, a Delaware corporation .

Debtors. . March 5, 2009

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE HONORABLE PETER J. WALSH
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

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Debtors in Possession: Taylor, LLP

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1 APPEARANCES: (Continued) 3 For Absecon Mills, Inc.: Cozen O'Connor BY: JEFF WAXMAN, ESQ. BY: ARTHUR ABRAMOWITZ, ESQ. 5 One Gateway Center Suite 2600 6 Newark, New Jersey 07102 (973) 353-8400 7 For Amper Politziner & EDWARD PHILLIPS, ESQ. Mattia, LLP: 8 2015 Lincoln Highway P.O. Box 988 9 Edison, New Jersey 08818 (732) 287-1000 10 (via teleconference) 11 For Johnston Textiles: Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & 12 Aronoff, LLP JENNIFER HOOVER, ESQ. 13 222 Delaware Avenue, Ste. 801 Wilmington, DE 19801-1611 14 (302) 442-7006 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

THE COURT: Please be seated.

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MR. POPPITI: May it please the court, Your Honor, Rob Poppiti on behalf of the debtors. Your Honor, I'll be working from the Notice of Agenda of Matters scheduled for today's hearing which the debtors filed this past Tuesday, March 3.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. POPPITI: The first item, Your Honor, relates to the second rejection motion and we actually filed this under certification of counsel, but your scheduling clerk has advised me you've not yet entered this one. So I don't know if the court had any questions --

THE COURT: No. I'll get around to it. I'll sign it.

MR. POPPITI: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor. The second item on today's agenda, Your Honor, is the interim fee request. The interim fee request, Your Honor, with respect to the debtors' professionals relate to Young Conaway's first through the third, the applications for the period September 23 through November 30, 2008 and also with respect to the debtors' financial advisors, RES Management Advisors, LLC, and that's also with respect to the first through the third fee applications for the period September 23, 2008 through November 29, 2008. I don't know if Your Honor has any specific questions that he has and I could

address them. 1 2 THE COURT: Okay. No. I have no --3 MR. POPPITI: Okay. 4 THE COURT: -- questions. I'll approve them. 5 MR. POPPITI: Your Honor, the requests also relate 6 to the Committees and their professionals. I don't know if Your Honor has any specific requests for them. 8 THE COURT: No. 9 MR. POPPITI: All right. May I approach with a 10 form of order, Your Honor? 11 THE COURT: Yes. 12 MR. POPPITI: Thank you. 13 THE COURT: Next? 14 MR. POPPITI: The third item on today's agenda, Your Honor, is the Motion of Absecon Mills for Leave to File 15 Late Proof of Claim. With that, I'll turn the podium over 16 to Absecon Mills and my colleague, Curtis Cruwilher, will be 17 18 handling it for the debtors. 19 THE COURT: Okay. 20 MR. WAXMAN: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Waxman of Cozen O'Connor on behalf of Absecon Mills. 21 22 Honor, behind me is my colleague, Arthur Abramowitz.

admitted to the District of New Jersey and Your Honor signed

the motion approving his pro hac motion earlier today.

THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. WAXMAN: Mr. Abramowitz will be handling the hearing.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: If I could just be brief. The issues are such that most of the issues are uncontested, at least to the acts. Proof of claim deadline was December 5 and I would note that at that time, we were retained solely with regard to certain litigation. A proof of claim was filed approximately 50 days after the bar date and I understand what the state of the law is and I would like to address those issues which may have some sway as to our position.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Number one, it's clear that one issue that is obviously germane to this is prejudice and I would note for the record that the AFY argues that it would be prejudiced if the motion is granted because its claim -- our claim would be the largest claim in the case and would throw a "wrench" in the plan negotiations. It's also an assertion that it would encourage other creditors to ignore bar dates and set a bad precedent. In response, I would note that first the debtors ceased operations in October. Number two, a plan has not yet been filed. Number three, this is a liquidation case and it's unlikely that anything

will germinate from this case other than a pot plan. Therefore, we do not believe that there would be prejudice. I would also note that a number of courts have held that a 3 lower distribution to other creditors cannot be prejudicial because in every case that would occur and that can't be a benchmark with regard to these determinations. I think the courts have looked at prejudice based upon whether a plan 7 has been confirmed or submitted versus one being still under 8 negotiation and I would refer to the O'Brien case that we mentioned in our papers. Another factors is that although 10 the claim was filed late, there was notice of our claim in 11 12 correspondence dated October that was sent to Mr. Poppiti at Young Conaway indicating that we asserted a counterclaim of 13 approximately or totaling \$6 million. The second aspect --15 THE COURT: I'm sorry. This -- what was that 16 correspondence? 17 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: There was correspondence dated October 15, Your Honor, 2008 that was sent to Mr. Poppiti in 18 19 response to a demand letter wherein Absecon --20 THE COURT: I'm sorry. Let's back up and let me 21

make sure I have the dates correct.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Your Honor --

THE COURT: Well --

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MR. ABRAMOWITZ: -- I will just note the --

THE COURT: When was the petition date?

1 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Bear with me one second. 2 THE COURT: Okay. I see it. 3 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: September 23 --THE COURT: 9/23 --4 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: -- Your Honor. 5 THE COURT: -- '08. 6 7 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Yes. 8 THE COURT: 9/23. 9 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Yes. 10 THE COURT: Okay. '08. And your letter of October 15, is that attached to your motion? 11 12 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Your Honor, I went through the correspondence this morning before I came to the -- to court 13 to see if there was anything that we would have that would 14 show anything that may not have been filed but may have been 15 16 notification. If the court would like, I'd be happy to provide this letter or give the letter to my adversary and I 17 18 would supplement it with a further certification. 19 THE COURT: Okay. Let me see it. 20 MR. CRUWILHER: We actually have a copy, Your 21 Honor. 22 THE COURT: Okay. Okay. And this was not referenced in your motion --23 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: That is --24

THE COURT: -- papers?

1 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: -- correct, Your Honor. 2 THE COURT: Okay. 3 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: I would be -- if the court would allow, I would certainly provide a certification to the 4 5 effect that it was sent. But clearly on the record you have a receipt by my adversary. But I would be happy to at least 6 supplement the record to at least provide some basis for inclusion in the record. 9 MR. CRUWILHER: Your Honor, in the spirit of candor with the court, I think it should be considered by 10 the court --11 Okay. 12 THE COURT: 13 MR. CRUWILHER: -- and it should be deemed to have 14 been --15 THE COURT: Okay. 16 MR. CRUWILHER: -- attached. 17 So your firm received it? THE COURT: MR. CRUWILHER: 18 Absolutely. 19 THE COURT: Okay. 20 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: And I apologize again, Your 21 Honor. I just noticed this this morning and had my 22 secretary make a copy on the way in. Second aspect, Your 23 Honor, that I would like to address has to do with length of delay and I think again this relates to prejudice and as 24

cases have held, in particular Enron, it must be viewed

within the context of the case. In O'Brien, although there was a delay of 10 weeks after the bar date and four weeks after a creditor learned of the bar date, although it would not have been significant in the absolute case, in that particular case it was significant because the debtors' plan became effective during that span. So I think that we have to talk about not a rigid determination but the circumstances of the case to see where in fact there will be prejudice. With regards to the reasons for delay, Your Honor, I can only indicate that there was a delay. was a delay for approximately 50 days. I understand that the delay is as a result of trying to assemble information and verify that it would be accurate. I can't indicate anything else other than there was an understanding that there was a bar date, but the clients were insistent that they wanted to make sure that whatever was submitted had some basis. As far as the last tenant of good faith, Your Honor, there's no reason that we are required to contact our adversaries before filing the motion. We certainly believe that we have acted in good faith. We would also note, Your Honor, that in terms of litigating the claim, the claim is ultimately going to have to be litigated because it's going to be part of a counterclaim to a lawsuit that has been filed which is the subject matter of item number five a little later having to do with the adversary proceeding. So

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that I think if you look at this telescopically as opposed to microscopically --THE COURT: Let me --3 4 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: -- there's no --5 THE COURT: -- ask you a question. 6 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Yes. 7 THE COURT: As I understand it, you have 8 counterclaimed in the adversary proceeding brought by the debtor --9 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: 10 Yes. 11 THE COURT: -- and that counterclaim is your claim asserted -- or -- asserted in the proposed proof of claim. 12 13 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Essentially it is, Your Honor. Yes. 14 15 THE COURT: Does your failure to file within the bar date preclude your asserting the counterclaims? 17 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: We don't believe that it does, 18 Your Honor. 19 THE COURT: Is there any case law on that? 20 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Your Honor, I would be certainly happy to check that determination. But I know that we would 21 have certain offset rights and affirmative rights. Again, I understand that there are -- there is case law that if 23 you're going to assert a counterclaim that there may be a 24 25 requirement at some point to move to at least address stay

issues if the claim is going to be asserted, at least if
that were in a non-bankruptcy situation. Within a
bankruptcy situation, I have not been confronted where
there's a waiver by failing to file the claim. I would be
happy to have that addressed, Your Honor, if you would like
by supplemental brief.

THE COURT: Okay. I'm surprised there's no case law on that.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: I'm not saying there is no case law --

THE COURT: Oh, okay. I'd be surprised if there is no case law.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Right. I would be surprised, too. I did not address it.

THE COURT: Well, if you're right and that asserting the counterclaim notwithstanding that you did not timely file a proof of claim that counterclaim can be pursued, if that's the law, end of discussion. Isn't it?

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Your Honor, I don't want to assert for today's hearing that it is the law. I'm not that cavalier. I would certainly be more than happy to submit what the state of the law is before a determination is made by the court. I don't know if it's germane to the thinking or not. It should be in this sense in that it is still a claim which we believe is a legitimate claim which the --

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which our adversaries at least had notice of in terms of the
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    gross amount of the claim in the October letter.
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              THE COURT: Let me ask counsel for the debtor as
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    to whether he has a belief as to the law on that issue.
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              MR. CRUWILHER: I do, Your Honor, actually. I
    believe that they can assert the counterclaim defensively as
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    a set off --
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              THE COURT: Okay.
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              MR. CRUWILHER: -- but not offensively for
    affirmative recovery.
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              THE COURT: Okay.
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              MR. CRUWILHER: I do not have a case citation.
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    That's my understanding of the --
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              THE COURT: Okay.
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              MR. CRUWILHER: -- state of the law.
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              THE COURT: Okay. That's fine.
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              MR. ABRAMOWITZ: My understanding is as well that
    it has to do with the extent of offset. I'm not sure that
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    there's an -- right to go above that --
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              THE COURT: And --
              MR. ABRAMOWITZ: -- Your Honor.
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              THE COURT: -- what is the amount of the claim
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   asserted by the debtors in the adversary?
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              MR. CRUWILHER: Approximately $1.2 million, Your
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   Honor.
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              THE COURT: Okay. So if Absecon is right, the
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    500,000 would -- I'm sorry. What'd you say --
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              MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Five --
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              THE COURT: -- your claim was?
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              MR. ABRAMOWITZ: -- million --
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              THE COURT: A million?
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              MR. ABRAMOWITZ: -- dollars. Five million --
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              THE COURT: Five --
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              MR. ABRAMOWITZ: -- would --
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              THE COURT: I'm sorry. Back up. The debtors'
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    claim in the adversary is how much?
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              MR. CRUWILHER: Approximately $1.2 million --
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              THE COURT: 1.2 --
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              MR. CRUWILHER: -- Your Honor.
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              THE COURT: -- million.
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              MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Absecon is --
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              THE COURT: And your --
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             MR. ABRAMOWITZ: -- taking the position that --
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              THE COURT: -- claim is how much? Five hundred --
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             MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Approximately --
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              THE COURT: -- million?
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             MR. ABRAMOWITZ: -- $5 million, Your Honor.
   million-dollar counterclaim.
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             THE COURT: Oh, okay. I was looking at the
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   $500,000 number in your October 15 letter. Oh, okay. I see
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the last sentence says the -- you could have more claims asserted against you and they could total six million. Is that --

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Right. The claim that we -THE COURT: Okay.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: -- have is \$5,400,000, which would be the proof of claim that we're seeking to file.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: If I could just conclude, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Again I think if we look at this in its totality and in the circumstances of the case, there is no plan. We do not see any prejudice to the estate in having an amendment at this point, particularly where this is going to be a liquidation and in all likelihood a pot plan. The case will be litigated ultimately. It's not a situation where because we filed late, suddenly there has to be -- this issue has to be addressed. It was going to be addressed as a part of the adversary proceeding. It's going to be addressed at that point and we believe that under the -- all of the circumstances of the case, we would be entitled at this time to file an out-of-time proof of claim.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Thank you.

MR. CRUWILHER: May it please the court, Curtis 1 Cruwilher from Young, Conaway, Stargatt & Taylor on behalf of the debtors. Your Honor, the motion talks about a 3 starting date of December 18 that counsel became involved in 5 as the motion states. It was engaged in protecting the claim of Absecon and to file a proof of claim for Absecon, and that's where the motion starts from their dates. Your Honor just saw, the same counsel was involved with this matter since October 15 of 2008. And Your Honor read that 9 10 letter and I was going to point out to the court a couple of 11 things about it. One, the October 15 letter indicates that they were going to file a proof of claim. That's what it 12 13 says on October 15. They did not. The letter states that 14 the claim is presently in excess of \$500,000, not 5.4 15 million. Although they project that it might be somewhere at sometime, it's very much bundled up in speculation and 16 17 conjecture. But it says presently in excess of \$500,000. That's a long way from 5.4 million, which is what they seek 18 19 to file after they asserted their counterclaim. The courts in this circuit focus primarily as a starting point on the 20 reason for the delay in filing the claim. In this case, the 21 22 movant has set forth no reason it did not file the claim. The basic tenant of the motion is simply we don't have any 23 24 notes of receiving it. Well, Your Honor, any creditor can

walk in here and say that. We have no record of receiving

Well, what are your procedures? What is your process? 1 What do you do? No evidence of that here. Simply we don't 2 have it. But what you do have here and what Your Honor has before him now is a letter in October saying we have counsel. We know you've asserted a \$1.2 claim against us. We believe we have defenses and we have a claim that's in excess of \$500,000 and we're going to file a proof of claim. They want us to ask what would a diligent party do. would file a claim. They're on specific knowledge of the bankruptcy case. They're on specific and actual knowledge of a claim in excess of \$1.2 million asserted against them and yet this Claimant does nothing. Only after they're sued in December of '08 and only after they filed an answer and counterclaim on January 22 of 2009, one week -- well, five days later they then file the motion to file the late claim. There is no explanation as to what was going on, why no one filed a claim, why no one was remotely diligent about the deadlines from October 15 through to January 27, 2009. There is nothing here. The courts in this circuit also view the bar dates as being strictly construed as an integral part of the process of the bankruptcy case. And that's a very good reason to place great emphasis on a reason for a delay. There simply is no reason here. It's the reason every single creditor would assert in trying to file a late I just didn't receive your notice. Well, the

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affidavit of service shows it was mailed to the direct address for Absecon Mills. That is not disputed either. 3 They just don't have a recollection of getting it. If on December 18, 2008 as set forth in the motion, counsel was 5 charged with protecting its client's claim, Absecon's claim 6 and filing a proof of claim, why wasn't it filed? 7 October 15 of 2008, counsel was retained with respect to the litigation that's threatened against Absecon Mills, indicates they're going to file a claim and yet does 9 10 nothing, that is not acting with diligence. There is no 11 excuse for any neglect that may exist here. That is not a 12 reason for not filing a claim. Threat --

THE COURT: Where was the notice of the bar date mailed to?

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MR. CRUWILHER: I believe our response sets for the website, the address on the website of Absecon Mills. On their website. I don't have the exact address, Your Honor. They do not deny that's their address.

THE COURT: Okay. So the documents can't tell me the address?

MR. CRUWILHER: The affidavit of -- I do not have the affidavit of service with me, Your Honor, because it was not disputed that it was sent to the proper address.

THE COURT: The proper address meaning the address of the Absecon Mills?

1 MR. CRUWILHER: That's correct.

THE COURT: Not to its counsel?

MR. CRUWILHER: That's correct.

THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. CRUWILHER: Counsel had not entered an appearance in the case, had no requested notices under Rule 2002 and was only responding to a demand letter for an accounts receivable claim in defense. Before Your Honor can get to any of the other factors in pioneer, Your Honor first has to find that any neglect in filing the claim is in fact In the view of the debtor, that is impossible in excusable. this case because there has been no demonstration of excusable neglect. The length of the day isn't just 50 It really goes back to October. Why didn't you file it then? No reason. It's not even mentioned in their motion that they had in fact been engaged in October. didn't you file it when you were sued on December 18? The explanation you heard today was that we had to gather information. The former proof of claim, Your Honor, is attached to the motion. It simply is a form which says \$5.4 million and has a one-page description. There's no document. There's no evidence. There's nothing that had to be gathered to assert it. They changed the number from October 15 from the up to six million number, but the reality is there's nothing of substance in the proof of

