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SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES No. 142, Original STATE OF FLORIDA, Plaintiff. STATE OF GEORGIA, Defendants. TELEPHONE CONFERENCE before SPECIAL MASTER RALPH I. LANCASTER, held at the law offices of Pierce Atwood, LLP, at Merrill's Wharf, 254 Commercial Street, Portland, Maine, on April 7, 2015, commencing at 10:00 a.m., before Claudette G. Mason, RMR, CRR, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maine. APPEARANCES: ALLEN C. WINSOR, ESQ. OSVALDO VAZQUEZ, ESQ. CHRISTOPHER M. KISE, ESQ. For the State of Florida: CRAIG S. PRIMIS, P.C. BRITT GRANT, ESQ. For the State of Georgia: Also Present: JOSHUA D. DUNLAP, ESO. THE REPORTING GROUP Mason & Lockhart 2 1

Grant, who is also on the line.

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Anyone else on the line who hasn't been identified?

Hearing nothing, I guess the United States is not represented today?

Okay. Well, let's start. The parties -- let me commend the parties on their discovery efforts to date. You have jointly requested an additional 120 days to complete production. The United States indicated it may be unable to complete production in 120 days. But since we don't have a United States representative on this morning, we don't know how long it's going to anticipate to complete production.

If I'm correct, I think the current deadline is July 13. What would the parties propose for a written discovery deadline?

Let's start with Florida.

MR. KISE: Your Honor, our proposal -- and we have conferred with Georgia about this -- would be to extend the existing deadline 120 days from the current deadline.

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?

 $\label{eq:MR.PRIMIS: We are in agreement with --} \\ \text{THE REPORTING GROUP}$

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PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Good morning, counsel. It's Ralph. And I have Josh and Claudette here with me.

Let's begin by asking who else is on the line. Florida?

MR. WINSOR: Good morning, your Honor. This is Allen Winsor, along with Os Vazquez from the Florida Attorney General's Office. And Chris Kise and other members of our outside counsel team are also on the line.

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Will anyone else be speaking for Florida?

MR. WINSOR: Mr. Kise and I will be, your Honor.

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: All right. Then it's not necessary to identify the other members who will be listening.

MR. WINSOR: Yes, sir.

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?

MR. PRIMIS: Good morning, your Honor. That is Craig Primis from Kirkland & Ellis.

I'm on the line. I'll be speaking on behalf of Georgia along with Solicitor General Britt

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we are in agreement with that proposal.

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Did someone just join us?

I thought I heard a sound that indicated someone had joined us.

Well, counsel, you can anticipate that your motion will be granted. We'll get an order out shortly. And I would urge you, as I do every time, to try to complete production in less than the additional 120 days.

Again, I --

MR. WINSOR: Yes, sir.

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Did someone join us?

MR. KISE: Yes, your Honor. It's Chris

Kise. I got cut off right after you asked that question. And I'm not sure if Mr. Winsor answered it, but I'm happy to respond in the event you need additional information.

 $\label{eq:special master lancaster: All right.} Special \ \mbox{Master Lancaster: All right.}$ Thank you.

That, I think, takes care of the discovery question. Let's move on to -THE REPORTING GROUP
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1 of 10 sheets

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- 1 well, let's talk a little bit about
- 2 settlement discussions. And please remember
- 3 that the transcript will be put on our
- 4 website. So if you're concerned about the
- 5 media, be careful what you say. This is a
- 6 personal opinion, but I think the media is
- relentless and ruthless. And so they will do 7
- everything they can to publish everything
- that they can find out. 9

Unless I'm mistaken, both Florida and Georgia have had spokespersons, Mr. Robinson

and Mr. Tupps. Am I correct in identifying 12 13

them?

10 11

Florida? 14

MR. KISE: Your Honor --15

MR. WINSOR: Go ahead. 16

17 MR. KISE: Your Honor, this is Chris

Kise. 18

19 Do you mean spokesperson -- an official spokesperson for the state on behalf of the 20 21 governor?

22 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Yes.

23 MR. KISE: Yes, I believe that's

24 correct, your Honor. There are official

communication individuals that -- that 25

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- deal -- that handle the media requests on an ongoing basis for Florida. 2
- 3 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: And, Georgia?
- 4 Georgia?
- 5 MR. PRIMIS: Yes. Solicitor General
- 6 Grant, do you want to -- I'm sorry, the
- Solicitor General was unable to make the call 7
- today, your Honor, who I understood would be 8
- on and would be addressing these questions.
- I can follow up with her and get you an 10

11 accurate answer.

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Right. I --12

13 I am constantly besieged by the media. And

14 so when I'm told that someone named Brian

15 Robinson is speaking and disclosing things

16 and someone else is disclosing them for

17 Georgia, John Tupps, I think was the name, I

18 would suggest that if you're concerned about

the media and confidentiality, you will be

20 careful what your spokespersons are saying.

21 But let me move on. You have jointly 22 requested a confidentiality order. Are you

23 seeking it for more than the purposes of

24 litigation in Florida versus Georgia, No.

25 142?

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Florida? 1

2 MR. KISE: Your Honor, this is Chris

3 Kise.

4 No. I believe the purpose is for -- for 5 purposes of this litigation to ensure that

the parties have the confidence that their

7 discussions are and will remain confidential

and inadmissible, as we set forth in the

motion. 9

10 We have engaged, as the Court may be aware, in considerable discussion over the 11

years, over the last 20 years. And orders of 12

this nature have, at least in my experience 13

respectfully in the last 10 or 12 and being 14

part of the discussions, been useful in 15

facilitating free exchange of information and 16

17 free flow of points that are necessary to

negotiations in a case that involves a lot 18

19 of, as you can see, documents and scientific

20 data. Having the confidence that what we

21 discuss as specific points are and will

22 remain confidential and inadmissible is

23 really important. So that's why we brought

this -- at least in Florida's view -- and I 24

won't speak for Georgia; but that's certainly THE REPORTING GROUP

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1 why we brought this to the Court's attention and are seeking it. 2

3 There have been similar orders entered 4 in the past in the course of the ongoing

5 litigation.

6 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?

7 MR. PRIMIS: Yes, your Honor. I agree

8 with what Mr. Kise just said -- this is Craig

9 Primis for Georgia.

10 And to specifically answer your 11 question, this proposal relates just to

settlement discussions concerning this case 12

13 and the parties' efforts to resolve No. 142.

14 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Well, you

15 know, I think, by now my position on

16 settlement as opposed to litigation. And I,

17 in passing, will compliment Governor Deal for his efforts. I'm a little more encouraged 18

19 after having read what I read about the Iran

negotiations, because apparently nothing is 20

21 beyond settlement.

But what is -- what do you -- what do 22 23 you do with the Freedom of Access Act laws,

which I assume Georgia and Florida both have? 24 25 Florida?

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Telephone Conference - 4/7/15

MR. WINSOR: Yes, your Honor. This is 1 Allen Winsor. 2

3 Our view is that it's the Court's order that would preclude disclosure notwithstanding that statement. 5

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia? 6 7 MS. GRANT: Your Honor, this is Britt Grant for Georgia. I apologize. I had a 8 technical difficulty getting on. 9 10

But it's also the case for Georgia that the -- our Open Records law creates an exemption where things are kept sealed under a court order.

MR. WINSOR: Mr. Kise, feel free to 14 15 supplement my response.

MR. KISE: Your Honor, Mr. Winsor is 16 17 correct that the court order would govern anything that's discussed or exchanged even. 18

There is a similar exemption in Florida. 19

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Well, fine. 20

You can be sure that I will enter a 21

22 confidentiality order shortly. I have not

23 taken a look at the -- the points that you

24 made; but if you're confident that it would

act as a shield from the Freedom of Access

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laws, that's fine.

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Well, let's move on then to the motion 2

to dismiss. Your excellent briefing is

4 complete. Thank you very much for that.

5 No one -- please don't misunderstand this. No one has requested oral argument, 6

and I'm not suggesting that I need it. But I 7

don't want to foreclose it if either party is 8

9 interested in having oral arguments. So let

me ask the question. 10

11 Florida?

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MR. WINSOR: Your Honor, we are not requesting it; but certainly if you feel like it would be useful, we would make ourselves available.

16 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia? 17 MR. PRIMIS: Yes, your Honor. Chris Primis for Georgia. 18

19 We did not formally request oral argument because that was not part of the 20 21 briefing schedule. We anticipated there

22 would be a discussion in this context as to

23 how we would propose to proceed. We do think

24 that oral argument would be helpful in this

instance. It's our motion, and there are a THE REPORTING GROUP Mason & Lockhart

number of detailed factual points relating to

the Army Corps' involvement and the facts on

the ground that bear on our motion. So we 3

would request oral argument. We do think it

would be helpful to the Court.

