```
1
                                                                                With me on the phone is Devora Allon,
                                                                   2
                                                                            also from Kirkland. And I believe that Britt
                                                                    3
                                                                            Grant, the Solicitor General of Georgia, is
                     SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
No. 142, Original
                                                                    4
                                                                            also on the line.
                                                                    5
                                                                                SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Thank you,
            STATE OF FLORIDA.
                                                                    6
                                                                            Mr. Allen.
                       Plaintiff.
                                                                   7
                                                                                United States?
            STATE OF GEORGIA,
                                                                   8
                                                                                MR. GRAY: Good morning, your Honor.
                       Defendants.
                                                                   9
                                                                            This is Michael Gray for the United States.
                   TELEPHONE CONFERENCE before SPECIAL MASTER
                                                                  10
                                                                                SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Good morning,
            RALPH I. LANCASTER, held at the law offices of Pierce
                                                                  11
                                                                            Mr. Gray.
            Atwood, LLP, at Merrill's Wharf, 254 Commercial Street,
                                                                  12
                                                                                First, let me thank you all for
             Portland, Maine, on June 8, 2016, commencing at
            10:00 a.m., before Claudette G. Mason, RMR, CRR, a
                                                                  13
                                                                            accommodating my crazy schedule. I'm sorry.
            Notary Public in and for the State of Maine.
                                                                  14
                                                                            I apologize, but there was no alternative.
            APPEARANCES .
                                                                  15
                                                                                And, Mr. Perry, you should know that at
                                       PHILIP J. PERRY, ESQ.
ABID R. QURESHI, ESQ.
JONATHAN L. WILLIAMS, ESQ.
             For the State of Florida:
                                                                  16
                                                                            the reception at the Court the other night,
                                                                  17
                                                                            Mr. Primis and two others, I think, from the
                                       K. WINN ALLEN, ESQ.
DEVORA W. ALLON, ESQ.
BRITT GRANT, ESQ.
             For the State of Georgia:
                                                                  18
                                                                            Georgia Attorney General's Office, but I
                                                                  19
                                                                            couldn't get their names because of the
             For the U.S.A.:
                                      MICHAEL T. GRAY, ESQ.
                                       JOSHUA D. DUNLAP, ESQ. MARY CLIFFORD
                                                                  20
                                                                            background noise, approached and spoke. But
            Also Present:
                                                                  21
                                                                            if Mr. Primis were here, I'm sure he would
                                                                  22
                                                                            tell you we didn't talk about anything except
                                                                  23
                                                                            the weather. So there is nothing -- but I
                         THE REPORTING GROUP
                          Mason & Lockhart
                                                                  24
                                                                            wanted you to know that contact so that there
                                                                  25
                                                                            could be no question raised.
                                                                                     THE REPORTING GROUP
                                                                                      Mason & Lockhart
                                                         2
 1
                 PROCEEDINGS
                                                                                MR. PERRY: Thank you, your Honor.
                                                                    1
2
              SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Good morning,
                                                                   2
                                                                                SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Thank you all
 3
         counsel.
                                                                    3
                                                                            for your status reports. Have you anything
 4
              MR. PERRY: Good morning, your Honor.
                                                                    4
                                                                            to add to them, Florida?
5
                                                                   5
              MR. ALLEN: Good morning, your Honor.
                                                                                MR. PERRY: Your Honor, if I might for
 6
              SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: We have a
                                                                    6
                                                                            just a moment, I think we have -- and thanks
7
                                                                   7
         full house today. We have Josh Dunlap, our
                                                                            to Mr. Allen and Mr. Primis, worked out
8
         case manager; Mary Clifford, our legal
                                                                   8
                                                                            almost everything; and we're in agreement
9
                                                                   9
                                                                            subject, of course, to your -- your approval
         assistant; and the incomparable Claudette
10
                                                                  10
                                                                            of the schedule.
         Mason, our court reporter. We're all here.
11
                                                                  11
              So let's begin with appearances.
                                                                                But there is one issue where we are not
12
                                                                  12
         Florida?
                                                                            in agreement, and that's as to the use of
13
                                                                  13
              MR. PERRY: Your Honor, Phil Perry for
                                                                            prefiled direct testimony at trial. And I
14
         Florida. And I believe also joining me on
                                                                  14
                                                                            thought I might offer a minute of background
15
         the phone are Abid Qureshi and Jonathan
                                                                  15
                                                                            on that to explain our thinking, if I might.
16
         Williams of the Florida Solicitor General's
                                                                  16
                                                                                SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Well, let
17
         Office.
                                                                  17
                                                                            me -- we'll turn to the scheduling issue.
              SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?
18
                                                                  18
                                                                            I'm talking now just about the status report
19
              MR. ALLEN: Good morning, your Honor.
                                                                  19
                                                                            itself. Have you anything to add to that?
20
         This is Winn Allen on behalf of Georgia.
                                                                  20
                                                                                MR. PERRY: No, your Honor.
21
         Craig Primis is, unfortunately, on an
                                                                  21
                                                                                SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?
22
         airplane this morning. He wanted me to
                                                                  22
                                                                                MR. ALLEN: No, your Honor. We have
23
         apologize to you that he wasn't able to make
                                                                  23
                                                                            nothing to add to the status report.
24
         the call. But I'll be handling today's
                                                                  24
                                                                                SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: All right.
25
         status conference on behalf of Georgia.
                                                                  25
                                                                            Then let's turn to the pretrial and trial
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- 1 scheduling. I appreciate your cooperation in
- 2 preparing a proposed trial plan. The
- 3 proposed schedule is thorough. It's quite
- 4 helpful. But I haven't had time fully to
- 5 digest the submissions, as you can
- 6 appreciate. So today, we're not going to
- 7 reach any final conclusions with regard to
- scheduling. But I do want to -- I will issue
- 9 an Order as soon as I can establishing
- 10 pretrial and trial procedures. But I'm going

to have to take some time to digest and

12 consider your proposals.

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First, I understand that you're not going to be filing any dispositive motions; and that's very helpful. So thank you for that.

Let me also say that, before we turn to the schedule, I intend today to offer some preliminary views. This is just my current thinking, and it's subject to change; but it will be guided -- give you some guidance as to where we're going to go on this.

Now, Mr. Perry, if you want to comment before I do that, you're free to do so.

MR. PERRY: Yes -- yes, your Honor.
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1 testimony subject to live cross-examination

2 by Georgia of those witnesses. We thought

that was a practical solution to address the

amount of time necessary at trial.

5 We won't probably know exactly which of

6 those witnesses could be necessary until we

7 hear Georgia start to put on its case. And

8 we think if we employ prefiled direct for

9 some witnesses, the number of witnesses we

10 have can be confined, trial can be

11 accomplished in four to five weeks.

And I know they have objected to the use

13 of prefiled direct on essentially two

14 grounds. One, that it may not be necessary.

15 Certainly if it's not necessary, they don't

need to cross those witnesses that are

17 presented in that way; and it won't take

18 trial time.

I think they have also objected that it may introduce irrelevant material to trial.

21 And there I would say I think that depends

22 upon what defenses they have and are ready to

23 present. We just don't know that at this

24 point.

25

So, your Honor, we were trying with our THE REPORTING GROUP

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6

Thank you very much.

2 Going back to last fall, it became clear

3 to us from the voluminous discovery that

4 Georgia had propounded that they had a large

5 number of defenses. And our intent in

6 preparing our expert case and, indeed, in

7 preparing our lay witnesses was not only to

8 directly prove our case, but to be prepared

9 to address all of the various defenses that

10 they have identified, essentially allegations

11 that other factors other than their

12 consumption upstream caused our harm.

So we have a large number of experts that we have prepared to testify. A subset of them are, we think, necessary live to prove our case; but there are many that will depend upon what it is that Georgia is

18 actually arguing in their defenses.

And so we thought, looking at this practically and referring back to what Judge

21 Kayatta did in a prior case, that with

22 respect to those witnesses that may not be

3 necessary strictly to prove our case, but

24 were designed to be defensive in nature, that

we would propose to employ prefiled direct

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proposal for prefiled direct to come up with

2 a practical solution to economize the amount

3 of trial days and, yet, to make live

4 witnesses available on the things we're

5 certain we need to present.

6 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Thank you.

Mr. Allen, do you want to respond to

8 that?

7

9 MR. ALLEN: Yes, your Honor, I do.

One is I don't think I agree with

11 Mr. Perry that some of the issues he would

12 describe as defenses are really defenses. I

13 think they're part of Florida's case in chief

14 such as they mean to show that it's Georgia

who is responsible for their alleged harm and

16 not someone else.

17 The other thing I -- the other point I

18 make, your Honor, is that we actually think,

19 pretty strongly believe, that all testimony

20 in this case should be by live testimony.

21 The reason is is we think that's actually the

best way to force the parties to economize

23 their presentation to be as efficient as

24 possible and to kind of cut to the chase on

25 each of their issues.

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1 You know, your Honor has consistently 2 throughout the time we have been together emphasized to the parties a number of times to really try to be efficient and economize their presentation. So far I don't think we have seen that from Florida. We have gotten 20 expert reports, and they noticed upwards of 40 depositions.

9 We think that that's the way to force the parties to economize and to be efficient 10 is to have live, direct testimony with time 12 limits at trial. We think that's the best way to force both sides to really sit down and think, you know, what is it that's 14 critical to my case? What is it that's 15 important? What is it that I really need to 16 17 get in the record, and to focus on that stuff. 18

So, you know, sometimes people think that while written directs can actually be a way to economize, I actually think it's the 22 opposite here. I think if there are written direct examinations, we can be looking at, you know, 5, 10, 15 written directs from Florida that actually focus on issues that

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your Honor.

I think if you -- if you take a look at 2 the witness lists that are in the respective 3

submissions from Monday, you will find that

there are a number of witnesses we have

identified that will be presented through

deposition designations and a number of 7

others that will be presented essentially to

establish what we need to establish under our 9

burden in this case. 10

I think once you sort that out, the 11 number of witnesses identified on both 12 parties' submissions are about the same. I 13 believe that there are 25 for Georgia and, 14 excluding people we expect to use deposition 15 designations for, just over 25 for us. So I 16 17 think we are equivalently economizing, particularly in a way that is aimed towards 18

proving the portion of the case where we bear 19 the burden. 20

And I'm very happy to hear Mr. Allen say that we would have the opportunity to put on some of these witnesses as rebuttal witnesses once we understand what their defenses will be. But I think the better way to do it is THE REPORTING GROUP

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1 are irrelevant or that are marginal to the case. 2

So we think the better way to force the 3 parties to economize is to really put on live 4 testimony with time limits that both sides 5

need to adhere to.

address those matters.

7 The other point I would make is Mr. Perry said that he wants to use written 8 9 directs because he's not sure what Georgia is going to say in its case in chief. And I 10 11 would submit to your Honor that's what 12 rebuttal is for. If there's issues that come 13 up during Georgia's case in chief that Florida would like to respond to, they can 14 15 call rebuttal witnesses live at trial to

So, again, we think that the much more efficient and economical approach here is to actually do live testimony with time limits because it will force the parties to really streamline their presentation.

21 22 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Thank you. 23 Mr. Perry, do you want to say anything in addition to what Mr. Allen just said? 24 25 MR. PERRY: If I might. If I might, THE REPORTING GROUP Mason & Lockhart

1 through prefiled direct. And, in fact, we

think that we can be economical in using

prefiled direct here. I don't think it's 15

witnesses. It's probably fewer.

5 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Thank you,

both. I appreciate those comments. As I 6

7 said, I will try and get out an Order

shortly. 8

9 And let me share with you some

preliminary thoughts. And these are, I want 10

11 to emphasize, only preliminary. I simply

haven't had the time to digest all the 12

13 materials you have submitted, but I think

this may be helpful to you to give you my 14

15 current thinking. 16

On pretrial motions, I'm inclined to 17 permit the parties to provide -- to file

procedural pretrial motions; but you should 18

19 be very sparing in addressing the issues.

20 This is a nonjury trial. I have the

21 responsibility to compile a record for

22 independent review. I do want to have a full

23 evidentiary hearing because, among other

things, I don't want to give you the 24

opportunity to complain to the Court that you

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3 of 10 sheets

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- 1 didn't have an opportunity to present
- something to me because I cut you off. I'm, 2
- 3 therefore, very, very unlikely to preclude
- any testimony prior to trial. If there are
- motions in limine, I'm very likely to reserve
- my rulings until after the trial is complete. 6
- 7 So let's talk about pretrial briefs.
- I'm currently inclined to permit short, 8
- 9 concise pretrial briefs. They probably won't
- be required. But let me just warn you; you 10
- 11 should not expect to have 50 pages -- no way
- should you expect to have 50 pages, as 12
- someone suggested here. If they are filed --13
- if pretrial briefs are filed, you should 14
- focus on legal issues to highlight what will 15
- be important at trial. 16
- 17 Now, you know that I was contacted by
- one group seeking an opportunity to 18
- 19 participate by filing an amicus brief. Let
- me ask -- let me pause and ask; are you aware 20
- 21 of any other entities that you expect will
- 22 ask to participate as amici?
- Florida? 23
- MR. PERRY: Your Honor, I'm not 24
- currently aware of any; but I expect that

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- 14
- once it's clear that somebody has asked to
- participate, others will do so as well. 2
- 3 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?
- MR. ALLEN: I'm in the same boat, your 4
- Honor. I'm not currently aware of any, but I 5
- suspect there will be some once it becomes 6
- 7 clear that amicus briefs are permitted.
- SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Well, you saw 8
- 9 my response to the lawyer who submitted the
- 10 request.
- 11 Let me ask the United States; do you
- 12 intend to ask to participate by submitting 13 briefs or doing anything else, Mr. Gray?
- MR. GRAY: Yes, thank you, your Honor. 14
- 15 I think it will depend on developments
- in the briefs filed by the parties. If we're 16
- 17 looking at short pretrial briefs that address
- legal issues, we'll have to evaluate whether 18
- the legal issues implicate an interest of the 19
- 20 United States that we would want to address.
- 21 And then, you know, again, post-trial I think
- 22 we will be focused more on that.
- 23 At this point, we don't have any plans
- to participate at all during trial; but we
- may, depending on what's raised, seek to file

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- a brief to address those sorts of legal
- 2 issues.
- SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Thank you. 3
- Let me revisit the amici question. Do
- 5 you have any objections to permitting amici
- briefing before or after trial, Florida? 6
- 7 MR. PERRY: No.
 - SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?
- 9 MR. ALLEN: No, your Honor. No
- objection. 10
- 11 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Okay. Thank
- you. 12

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- 13 You both suggested, if my memory is
- correct, that we start on October 31; is that 14
- correct, Florida? 15
 - MR. PERRY: That's correct, your Honor.
- 17 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?
- 18 MR. ALLEN: That's correct, your Honor.
- 19 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: I take it I
- shouldn't draw any inference from the fact 20
- 21 that that happens to be Halloween.
- 22 That was a joke. It's okay to laugh.
- MR. PERRY: My children may object, but 23
- 24 nothing from the State of Florida.
- SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Okay. Well, 25 THE REPORTING GROUP
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- let's talk about the length of trial. If I
 - understand correctly, you're both suggesting
 - it's going to take four to six weeks 3
 - possibly. You have got Georgia proposing 12 4
 - 5 to 15 witnesses.
 - 6 Florida, did you estimate the number of
 - 7 witnesses you think you need to call?
 - MR. PERRY: Your Honor, I think live 8
 - 9 witnesses will depend in part on this
 - 10 prefiled direct point that we just discussed.
 - 11 I would expect if we're permitted prefiled
 - direct, that we would have something like 15 12
 - 13 to 18 live witnesses. You know, if, as
- Mr. Allen suggests, rebuttal witnesses can be 14
- 15 used after they put on their case, that may
- expand that number and expand the time of 16
- 17 trial rather than using prefiled direct.
- 18 And I think a large number of the people
- that we have listed on our submission will be 19
- 20 the subject of deposition designations.
- 21 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: I may have
- 22 missed it, because I only scanned your
- 23 material, but did either of you or both of
- you suggest length for trial days? 24
- 25 Florida?

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- 1 MR. PERRY: We said weeks, your Honor;
- and we were thinking perhaps four trial daysevery week.
- 4 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: And how long
- 5 a trial day do you anticipate?
- 6 MR. PERRY: Well, your Honor, we're
- 7 flexible on that. I think I would just off
- the cuff say 9:00 to 4:00, but we haven't
- 9 conferred with Georgia on that.
- 10 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?
- 11 MR. ALLEN: Yes, your Honor. We haven't
- 12 conferred with Florida on that either. But I
- 13 suspect that those -- those time estimates
- 14 we're probably roughly in agreement with,
- 15 four days a week, 9:00 to 4:00, 9:00 to 5:00,
- 16 with a little time for lunch built in there.
- 17 I think that would be about what we would be
- 18 willing to do.
- 19 We're also happy to discuss more with
- 20 Florida or with your Honor if you have
- 21 different preferences.
- 22 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: And you
- 23 suggest -- you both suggested Washington.
- 24 Let me ask you; we -- last time we went down,
- we were in the Circuit Court. Since this is

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- 1 a trial, do you think you would be better off
- 2 in the District Court, if we could get one,
- 3 Florida?
- 4 MR. PERRY: That might be mildly
- **5** preferable, your Honor.
- 6 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?
- 7 MR. ALLEN: Your Honor, I tend to agree,
- 8 just because I suspect both sides will have
- 9 demonstratives they want to use that I
- 10 suspect the District Court courtrooms are
- 11 probably more easily set up to display things
- 12 like that. So it might be preferable to be
- 13 in the District Court.
- 14 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Okay. Now,
- 15 thinking ahead, four to six weeks, my
- 16 preference will be to ask Claudette to join
- 17 us down there for that period, as she did
- 18 before. Not only is she tremendously
- 19 talented, but she's also thoroughly familiar
- 20 with everything that's been going on. I'm
- 21 just telling you that so that you can
- 22 anticipate the additional expense that would
- 23 be involved.
- I'll encourage you to stipulate to
- 25 exhibits to the extent possible; and I'm

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- 1 going to require -- I know I'm going to
- 2 require you to submit an exhibit list that
- 3 will have all -- and I want to repeat that,
- 4 all proposed exhibits, separate, joint,
- 5 doesn't matter, noting those that have been
- 6 stipulated. Is that understood?
- 7 MR. PERRY: Yes, your Honor.
 - MR. ALLEN: Yes, your Honor.
- 9 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Thank you.
- 10 I'm also going to probably permit
- 11 post-trial briefs in order to summarize the
- 12 most important evidence for me. But that
- 13 post-trial briefing won't be set until at or
- 14 after the trial.
- Let me just say that I'm going to be
- 16 very liberal -- very liberal -- as to the
- 17 basis for submissions of witnesses, the
- 18 number of witnesses, the kinds of documents,
- 19 the schedule, et cetera, so that when it's
- 20 all over, you won't be in a position where
- 21 you can complain that you were denied the
- 22 opportunity to submit a witness or an
- 23 exhibit.
- But let me just add on that score, you
- 25 have all -- you're all, including Mr. Primis,

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- 1 who is absent today, very capable, very
- 2 competent, experienced, national counsel.
- 3 And while I'm going to be as liberal as I
- 4 can, I think you understand that if you
- 5 present 15, 20, 30 experts saying the same
- 6 darned thing, or you present hundreds of
- 7 documents showing the same darned thing, it's
- 8 going to be counterproductive.
- **9** I'm not going to limit you. You can do
- 10 what you want to do. But you have been
- 11 around long enough to know that after a
- while, a judge turns you off if you're in
- 13 that circumstance.
- And, I'm sorry; I'm lecturing a little
- 15 bit here, but I want to make it clear that
- 16 while I'm not going to restrict you, I may
- 17 not be listening as closely as I should after
- 18 the expert has testified and is being
- 19 followed by another dozen.
- I'm sure you understand what I'm saying,
- 21 gentlemen; so we'll leave it at that.
- MR. PERRY: Sure.
 - SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Let me
- 24 finally wind down my side of this with one
- 25 last thing. Again, you won't be surprised to

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