claim that would necessitate such a delay and there's simply 1 2 no explanation for that. Well, there is one explanation and 3 that's ours. The only reason we're here is because Absecon Mills got sued. Absecon Mills want to defend and it's using 4 5 a counterclaim as leverage. Well, that's wonderful as a litigation strategy, but it is not the way the law is on a 6 7 late-filed proof of claim. The reason must be annunciated and demonstrated and it has not been here, Your Honor. 9 THE COURT: Any response? 10 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Yes, Your Honor. Your Honor, 11 I've just presented my adversary with a copy of the affidavit of mailing to respond to your question. 12 is listed on the mailing and it's listed as a Post Office 13 Box. I can indicate that the facts are the facts. 14 15 client has no recollection of ever receiving the document. 16 I can also --17 THE COURT: Can I see the --18 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Certainly. 19 THE COURT: -- address? 20 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: My thumb is right where Absecon 21 is, Your Honor. 22 THE COURT: Okay. I take it, it was not directed 23 to any particular --24 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: That is correct.

THE COURT: -- individual?

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: That is correct, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. ABRAMOWITZ: I can also advise the court that in connection with the letter, I provided that. I know that it could cut both ways, the October letter, but I would note that we were retained exclusively just to respond to the demand letter that had been sent by the debtor. That being said, our client still took the position and takes the position -- we have examined him and if the court wanted to have an evidentiary hearing on that, I would have no problem with that. But the letter was never directed to anyone, nor do we have any knowledge of its receipt. It is a post office letter. We have a very large firm. I can -- meaning client in Absecon. I can indicate that normally when these situations arise, we would receive or counsel would receive a copy of that claim immediately so that it could be pursued. It was not. Again what we did in terms of the response was it -- respond to the letter or the demand letter that had been made and again looking at the facts, we have no ability to say that it was never sent. indicate that there's no recollection of ever having received it and there would be no reason for them not to acknowledge it unless they were trying to somehow justify that as a basis for not filing a timely claim. submit, Your Honor, that again if we look at the totality of

the facts in this case, it's late. It's 50 days late. I understand that. I can't get around that. It's 50 days after the bar date. As far as the excusable neglect, for whatever reason it was sent to a mailbox of a large company. We've indicated that we did not act on it. The court will have to make a determination of whether that or is not --

THE COURT: Tell me --

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: -- excusable.

THE COURT: -- how big the company is.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Your Honor, I know that I've been to the property. It's multiple acres. I would assume that it probably employs well over -- again I don't know what the economic conditions are today as to what the impact would be. But in the past, I know that it had debt alone of about \$10 million. It had operations where it was about \$25 million or more in sales. So it's a fairly substantial company that deals in this area.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Your Honor, again I think that if you look at the prejudice perspective to the case, we don't see it in a case of this nature where it is a liquidation and where a plan has not even been submitted at this date. Thank you.

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. HORN: Your Honor, may I address the court?

THE COURT: Yes.

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MR. HORN: May it please the court. Your Honor, my name is Eric Horn appearing on behalf of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of the case. I'm with the firm of Lowenstein Sandler. I just want to make a very brief statement for the record in -- with respect to the prejudice aspect here. Absecon's counsel keeps on making reference to the fact that a plan has not been submitted to That is in fact correct. No plan has been submitted. date. But in fact, a plan has been drafted. At least a first draft has been put together by our shop. We have been We have been in discussions previously in working on it. the past with debtors' counsel about what the appropriate exit strategy is here. Parties -- particularly parties on our committee have been monitoring the amount of claims that have been filed in the case with respect to what type of distributions at the end of the day will be made. It's an important element to them. They understand that the bar date has in fact passed. They understand what the scope of claims pool is here. If this claim were to be allowed, you're essentially throwing \$5 million on top of that. the extent there is going to be any distribution in this case, with the \$5 million claim on top of that which was late filed, that has the potential to basically diminish any claims that would be made in this case or making them at

least at a minimum de minimis.

THE COURT: Okay. I assume the proposed plan is a liquidating plan?

MR. HORN: That's our current thinking, Your Honor. Yes.

THE COURT: And what is your current belief as to the amount of the distribution to the unsecured creditors not counting this claim?

MR. HORN: It really depends, Your Honor. There is -- as Your Honor may recall, there is the Afton property which is still out there. To the extent that the Afton property is able to be sold, there would be in our view -- and the debtors can speak to this themselves. But in our view, there may be a distribution to unsecured creditors and I don't have the exact total number in front of me for creditors. Maybe the debtors could comment on that as to what the current pool number is.