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Florida? 6

7 MR. WINSOR: Well, we feel like the

briefing lays it out, the arguments on both 8

sides, and again don't believe it's 9

necessary. But if your Honor is inclined to 10

have it, we will make ourselves available. 11

12 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Well, please, so that there is no misunderstanding, I'm not 13

asking either party to have oral argument; 14

but I'm willing to accede to Georgia's 15

reauest. 16

17 The question then is where do you want it and when? 18

19 Florida -- or Georgia, I guess?

20 MR. PRIMIS: Well, your Honor, obviously

we are flexible and will appear wherever it's 21

22 most convenient for your Honor and for both

23 parties.

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I believe in prior discussions that

Washington, D.C., had been identified as a

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potentially central location that would be

easily accessible for everyone. And we could

certainly make arrangements to host it here

in Washington at a mutually agreeable spot.

We also are available to come to New England

6 at your convenience.

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Well, let me

8 tell you that I think the snow will end here

about July 4. So I would prefer to do it

before then. And we certainly can come to 10

11 Florida. There will be -- I mean, to

Washington. There will be Josh and I and 12

13 Claudette. So it will be a little more

expensive for you; but I'm happy to do that, 14

if that's what you want. 15

Georgia?

17 MR. PRIMIS: I think that makes good sense if Florida is agreeable to coming to 18

19 Washington. I know they have counsel here in

Washington as well as in Florida. 20

And in terms of the date, I think the 22 most efficient thing to do would be for us to consult with Florida, perhaps after this call

within the next day or so, and then propose a 24

mutually agreeable date or dates in the near

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- future to -- and then, your Honor, you could
- pick the one that works best for you.
- 3 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: I would
- suggest it be dates, plural, because I have,
- believe it or not, a couple of other things 5 6 on my calendar.
- 7 So as far as location is concerned, I'll
- make arrangements to use the appellate court 8
- in the federal building down there. So just
- let me know the dates, and we'll go from 10
- 11 there.
- Now, let me ask a question to Florida. 12
- 13 I seem to remember that somewhere along the
- 14 way Florida indicated why it did not name
- 15 Alabama as a party. I know I have a
- 16 transcript of a recording which said that
- 17 Alabama had decided not to try to intervene.
- 18 But am I not correct that at some point
- 19 Florida said something about why it did not
- 20 name Alabama, Florida?
- 21 MR. KISE: Yes, your Honor. That's in
- 22 our complaint that was filed at the outset.
- 23 And essentially we just state that we don't
- 24 seek any relief against Alabama, and that's
- 25 why we did not bring them in at this point.

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SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Well, the

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- 2 review that we have done on the briefs
- 3 submitted on the motion to dismiss sparked a
- 4 little question in my head. Is complete
- 5 relief possible without Alabama in here,
- Florida? 6

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- MR. KISE: This is Mr. Kise. 7
- 8 MR. WINSOR: Go ahead.
- 9 MR. KISE: We certainly think so. Yes,
- your Honor, we're not seeking any relief
- 11 against the State of Alabama; nor do any of
- 12 the specific relief that we would be seeking,
- 13 we don't believe will impact them in a
- material way that would be adverse to their 14
- 15 interests.
- 16 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Well, you may
- 17 not be seeking relief from Alabama, but isn't it possible that Alabama will be affected by
- 19 any decision from the Court?
- MR. KISE: This is Mr. Kise again. 20
- 21 I mean, certainly they would be impacted
- 22 to the extent that additional water would
- 23 flow downstream. But based on the geography
- 24 and hydrology of the region, it's certainly
- Florida's view that that would only inure to

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- their benefit, that additional water moving
- down the Chattahoochee River would only inure
- to their benefit. 3
- 4 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?
- 5 MS. GRANT: Your Honor, as you know, we
- have focused on the importance of the United
- 7 States as a party here. Certainly Alabama's
- interest would be impacted in some way 8
- because they're in the basin, but it's rather 9
- minimal as compared to the interests that the 10
- 11 United States has in this particular area.
- 12 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Well, minimal
- 13 or major, is Alabama a required party that
- must be joined under 19(a)? 14
- 15 Florida?
- 16 I'm sorry. We didn't get that. What
- 17 did you say?
- 18 MS. GRANT: I'm sorry. This is Britt
- 19 Grant.
- 20 I said not in Georgia's view, your
- Honor. 21
- 22 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Florida?
- 23 MR. KISE: Yes, your Honor. This is
- Mr. Kise. 24
- 25 Not in Florida's view either. And it THE REPORTING GROUP

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1 would appear not in Alabama's view, at least

