

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

ZAMANTHA TAPIA, <i>et al.</i>,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	No. 19-108C
)	(Senior Judge Horn)
THE UNITED STATES,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

DEFENDANT’S UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR ENLARGEMENT OF TIME

Pursuant to Rule 6(b) of the Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims (RCFC), defendant, the United States, respectfully requests that the Court grant defendant an enlargement of time of 45 days, to and including May 9, 2019, to file a response to the complaint. Currently, our response is due March 25, 2019. This is the United States’ first request for an enlargement of time for this purpose. Counsel for plaintiffs, Zamantha Tapia, *et al.*, has indicated that plaintiffs do not oppose this motion.

On January 22, 2019, plaintiffs filed their complaint in this case (ECF No. 1). Counsel for the United States has been working diligently to prepare the Government’s response to the complaint. Additional time is needed to finalize the United States’ response. The requested enlargement will grant the United States time necessary to complete our preliminary investigation of the factual allegations set forth in the complaint and prepare a response. Counsel for the United States has sent to the Department of Veterans Affairs a copy of the complaint with a request for a litigation report, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 520. The agency has begun its investigation into the factual allegations and legal claims advanced by the complaint. Once the information gathering process is complete, the agency will require time to prepare and deliver the requested litigation report. Once the litigation report is received, counsel for the United

States will need sufficient time to review the litigation report, obtain any additional information or clarification from the agency, and prepare and file the Government's response to the complaint, following supervisory review.

For the foregoing reasons, the United States respectfully requests that the Court grant this unopposed motion for a 45-day enlargement of time, to and including May 9, 2019, within which to file a response to the complaint. We also respectfully request that the Court postpone the preliminary status conference currently scheduled for March 25, 2019, until after the United States has filed its response. *See* ECF No. 4.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH H. HUNT
Assistant Attorney General

ROBERT E. KIRSCHMAN, JR.
Director

s/ Martin F. Hockey, Jr.
MARTIN F. HOCKEY, JR.
Deputy Director

s/ Alexis J. Echols
ALEXIS J. ECHOLS
Trial Attorney
United States Department of Justice
Civil Division
Commercial Litigation Branch
P.O. Box 480
Ben Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044
Telephone: (202) 616-0463
Facsimile: (202) 307-2503
E-mail: alexis.j.echols@usdoj.gov

March 25, 2019

Attorneys for Defendant