THE COURT: Can you give me a ballpark? Are we talking in the typical range of five to ten cents or are we talking about 80 cents?

MR. HORN: I don't -- I certainly -- 80 cents is
-- it's not going to be. But I don't know whether it's
going to be in the five or ten cents at this point.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. HORN: It really depends --

1 THE COURT: Does --2 MR. HORN: -- on --3 THE COURT: -- counsel for the debtor have an 4 understanding? 5 MR. POPPITI: Your Honor, I don't have an 6 understanding as to percentages at this point. I believe and Mr. Horn can correct me if I'm wrong the latest budget 7 attached to the DIP order -- I think it showed over -- we 8 were projecting a return in terms of real dollars somewhere 9 between 300,000 and half a million dollars. So obviously I 10 don't know the percentages breaking that across the claims 11 12 pool at this point. 13 THE COURT: So you don't know the aggregate claims 14 at this point? 15 MR. POPPITI: I don't have that number in front of 16 me, Your Honor. 17 THE COURT: Okay. Okay. Anything --18 MR. HORN: Thank you --19 THE COURT: -- else? 20 MR. HORN: -- Your Honor. 21 MR. CRUWILHER: Your Honor, may I respond to one 22 point that Your Honor raised? 23 THE COURT: Yes. 24 MR. CRUWILHER: Again Curtis Cruwilher from Young Conaway. Your Honor raised the point of was the notice of 25

the bar date directed to a specific individual and I want to
make sure the record is clear that that requirement is in
rule 7004 not applicable to a notice in the bankruptcy case
unless a specific entry of appearance is filed. So it's
sent to a general address of the creditor, an address they
would normally receive their mail which is not disputed is
the correct address in this case. Thank you.

THE COURT: Is that the address and caption that you would use in invoicing this company?

MR. CRUWILHER: I don't know if it's the payment address. Payments are sometimes sent to different lockboxes as opposed to -- because they're not actually managed by the creditors. We hear lots of complaints about notices going to lockboxes and the banks throw them away. That's not the case here. I believe this --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. CRUWILHER: -- address is the one that Absecon advertises on its own website as its address for receipt of mail.

THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to grant the motion. When I originally looked at the pleadings here and I -- when I came out here, I was prepared to deny it for the simple reason that the excusable neglect, you have to have some factual basis explaining why you should be excused such as okay, was the -- was the case in the pioneer decision. But

I think the October 15 letter makes a big difference. Specifically it puts the counsel for the debtor on notice that they do intend to file a proof of claim which will exceed the amount of the claim brought by the debtor in the adversary proceeding. Arguably that letter should have prompted the debtors to put the bar date notice mailing list to include counsel for Absecon. The next point I find persuasive in the letter is that when they say we're going to file a proof of claim and it's going to be more than your claim suggests to me the distinct possibility if not probability that when the proof of claim was received by the company, received by whomever we don't know, it never got to counsel for the company because it certainly seems to me that they put the debtor on notice that we're going to file a proof of claim and I therefore have to believe that they were waiting to get a notice as to the bar date so that they didn't miss filing that proof claim. And that suggests to me that somebody fouled up at the company level in either not directing that bar date notice to the proper officer of the company who therefore did not have an opportunity to direct it to his counsel. So I think this letter makes all the difference in the world. And furthermore as counsel for Absecon points out, this is a liquidation case. like most liquidation cases in the last few years, we're probably looking at five to ten cents distribution and

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there's no plan on the table yet and I just don't think
there's any prejudice to the debtor or the other creditors
other than it can dilute the amount of distribution to the
other creditors and I don't think the case law suggests that
that would be a basis for denying a late claim. So for
those reasons, I'll grant the motion.

MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

MR. CRUWILHER: May it please the court, Curtis
Cruwilher back again, Your Honor. Last two matters on the
agenda are the initial pretrial conferences for two
adversary proceedings, one with Johnston Mills and the other
-- I mean, I'm -- Johnston Textiles and one with Absecon
Mills. We have conferred with counsel for both of those
defenses and have reached an agreed-upon scheduling order.
I would certainly go through that with Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. CRUWILHER: They're pretty much -- there's some slight variations between them based upon the discussions with counsel. But essentially initial disclosures and joinder in Absecon Mills will be by March 19. Discover cutoff will be May 5, 2009 except depositions of witnesses will take place presumably after that up until May 29 of 2009. There's expert discovery processes that commence after that point in time after the fact discovery is closed which will ultimately be closed out from a report