- based on the representations that they made
- 3 to us.
- 4 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Well, let me
- suggest that I would like to have briefing on
- 6 this point because the last thing I want to
- do is to file a report with the Court which 7
- 8 gets slammed back because we didn't address
- 9 this question. So I would like to have
- briefs on the question of whether Alabama is 10
- 11 a required party. And if it is a required
- party, it can be -- whether it can be joined 12
- 13 under 19(a). And if it can't be joined under
- 14 19(a), whether it's an indispensable party 15
 - under 19(b).
- 16 You will get the transcript, so you will 17 understand the questions I'm raising here.
- 18 I'm going to suggest that since both of
- 19 the parties apparently think that this is an
- easy call, that you submit simultaneous 20
- 21 briefs by May 1 and simultaneous response
- 22 briefs by May 15. I know from past
- 23 experience that if those deadlines turn out
- to be too difficult, I'll hear from you. 24
- Any questions on that? 25

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Telephone Conference - 4/7/15 17 1 MR. KISE: No, sir. be at 10 a.m., again, using the same 2 MS. GRANT: No, your Honor. telephone number? MR. PRIMIS: Your Honor, this is Craig 3 3 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Yes. 4 Primis for Georgia. 4 MR. WINSOR: Thank you. Just one question. Would it make sense 5 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Unless I find 5 to suggest arguments after May 15 so that out that the media has gotten the phone this issue will be addressed as well at the 7 7 number, we'll stick with the same phone number. 8 time? 8 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Well, yes, 9 9 MR. WINSOR: Yes, sir. Thank you. sure. We can argue on -- depending upon the 10 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Anything 10 briefs, we can add that to the argument 11 else? 12 schedule so we would be -- we would have both 12 Georgia? 13 the -- both points, sure. 13 MR. PRIMIS: Nothing for Georgia, your 14 MR. PRIMIS: Okay. So we would then Honor. 14 target our discussions for proposed dates 15 15 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Anybody else? maybe in the latter half of May? 16 Thank you all, again, counsel. I 16 17 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: That's fine. 17 appreciate it. I appreciate the hard work MR. PRIMIS: Okay. you're doing. 18 18 MR. KISE: And, your Honor, this is 19 And I certainly don't envy you with the 19 Mr. Kise. 20 volume of documents and other materials that 20 21 If I might, is it the Court's preference vou have got to address. But I think it does 21 or desire to have the State of Alabama submit 22 22 underscore the notion that if this matter can anything with respect to its views? 23 be settled, we'll all be in better shape. 23 24 I mean, certainly Florida would be 24 Thank you and good day. setting out its view as to the lack of 25 MR. WINSOR: Yes, sir. THE REPORTING GROUP THE REPORTING GROUP Mason & Lockhart Mason & Lockhart 18 20 1 necessity of Alabama being joined under the MR. PRIMIS: Thank you. 1 2 rules. But we could not speak for the State MS. GRANT: Thank you, your Honor. 2 3 of Alabama. So just wondering if it's the 3 (The telephone conference was concluded 4 Court's preference to invite them to say 4 at 10:21 a.m.) 5 their views? 5 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: The answer is 6 6 7 7 the more the merrier. I don't have Alabama's ear, so I can't talk to Alabama. But if you 8 8 want to inquire of them as to whether they 9

want to join the party, please be my guest. 10 11 MR. KISE: Thank you, sir. SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: All right. 12 13 All I have left on my agenda is a schedule 14 for upcoming status conferences because, 15 as you know, this is the last one that was **16** scheduled. And I have arbitrarily set them down for May 5, June 9, July 14, all at 18 10 o'clock. And as always, if there is a 19 problem with any of those dates or times, you will let me know; I know. 20 21 And that concludes my agenda, counsel. 22 Is there anything else, Florida? 23 MR. WINSOR: This is Allen Winsor. Just quickly just to confirm this 24 25 conference that you just scheduled, would it

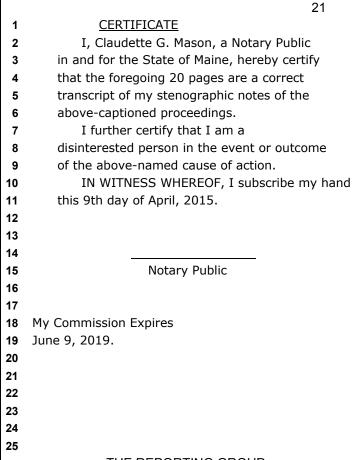
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