

24th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF JEFFERSON
STATE OF LOUISIANA

DIVISION "M"

In Re: Hurricane Ida Claims

FILED: September 18, 2023

Mary Najolia
DEPUTY CLERK

STANDING ORDER

Whereas Division "M" previously participated in the Standing Case Management Order regarding Hurricane Ida Claims (CMO) signed by this Court en banc on December 29, 2021, which set forth a procedure for addressing property damage suits arising from Hurricane Ida. In reviewing cases subject to the CMO, undersigned has become aware of cases under the direction of the Special Master and within the CMO which are in excess of 304 days old.¹ Further, Division M has learned that deadlines which are beyond the CMO have been extended in certain cases.² Accordingly:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that "Hurricane Ida Claims" allotted to Division "M" shall not be subject to the special master provisions of the Standing Case Management Order Regarding Certain Property Damages Suits Arising from Hurricane Ida, but shall proceed before the District Court Judge;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any party to a "Hurricane Ida Claim" who wishes to opt-in to the special master provisions of the Standing Case Management Order Regarding Certain Property Damages Suits Arising from Hurricane Ida, may file with the District Judge either a consent motion to opt-in signed by all counsel, or, if not by consent, a motion to opt-in which shall be set for contradictory hearing and may be granted for good cause shown.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all "Hurricane Ida Claims" which were randomly allotted to Division M which are currently set for mediation with a third-party neutral shall proceed as scheduled. Upon conclusion of mediation, the mediator shall report directly to this Court within five (5) days of the conclusion of the mediation as to the result thereof.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all "Hurricane Ida Claims" which were randomly allotted to Division M which are currently set for mediation with one of the Special Masters as a mediator are hereby STAYED pending further Orders of this Court or reassignment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any fee claimed by the Special Master pursuant to the Hurricane Ida CMO, pertaining to Division M cases, the Special Masters shall submit the application to Division "M."

READ, RENDERED, AND SIGNED at Gretna, Louisiana this 18th day of September, 2023.

Shayna Beavers Morvant
SHAYNA BEEVERS MORVANT

¹ According to information reviewed from the CMO website provided to the Court, the oldest Division "M" case is 255 days. The Division was never contacted by the Special Master assigned to that case nor the parties seeking to extend deadlines beyond those provided for in the CMO.

² Pursuant to the Standing Case Management Order Regarding Hurricane Ida Claims, Section 3(D) The Special Master or his deputy may extend any deadline specified in this Order by up to 15 days. Nonetheless, deadlines exceeding 15 days have been granted by at least one of the Special Masters, resulting in cases greater than 200 days remaining in the CMO.