standpoint by July 24 of '09 and the deposition of expert 1 witnesses will be conducted from July 27 to August 14 of 2 3 2009. There's a case dispositive motion deadline of September 4 and then a spot for Your Honor to schedule a 4 pretrial -- file a pretrial conference and a trial date. 5 The trial date in this case would require four days. 7 THE COURT: Four days? 8 MR. CRUWILHER: Four days, although that's certainly possible to be compressed as discovery unfolds. 9 But the projection from the Defendant was they would need to 10 11 reserve four days of the court's time. 12 THE COURT: Okay. Is that four days for each one 13 or for --14 MR. CRUWILHER: No --15 THE COURT: -- both? 16 MR. CRUWILHER: -- Your Honor. Actually Johnston Textiles we've only asked -- we're only asking for two days. 17 18 THE COURT: Okay. 19 MR. CRUWILHER: That's one of the differences in the scheduling orders that are being proposed. I'll run 20 through Johnston Textiles now just so Your Honor knows 21 22 what's being projected. 23 THE COURT: Okay. 24 MR. CRUWILHER: Essentially it's the same type of schedule; March 19 for disclosures, March 26 for any 25

amendments to the pleadings, fact discovery closing on July 2 of 2009. That includes depositions. Expert discovery and reports due through July 31 of 2009 and then depositions of experts from August 1 to August 21. Case dispositive motion deadline the same, September 4, and then a pretrial conference and a trial for Your Honor to enter and this trial has been -- is for two days.

THE COURT: Okay. Let me see. My suggestion is --

MR. CRUWILHER: May I approach, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes. That we have a status conference but not establish a trial date yet because I think that just may be premature. But my experience is if we have a status conference let's say in the middle -- or the end of August, I'm sure we can set a trial within a month. So I don't think we really have to set a trial date at this point. So why don't you revise them simply with respect to paragraph five saying that we'll have as status conference on -- let me pick a date at the end of the month, the end of August. That's fully open. Let's pick Friday -- I'm sorry.

Thursday the 27th at 9:30. So could you -- and strike the provision with respect to the trial date. So if you could simply revise those two documents and send them over.

MR. CRUWILHER: Not a problem, Your Honor. Is that a -- certification of counsel?

1 THE COURT: Yes. Yes. Okay. Anyone else wish to 2 be heard? 3 MR. WAXMAN: Excuse me, Your Honor. Jeff Waxman of Cozen O'Connor on behalf Absecon. I'm not sure if the 4 debtor submitted a form of order for the motion for leave. 5 If not, Your Honor, I'm happy to hand that --6 7 THE COURT: Okay. 8 MR. WAXMAN: -- up to the court. Thank you, Your 9 Honor. 10 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else? 11 MR. POPPITI: No, Your Honor. That concludes --12 THE COURT: Okay. 13 MR. POPPITI: -- agenda. 14 THE COURT: We stand in recess. (Whereupon at 2:38 P.M. the hearing was adjourned) 15 I certify that the foregoing is a correct 16 transcript from the electronic sound recording of the 17 proceedings in the above-entitled matter. 18 19 Digitally signed by Nancy O. Bowders Nancy O. DN: cn=Nancy O. Bowders, o=Diaz Data Services, ou, 20 Bowders email=info@diazdata.com, c=US Date: 2009.03.18 16:16:58 -04'00' Date: March 17, 2009 Nancy O. Bowders 21 Transcriber 22 23

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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT District of Delaware

In Re:

AFY Holding Company 55 VilCom Circle

Suite 300

Chapel Hill, NC 27514 EIN: 04-3483703 Chapter: 11

Case No.: 08-12175-PJW

NOTICE OF FILING OF TRANSCRIPT AND OF DEADLINES RELATED TO RESTRICTION AND REDACTION

A transcript of the proceeding held on 3/5/2009 was filed on 3/19/2009. The following deadlines apply:

The parties have 7 days to file with the court a Notice of Intent to Request Redaction of this transcript. The deadline for filing a request for redaction is 4/9/2009.

If a request for redaction is filed, the redacted transcript is due 4/20/2009.

If no such notice is filed, the transcript may be made available for remote electronic access upon expiration of the restriction period, which is 6/17/2009 unless extended by court order.

To review the transcript for redaction purposes, you may purchase a copy from the transcriber (name, address/contact information) or you may view the document at the clerk?s office public terminal.

Clerk of Court

Date: 3/19/09

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