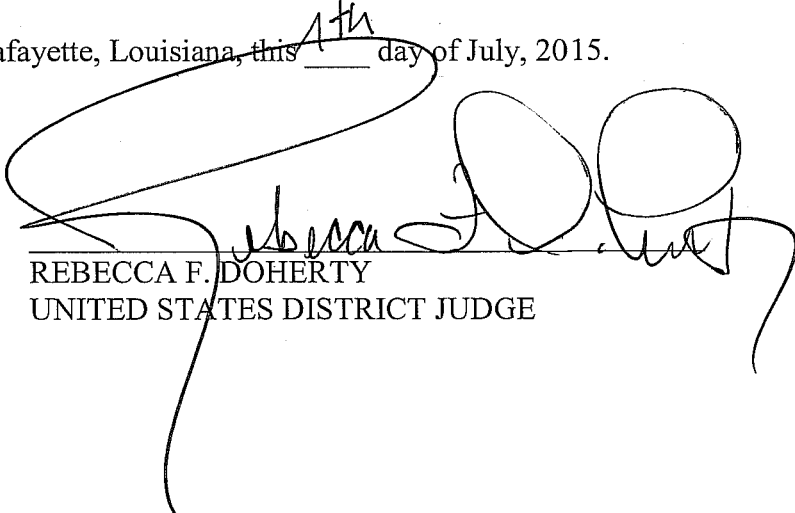


new counsel, in effect arguing excusable neglect. The claims were originally filed with this Court on or before May 1, 2015, and consequently would have been eligible for inclusion in the Census. The motion for leave to register after the deadline was filed within 6 days of the deadline set by this Court. Considering each of these factors, and the lack of opposition by the PSC and Defendants, the Court finds that counsel's failure to register with the Census prior to the deadline does fall within the scope of "excusable neglect" referenced in FED.R.CIV.P. 6(b)(1). The Court notes, however, that excusable neglect is a narrow concept which this Court does not apply lightly, and this determination should not be seen as precedent for any future filings that might come after this ruling.

The Court notes, however, that counsel's motion additionally requests permission to be able to participate in the Settlement Program. This Court does not have authority to grant or deny that permission; participation in the Settlement Program is governed by the terms of the MSA. Therefore, that portion of movant's motion is DENIED.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED counsel's Motion for Leave [Rec. Doc. 5618] is GRANTED IN PART and DENIED IN PART. Counsel's request for leave to register the claim in the captioned case with the Census of Claims is GRANTED. Counsel's request for permission to participate in the Settlement Program is DENIED as outside this Court's purview.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in Lafayette, Louisiana, this ^{1th} day of July, 2015.



REBECCA F. DOHERTY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE