

action is presently scheduled for April 20, 2011, one year following the casualty. Transocean intends to tender other parties pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 14(C). For these reasons, liaison counsel for defendants filed a motion to continue, requesting that the limitation trial be rescheduled to commence in February, 2012, which would allow the court and counsel to put in place a realistic case management order, which is now due to be filed on October 6, 2010. In their Motion to Continue, the defendants notified the Court that liaison counsel for plaintiffs "strenuously object" to the relief requested in the motion.

On October 1, 2010, this Court issued an order setting Defendants' Motion to Continue (Rec. Doc. 454) for expedited hearing on October 5, 2010. The Court ordered that any memoranda in opposition, in addition to the objections previously noted, were to be filed by 5:00 p.m. on October 4, 2010.

While the Court intends to expedite this complex litigation to the extent possible, after reviewing the foregoing, it appears to the Court that the defendants' motion has merit, and that there is good cause to reset the limitation trial date.¹


Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED that Defendants' **Motion to Continue (Rec. Doc. 454)** is hereby **GRANTED**. The Limitation Trial is therefore

¹Although the limitation trial schedule is changed, the Court will consider the feasibility of conducting test or bellwether trials commencing next summer.

CONTINUED from its tentative start date of October/November 2011 to Monday, February 27, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. This trial is anticipated to be a bench trial lasting approximately eight weeks. Only the issues of liability and limitation will be tried, with issues relating to damages to be severed and tried separately. Liaison counsel shall submit a proposed case management order conforming to this new trial schedule.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 6th day of October, 2010.



CARL J. BARBIER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE