

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

APOTEX CORP.,
Petitioner,

v.

ALCON RESEARCH, LTD,
Patent Owner.

Cases IPR2013-00428 (Patent 8,268,299 B2)
IPR2013-00429 (Patent 8,323,630 B2)
IPR2013-00430 (Patent 8,388,941 B2) ¹

Before LORA M. GREEN and FRANCISCO C. PRATS,
Administrative Patent Judges.

GREEN, *Administrative Patent Judge.*

ORDER
Conduct of the Proceedings
37 C.F.R. § 42.5

¹ This order addresses the consolidated conference call held on July 10, 2014, for all three cases. We exercise our discretion to issue one order to be filed in each case. The parties, however, are not authorized to use this style heading in subsequent papers.

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A conference call was held on Thursday, July 10, 2014, in the above proceedings between Eldora Ellison, counsel for Petitioner; Adam Perlman, counsel for Patent Owner; and Judges Green and Prats. The parties sought authorization to file a joint motion to terminate the proceedings on the basis that the parties have reached a settlement.

Generally, the Board expects that a proceeding will terminate after the filing of a settlement agreement. *See, e.g.*, Office Patent Trial Practice Guide, 77 Fed. Reg. 48,756, 48,768 (Aug. 14, 2012). The rule governing settlement indicates that any agreement between the parties made in connection with, or in contemplation of, the termination of a proceeding shall be in writing and filed with the Board. 37 C.F.R. § 42.74.

During the conference call, the Board authorized the filing of a joint motion to terminate the proceeding and provided guidance as to the procedure for filing the parties' settlement agreement and having the settlement agreement treated as business confidential information under 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(c). The joint motion must (1) include a brief explanation as to why termination is appropriate; (2) identify all parties in any related litigation involving the patents at issue; (3) identify any related proceedings currently before the Office, and (4) discuss specifically the current status of each such related litigation or proceeding with respect to each party to the litigation or proceeding. The joint motion to terminate must be accompanied by a true copy of the parties' settlement agreement, as required by 35 U.S.C. § 317(b) and 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(b). A redacted version of the settlement agreement will not be accepted as a true copy of the settlement agreement.

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Moreover, the settlement agreement may not be expunged after termination of the proceeding.

With respect to having the settlement agreement treated as business confidential information under 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(c), the parties must file the confidential settlement agreement electronically in the Patent Review Processing System (PRPS) as an exhibit in accordance with the instructions provided on the Board's website (uploading as "Parties and Board Only"). The parties are directed to FAQ G2 on the Board's website at <http://www.uspto.gov/ip/boards/bpai/prps.jsp> for instructions on how to file their settlement agreement as confidential.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the parties are authorized to file a joint motion to terminate this proceeding no later than JULY 18, 2014;

FURTHER ORDERED that the joint motion must be accompanied by a true copy, labeled as an exhibit, of the parties' settlement agreement as required by 35 U.S.C. § 317(b) and 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(b);

FURTHER ORDERED that, for the exhibit that is the settlement agreement filed in this proceeding, the parties may file a separate paper requesting that the settlement agreement be treated as business confidential information as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(c); and

FURTHER ORDERED that any confidential settlement agreement must be filed electronically in PRPS in accordance with the instructions provided on the Board's website (uploading as "Parties and Board Only").

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