Phelps v. Calpine Co	poration et al		Doc. 164
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8	IINITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT	
9	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
10	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
11	OAKLANI	D DIVISION	
12			
13	IN RE CALPINE CORPORATION ERISA		
14	LITIGATION	Master File No. C 03-CV-1685 (SBA)	
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16	THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO: ALL	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>	
17	ACTIONS		
18		Judge: Hon. Saundra B. Armstrong	
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20	ORDER AND FINAL JUDGMENT		
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26	[PROPOSED] ORDER AND FINAL JUDGMENT Master File No. C 03-CV-1685 (SBA)		
	THE THO. C 03-C V-1003 (SDA)		
		Dockets	s.Justia.com

This matter came before the Court for hearing pursuant to the Court's July 17, 2008

Order on the Parties' application for preliminary approval of the settlement set forth in the Class

Action Settlement Agreement (the "Settlement Agreement"), dated March 7, 2008. Due and adequate notice having been given to the Settlement Class as required in the Order, and the Court having considered all papers filed and proceedings conducted herein and otherwise being fully informed in the premises and good cause appearing therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED,

ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that:

- 1. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Action and over all parties to the Action, including all members of the Class.
- 2. The Court certifies this action as a Class Action under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(1), 23(b)(2). The Class is defined as all persons, excluding Defendants, who were participants in or beneficiaries of the Calpine Retirement Savings Plan (the "Plan") at any time between January 5, 2001 through and including November 30, 2005, and whose accounts included investments in Calpine stock or in a fund created to invest in Calpine stock.

 James Phelps (the "Plaintiff" or "Named Plaintiff") is appointed as Class representative, and Schiffrin Barroway Topaz & Kessler, LLP is appointed as Lead Counsel for the Class ("Lead Counsel") pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g).

3. The Court finds:

- (a) The Class is so numerous that it is impractical to bring all Class Members before the Court individually. Internal Revenue Service/Department of Labor Forms 5500 filed by the Plan indicate that there are likely more than 3,000 Settlement Class Members, and for the purposes of the Settlement the Defendants do not dispute this estimate.
 - (b) The Class allegations present common questions of law or fact, including:

¹ Except as otherwise defined herein, all capitalized terms used herein shall have the same meanings as are ascribed to them in the Class Action Settlement Agreement, which has been filed in the Action.

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satisfied that Lead Counsel are qualified, experienced, and prepared to represent the Class to the best of their abilities.

- (e) The Class also satisfies the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1). Named Plaintiff's breach of fiduciary duty claims were brought on behalf of the Plan, creating a risk that failure to certify the Class would leave future plaintiffs without relief. There is also a risk of inconsistent dispositions that might prejudice the Defendants and/or result in contradictory rulings including as to whether various Defendants acted as fiduciaries; whether the Plan's continued investment in Calpine common stock was prudent, and whether certain Defendants' disclosures to Plan participants were appropriate.
- (f) The Class also satisfies the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2). Named Plaintiff's claims are based on allegations that Defendants breached their fiduciary duties owed to the Class as a whole regarding their alleged imprudent investment of Plan assets in Calpine stock, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief appropriate.
- (g) The Court has also considered each of the elements required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g) in order to ensure that Class Counsel, including Lead Class Counsel, will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Class. Lead Class Counsel has done substantial work to identify and investigate potential claims in the Action. Lead Class Counsel have represented that they have investigated the allegations made in the Complaint by interviewing witnesses, reviewing publicly available information, reviewing hundreds of pages of documents and consulting with experts. Class Counsel has experience in handling class actions and claims of the type asserted in this Action. Lead Class Counsel has also demonstrated knowledge of the applicable law. Finally, over the course of over four years, Class Counsel has devoted considerable resources to and has aggressively litigated this case, culminating with an appeal before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals which was pending when the parties reached

settlement. The Court concludes that Class Counsel, including Lead Class Counsel, has fairly and adequately represented the interests of the Settlement Class.

- (h) The Settlement Class has received proper and adequate notice of the Settlement Agreement, the Fairness Hearing, Class Counsel's application for attorneys' fees and expenses and for Named Plaintiff compensation, and the Plan of Allocation, such notice having been given in accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order. Such notice included individual notice to all members of the Settlement Class who could be identified through reasonable efforts, as well as national publication and Internet dedicated website notice, and provided valid, due, and sufficient notice of these proceedings and of the matters set forth therein, and included information regarding the procedure for the making of objections. Such notice fully satisfies the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 and the requirements of due process.
- 4. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e), the Court hereby approves and confirms the Settlement as a fair, reasonable, and adequate settlement and compromise of the claims asserted in the Action.
- The Court hereby approves the Settlement Agreement and orders that the
 Settlement Agreement shall be consummated and implemented in accordance with its terms and conditions.
- 6. The Court finds that the Settlement embodied in the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable and adequate, and more particularly finds:
- (a) The Settlement was negotiated vigorously and at arm's-length by the Named Plaintiff and Class Counsel on behalf of the Settlement Class seeking Plan-wide relief for the Plan;
- (b) This Action settled following four years of aggressive litigation by both Named Plaintiff and Defendants, and included Named Plaintiff's initiation of appellate proceedings before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals challenging this Court's prior dismissals of Named Plaintiff's complaints. In addition, the litigation and settlement were further

complicated by virtue of the commencement of the Calpine Chapter 11 cases which required the active participation by Class Counsel, including Class Bankruptcy Counsel, to protect the interests of the Named Plaintiff and the Class. The Action settled following arm's-length negotiations between counsel who were thoroughly familiar with this litigation with the aid of an experienced mediator. Both Named Plaintiff and Defendants had sufficient information to evaluate the settlement value of the Action.

- If the Settlement had not been achieved, Named Plaintiff and Defendants (c) faced the expense, risk, and uncertainty of extended litigation, beginning with resolution of Named Plaintiff's pending appeal of this Court's March 31, 2005 and December 5, 2005 dismissal Orders, and then prolonged litigation before this Court on the merits if Plaintiff prevailed on appeal. Named Plaintiff contends that his chances of success on appeal and at trial were excellent in view of, inter alia, (i) alleged favorable determinations of legal issues in similar cases, (ii) the expert testimony that Plaintiff expected to offer at trial, (iii) the structure of the Plan and its administration, and (iv) what Named Plaintiff characterizes as favorable documents and testimony that would be offered at trial. Defendants contend that their chances of success on appeal and at trial were excellent in view of, *inter alia*, (i) alleged legal presumptions favoring the offering of company stock in ERISA defined contribution plans, (ii) what Defendants characterize as Plaintiff's high burden of proof at trial, (iii) the expert testimony that Defendants expected to offer at trial; (iv) explanations for the Plan's alleged losses unrelated to actions or inactions of the Plan's fiduciaries, and (v) alleged favorable determinations of legal issues in similar cases. The Court takes no position on the merits of the case, but notes these arguments as evidence in support of the reasonableness of the Settlement.
- (d) The amount of the Settlement \$4,200,000 is fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Settlement amount is within the range of settlement values obtained in similar cases.

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securities, or release, bar, waive, or preclude the Individual Defendants' right with respect to Indemnification Obligations, if any, with respect to such claims. The Debtors reserve their right to object to or to challenge any claim that has been or could be asserted directly or derivatively by any member of the Class or the Plan, or by any Individual Defendants, pursuant to this paragraph on any ground. The releases set forth herein do not include the release of any rights or duties of the Parties arising out of the Settlement Agreement, including the express warranties and covenants contained herein.

- 9. The Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to resolve any disputes or challenges that may arise as to the performance of the Settlement Agreement or any challenges as to the performance, validity, interpretation, administration, enforcement, or enforceability of the Class Notice, this Judgment, or the Settlement Agreement or the termination of the Settlement Agreement. The Court shall also retain exclusive jurisdiction over and rule by separate order with respect to all applications for awards of attorneys' fees and expenses by Class Counsel and compensation to the Named Plaintiff made pursuant to the Settlement Agreement.
- 10. In the event that the Settlement Agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms, this Judgment shall be rendered null and void and shall be vacated nunc pro tunc, and the Action shall proceed as provided in the Settlement Agreement.
- 11. This Judgment shall not be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration of any fault, wrongdoing, breach or liability.

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12. Any court order regarding the Plan of Allocation, the application for a case			
contribution award for Named Plaintiff, or any application for attorneys' fees and expenses shall			
in no way disturb or affect this Judgment and shall be considered separate from this Judgment.			
IT IS SO ORDERED.			
Dated: 10/21/08 Source B Ornshag			
THE HON. SAUNDRA B. ÆMSTRONG UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE			
Submitted by:			
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