

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

In the Matter of:)	
)	
BP America Production Company,)	Docket No. CWA-08-2014-0037
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

ORDER ON REQUEST FOR STAY OF ALL CASE DEADLINES

On September 30, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“Agency”), Region 8 (“Complainant”), initiated this proceeding by filing a Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (“Complaint”) against BP America Production Company (“Respondent”). The Complaint alleges that Respondent violated Section 301(a) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), and proposes the assessment of a civil administrative penalty in the amount of \$100,000 for the alleged violation. Through counsel, Respondent filed an Answer and Request for Hearing on November 12, 2014.

By Prehearing Order dated December 4, 2014, the undersigned established deadlines for a number of prehearing procedures in this matter, including a prehearing exchange of information by the parties. On January 30, 2015, the parties filed a Joint Notice of Settlement, Request for Stay of All Case Deadlines, and Request for Expedited Ruling (“Joint Request for Stay”). Therein, the parties request a 30-day stay of all case deadlines based upon the representation that they have reached a settlement in principle. They also represent that they will provide notice when their settlement has been finalized.

Upon consideration, the undersigned finds that the requested 30-day stay is reasonable. As noted in the Prehearing Order, Agency policy strongly supports settlement of a proceeding without the necessity of a formal hearing. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(1). Undoubtedly, the interests of the parties and judicial economy are best served by the parties resolving this matter informally and expeditiously. Accordingly, the Joint Request for Stay is hereby **GRANTED**. Once the case is settled, a fully-executed Consent Agreement and Final Order shall be filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, with a copy submitted to the undersigned.

SO ORDERED.

Christine Donelian Coughlin

Christine Donelian Coughlin
Administrative Law Judge

Dated: February 2, 2015
Washington, D.C.

**In the Matter of BP America Production Company, Respondent.
Docket No. CWA-08-2014-0037**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing **Order On Request For Stay Of All Cases Deadlines**, dated February 2, 2015, was sent this day in following manner to the addresses listed below:



Sybil Anderson
Office of Administrative Law Judges
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202)564-6261

Dated: **February 2, 2015**

One Copy by Electronic and Regular Mail to

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