

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

COTTON BAYOU MARINA, INC.,	:	
etc., et al.,		
	:	
Plaintiffs,		
	:	
vs.		CA 10-0243-MJ-C
	:	
BP, plc, et al.,		
	:	
Defendants.		

ORDER

This cause is before the Court on the motion for enlargement of time filed by defendants BP America Inc. and BP Products North America Inc. (Doc. 12) and plaintiffs' response in opposition (Doc. 14). Through the motion for enlargement of time, the BP defendants seek a period of time up to and including July 5, 2010 to answer the complaint or otherwise respond (*see* Doc. 12).¹ In addition, defendant Halliburton Energy Services, Inc. has filed a motion for an additional thirty (30) days to respond to the complaint (Doc. 15).²

Although plaintiffs oppose extending the time by which the BP defendants and Halliburton must answer the complaint (Doc. 14; *see also* Doc. 15, at 2), it is clear to the

¹ Presently, the BP defendants must answer the complaint not later than June 3, 2010. (*See* Doc. 11)

² Halliburton's answer also is presently due on June 3, 2010. (*See* Doc. 11)

undersigned that courts often extend additional time to defendants to answer in cases being considered by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation for centralization. *See, e.g., Leavell v. Heartland Payment Systems, Inc.*, 2009 WL 1393306, *1 (S.D. Ill. 2009) (denying motion to stay “all proceedings pending a ruling by the Judicial Panel on MultiDistrict Litigation [] on whether to transfer this action for consolidated discovery proceedings[]” but granting the defendant’s “motion to the extent it seeks an extension of time to file its answer.”);³ *Snyder v. Davol, Inc.*, 2008 WL 113902, *2 n.1 (D. Or. 2008) (“This court has allowed Legacy an extension of time to answer until 20 days after a final ruling on defendants’ motion to stay.”). Accordingly, this Court, in its discretion, hereby **GRANTS** the motions filed by the BP defendants and Halliburton (Docs. 12 & 15) and **ORDERS** the movants to answer the plaintiffs’ complaint, or otherwise respond/move, not later than **July 6, 2010**.

DONE and **ORDERED** this the 20th day of May, 2010.

s/WILLIAM E. CASSADY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

³ In *Leavell*, the defendant was extended an additional ninety (90) days to answer the complaint. *See id.*