

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO  
Magistrate Judge Boyd N. Boland

Civil Action No. 09-cv-02601-PAB-BNB

MICHAEL E. CUMMINGS,

Plaintiff,

v.

AVON WYNFIELD LLC,

Defendant.

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**ORDER**

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This matter arises on the **Motion for Protective Order** [Doc. # 48, filed 5/17/2010] (the “Motion”). The Motion is DENIED and the Stipulated [Proposed] Protective Order [Doc. # 48-1] is REJECTED. The parties are granted leave to submit a revised draft order consistent with the comments contained here.

In Gillard v. Boulder Valley School District, 196 F.R.D. 382 (D. Colo. 2000), I set out certain requirements for the issuance of a blanket protective order such as the one sought here. Among other things, I require that any information designated by a party as confidential must first be reviewed by a lawyer and that the designation as confidential must be “based on a good faith belief that [the information] is confidential or otherwise entitled to protection” under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c)(1)(G). Gillard, 196 F.R.D. at 386. By contrast, the Stipulated [Proposed] Protective Order does not in any manner limit the nature of the materials the parties may designate as confidential, stating instead merely that a party may designate as confidential “documents or categories of documents that the producing party believes in good faith contain

Confidential Information. . . .” Stipulated [Proposed] Protective Order [Doc. # 48-1] at ¶4(b).

In addition, I require that the protective order contain a mechanism by which a party may challenge the designation of information as privileged. The addendum to the Gillard decision is a form of protective order which contains a provision that satisfies this requirement:

A party may object to the designation of particular CONFIDENTIAL information by giving written notice to the party designating the disputed information. The written notice shall identify the information to which the objection is made. If the parties cannot resolve the objection within ten (10) business days after the time the notice is received, it shall be the obligation of the party designating the information as CONFIDENTIAL to file an appropriate motion requesting that the court determine whether the disputed information should be subject to the terms of this Protective Order. If such a motion is timely filed, the disputed information shall be treated as CONFIDENTIAL under the terms of this Protective Order until the Court rules on the motion. If the designating party fails to file such a motion within the prescribed time, the disputed information shall lose its designation as CONFIDENTIAL and shall not thereafter be treated as CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with this Protective Order. In connection with a motion filed under this provision, the party designating the information as CONFIDENTIAL shall bear the burden of establishing that good cause exists for the disputed information to be treated as CONFIDENTIAL.

Id. at 388-89.

The challenge mechanism proposed by the parties in the Stipulated [Proposed] Protective Order contains many additional steps, is complicated, and therefore is inconsistent with the requirements established in Gillard.

IT IS ORDERED that the Motion is DENIED.

Dated May 19, 2010.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Boyd N. Boland  
United States Magistrate Judge