Following discovery management by the magistrate judge, including the approval of a discovery extension, defendant filed a motion for summary judgment, or in the alternative, partial summary judgment, on August 3, 2012, which plaintiffs opposed after the close of discovery by asserting, in part, that certain evidence should be excluded because it was not produced during discovery. On September 21, 2012, plaintiffs filed their omnibus discovery motion in which it sought to compel defendant's responses to various categories of discovery which plaintiffs

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maintain had not been produced. On January 18, 2013, the magistrate judge issued a comprehensive order denying plaintiffs' omnibus discovery motion. Plaintiffs have not appealed the magistrate judge's order, and pending is the magistrate judge's ruling on defendant's affidavit of expenses.

The court believes that, as the evidentiary record in this case has now been clarified by the magistrate judge's order, a settlement conference would be beneficial before the court addresses the summary judgment motion, which was filed and briefed before the issuance of the order.

Accordingly,

THE COURT HEREBY DIRECTS that the magistrate judge conduct a settlement conference in this matter, the schedule and location of which to be determined by the magistrate judge.

THE COURT FURTHER ORDERS that, in the interests of docket management and to preserve the status quo until the settlement conference, defendant's motion for summary judgment or, in the alternative, partial summary judgment (#52) is DENIED without prejudice. Following the outcome of the settlement conference, the court will reinstate defendant's motion, if necessary.

Dated this day of March, 2013.

Lloyd D. George United States District Judge