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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 Indian Harbor Insurance Company,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 Transform LLC, Equilateral Holdings
14 LLC, East AHM LLC, Hansell Mitzel
LLC

15 Defendant.

CASE NO. C09-1120 RSM

ORDER GRANTING IN PART
PLAINTIFFS MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT

16 **I. INTRODUCTION**

17 This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff Indian Harbor Insurance Company's (IH)
18 motion for summary judgment. (Dkt. #20). On August 6, 2009, IH filed a complaint requesting a
19 declaratory judgment that it owes no obligation—neither duty to defend nor duty to pay any
20 judgment—to its insured, defendant Transform LLC. IH moved for summary judgment on
21 February 18, 2010. This Court heard oral argument on July 30, 2010. For the reasons set forth
22 below, the Court GRANTS IN PART and DENIES IN PART Plaintiff's motion.
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1 **II. BACKGROUND**

2 From February 13, 2008, to February 13, 2009, IH insured Transform LLC (doing
3 business as Equilateral Holdings) under a commercial general liability (CGL) policy for damages
4 resulting from bodily injury or property damage. The policy is subject to numerous exclusions,
5 some of which deny coverage for the insured's own product or work, impaired property not
6 physically injured, or recall of defective products.

7 In June 2008, Transform contracted with defendant East AHM LLC and Hansell Mitzel
8 LLC (AHM) to construct 55 modular condominium units (modules) to be incorporated into the
9 Trailhead Condominiums in Cle Elum, Washington. The construction contract included various
10 terms and conditions, a warranty provision, and a contract limitation period for claims or causes
11 of action. The warranty provision guaranteed the modules would be free from defects.

12 Transform promised to “promptly repair or replace, as necessary, any defect in workmanship or
13 materials for which it was responsible.” (Dkt. #20-2 at 87). The parties agreed that this would be
14 the exclusive remedy for any losses or damages AHM incurred. The contract also required any
15 claims or causes of action to be brought by AHM within 18 months of delivery of the goods.

16 AHM purchased and supplied all materials Transform used to build the modules.
17 Delivery of the modules began around September 5, 2008, continuing until October 20, 2008.
18 AHM had constructed the building foundation and underground parking structure by first
19 delivery. Once the modules arrived, they were placed into the existing structure and “knitted”
20 together. Plumbing, heat, water, electrical, etc., were connected between the modules. AHM
21 could not test the modules for deficiencies until the modules were installed and connected.
22 AHM also built lobbies, stair towers, an elevator shaft, and other common areas around the
23 modules. After this and further finishing work (doors, trim, paint, etc.), the units were “energized.”
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1 At this point, AHM alleges it discovered all Transform's modules were defective, with systemic
2 electrical, structural, and plumbing problems.¹ Circuits shorted out and many other problems
3 arose. The existing structure was also damaged by water from leaking pipes.

4 Once AHM discovered the defects, it notified Transform that it would need the modules
5 repaired and replaced according to the terms of the construction contract. AHM states that
6 Transform made an initial evaluation, but eventually notified AHM it would be unable to repair
7 the defects so it was breaching the construction contract warranty provision. AHM was left
8 responsible for fixing the defects and resulting damage. As a result, AHM had to tear out much
9 of the existing structures, finishing work, and modules, damaging its own work in the process.

10 AHM filed a notice of claim under the insurance policy, alleging all Transform's modules
11 were defective and AHM had to rebuild. IH commenced investigation of the claim. Following
12 its investigation, IH made an initial determination of non-coverage based in part on the
13 exclusions of the IH insurance policy. IH explained it would continue to investigate the claim
14 under a full reservation of rights, and requested information from Transform to support finding
15 coverage. Transform did not respond.

16 On August 6, 2009, IH filed a complaint against Transform and AHM with this Court
17 requesting declaratory judgment to determine its legal obligation to Transform. IH has now
18 moved for summary judgment. Transform has not responded to this suit.

21 ¹ The module defects are disputed in the underlying state lawsuit. However, for purposes
22 of this summary judgment motion, we determine a duty to defend based on allegations in the
23 complaint against the insured. *Holland Am. Ins. Co. v. Nat'l Indem. Co.*, 75 Wn.2d 909, 911
24 (1969). "[A]n insurer's duty to defend an action brought against its insured arises when a
complaint against the insured, construed liberally, alleges fact which could, if proven, impose
liability upon the insureds within the policy's coverage." *Unigard Ins. Co. v. Leven*, 97 Wn. App.
417, 425 (1999).

1 On February 24, 2010, AHM filed a complaint in Skagit County Superior Court against
2 Transform. AHM alleges, *inter alia*, that Transform caused property damage to the materials
3 purchased and supplied by AHM, along with delay and property damages arising from the
4 defective modules. AHM claims that Transform breached its promise to repair and replace the
5 defective products promptly. Transform responded to the state suit, and IH is currently
6 defending under a reservation of rights.

7 III. STANDARD OF REVIEW

8 Summary judgment is appropriate where “the pleadings, the discovery and disclosure
9 materials on file, and any affidavits show that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact
10 and that the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” FRCP 56(c); *Anderson v. Liberty*
11 *Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 247 (1986). The Court must draw all reasonable inferences in favor
12 of the non-moving party. *See F.D.I.C. v. O’Melveny & Meyers*, 969 F.2d 744, 747 (9th Cir.
13 1992), *rev’d on other grounds*, 512 U.S. 79 (1994). The moving party has the burden of
14 demonstrating the absence of a genuine issue of material fact for trial. *See Anderson*, 477 U.S. at
15 257.

16 Genuine factual issues are those for which the evidence is such that “a reasonable jury
17 could return a verdict for the non-moving party.” *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 248. Material facts are
18 those which might affect the outcome of the suit under governing law. *Id.* In ruling on summary
19 judgment, a court does not weigh evidence, but “only determine[s] whether there is a genuine
20 issue for trial.” *Crane v. Conoco, Inc.*, 41 F.3d 547, 549 (9th Cir. 1994) (citing *O’Melveny &*
21 *Meyers*, 969 F.2d at 747).

22 IV. ANALYSIS

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1 Under the insurance policy, IH will pay for sums Transform becomes legally obligated to
2 pay as a result of “bodily injury” or “property damage” caused by an “occurrence.” (Dkt. #20-2 at 16).
3 This general policy language is subject to numerous exclusions, four of which are disputed in
4 this case. These four exclusions bar coverage for “Damage to Your Product,” “Damage to Your
5 Work,” “Damage to Impaired Property or Property Not Physically Injured,” and “Recall of Products,
6 Work or Impaired Property.” (Dkt. #20-2 at 20).

7 There are multiple types of damages disputed: repair and replacement of Transform’s
8 defective modules, damage to materials supplied by AHM to Transform for module manufacture,
9 rip and tear damage to AHM’s own sound construction, and delay damages.

10 IH argues it is entitled to summary judgment, because (1) the damages AHM seeks are
11 not recoverable under the construction contract; (2) the damages are not covered or are excluded
12 by the insurance policy; and (3) the state court suit was not commenced within the contract
13 limitation period. Before addressing each of these arguments in turn, the Court addresses
14 whether it should exercise its discretion to decide this declaratory action.

15 **A. Declaratory Judgment Action**

16 Defendant AHM alleges that granting declaratory judgment in favor of IH may prejudice
17 the underlying state lawsuit between AHM and Transform. AHM requests that the Court stay
18 this proceeding.

19 This Court has discretion to declare the rights and other legal relations of a party seeking
20 declaratory judgment in a “case of actual controversy.” Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §
21 2201(a) (1934). Washington courts have consistently allowed insurers to seek declaratory
22 judgment to determine their legal obligations to defend or indemnify their insured when there is
23 a continuing underlying liability action. *Atlantic Cas. Ins. Co. v. Oregon Mut. Ins. Co.*, 137 Wn.
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1 App. 296, 306-07 (2007) (citing *Truck Ins. Exch. v. Vanport Homes, Inc.*, 147 Wn.2d 751, 761
2 (2002)). See also *National Indem. Co. v. Smith-Gandy, Inc.*, 50 Wn.2d 124, 128 (1957).

3 Washington courts have recognized that “courts have the power to determine questions of
4 fact when necessary or incidental to the declaration of legal relations.” *Trinity Universal Ins. Co.*
5 *v. Willrich*, 13 Wn.2d 263, 268 (1942) (citing cases). Insurance policy interpretation is a
6 question of law. *Overton v. Consolidated Ins. Co.*, 145 Wn.2d 417, 424 (2002). Furthermore,
7 IH’s duty to defend is determined by facts alleged in AHM’s complaint against Transform.
8 *Holland Am.*, 75 Wn.2d at 911. The Court does not need to decide any underlying facts, so there
9 is no potential prejudice to Transform. Thus, it is proper for this Court to determine IH’s legal
10 obligation based on its insurance policy.

11 **B. Construction Contract Dispute**

12 The parties dispute the meaning of section 5 of the construction contract between AHM
13 and Transform. Section 5 provides:

14 **Warranty.** Seller warrants that the goods furnished hereunder will be free
15 from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one year from their date
16 of delivery to Buyer . . . Seller agrees to promptly repair or replace, as necessary,
17 any defect in workmanship or materials for which it is responsible. Seller shall
transfer any warranty available and transferable from the original manufacture of
component parts of the goods to the Buyer. **THIS REMEDY IS THE
EXCLUSIVE REMEDY FOR ANY BREACH BY SELLER.**

18 **THE FOREGOING WARRANTY IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER
19 WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED . . . THE BUYER’S EXCLUSIVE
20 REMEDY WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL LOSSES OR DAMAGES
21 RESULTING FROM ANY CAUSE WHATSOEVER SHALL BE REPAIR
22 AND REPLACEMENT AS SPECIFIED ABOVE. IN NO EVENT SHALL
23 THE SELLER BE LIABLE FOR ANY CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OF
24 ANY NATURE, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, DAMAGES FOR
DELAYS, PERSONAL INJURY, OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY,
WHETHER ALLEGED OR RESULTING FROM BREACH OF
WARRANTY OR CONTRACT BY SELLER OR NEGLIGENCE OF
SELLER OR OTHERWISE. (Dkt. #20-2 at 87).**

1 IH contends that the contract's plain language bars recovery for any rip and tear or delay damages
2 because they are "consequential." On the other hand, AHM contends that these damages are
3 recoverable because they arose directly from the defective modules, which Transform failed to
4 "promptly repair and replace." AHM argues that it would be impossible to repair or replace the
5 defective modules without ripping out AHM's own nondefective work.

6 Although the issue of what damages AHM may recover from Transform under the
7 construction contract is the central dispute in the underlying state lawsuit, IH urges this Court to
8 interpret the contract as a question of law. However, Washington courts use the "context rule" as
9 an "analytic framework for interpreting written contract language." *Berg v. Hudesman*, 115 Wn.2d
10 657, 667 (1990). This means Washington courts admit extrinsic evidence to interpret the "entire
11 circumstances under which the contract was made." *Id.* This rule requires viewing a contract as a
12 whole, including "all the circumstances surrounding the making of the contract [and] the
13 subsequent acts and conduct of the parties to the contract." *Id.* Courts may look to the parties'
14 prior course of dealing to interpret a contract's meaning. *Id.* at 668.

15 At oral argument, counsel for AHM warranted that Transform and AHM had a history of
16 prior dealing, and in the past interpreted "repair and replace" to include AHM's work around any of
17 Transform's defective workmanship. Material facts are those that might affect the outcome of the
18 suit under governing law. *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 248. If both Transform and AHM understood
19 the construction contract to include rip and tear damages, this could affect the outcome of the
20 state suit. Because this is a factual issue in the underlying state lawsuit, it would be better and
21 more efficiently decided by the state court. Therefore, the court declines to interpret the
22 construction contract.

23 C. Insurance Policy Dispute

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1 To determine whether disputed damages are covered under a CGL insurance policy, the
2 Court considers (1) whether the alleged damages constitute “property damage,” (2) whether there
3 was an “occurrence” that gave rise to the property damages, and (3) whether the property damages
4 are barred by specific policy exclusions. *Dewitt Const. Inc. v. Charter Oak Fire Ins. Co.*, 307
5 F.3d 1127, 1133 (9th Cir. 2002). The damages disputed in this action are: repair and
6 replacement of Transform’s defective modules, damages to the materials supplied by AHM to
7 Transform, rip and tear damages to AHM’s own construction, and delay damages.

8 Insurance policy interpretation is a question of law. *Overton*, 145 Wn.2d at 424. Courts
9 interpreting contracts like insurance policies first try to determine the parties’ intent. *Greer v.*
10 *Northwestern Nat’l Ins. Co.*, 109 Wn.2d 191, 197 (1987). Clear, unambiguous policy language
11 is interpreted according to its plain meaning and as an average purchaser would understand the
12 policy. *Aetna Cas. & Sur. Co. v. M & S Indus.*, 64 Wn. App. 916, 921 (1992). When
13 determining whether an insurer has a duty to defend or indemnify, the Court looks first to the
14 insurance policy to determine if the alleged damage is “conceivably covered.” *Hayden v. Mutual of*
15 *Enumclaw Ins. Co.*, 141 Wn.2d 55, 64 (2000). If the alleged damage falls within the scope of the
16 coverage, the Court then determines if policy exclusions bar coverage. *Id.* Insurance policy
17 exclusions are strictly construed in favor of finding coverage for the insured. *Id.*; *see also M & S*
18 *Indus.*, 64 Wn. App. at 923.

19 1. General Policy Language: “Property Damage” and “Occurrence”
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1 The Court first determines what damages are covered under the general policy language.
2 In this section, the Court discusses whether AHM's rip and tear damages fall within the general
3 policy language.²

4 The insurance policy stipulates that IH is only responsible for "property damage" caused by
5 an "occurrence." (Dkt. #20-2 at 16). The parties do not dispute that third party damage resulting
6 from an insured's defective product constitutes "property damage" under Washington law. *See*
7 *Baugh Const. Co. v. Mission Ins. Co.*, 836 F.2d 1164, 1167 (9th Cir. 1988); *Dewitt*, 307 F.3d at
8 1134; *M & S Indus.*, 64 Wn. App. at 923.

9 The parties contest whether the damage to AHM's work is an "occurrence" within the terms
10 of the insurance policy. Occurrence is defined in the contract as "an accident, including
11 continuous or repeated exposure to substantially the same harmful conditions." (Dkt. #20-2 at 28).
12 Accident is not defined in the policy. *Black's Law Dictionary* defines "accident" as "[a]n
13 unintended and unforeseen injurious occurrence; something that does not occur in the usual
14 course of events or that could not be reasonably anticipated." 15 (7th ed. 1999).

15 Pure workmanship defects are not considered accidents or "occurrences," since CGL
16 policies are not meant to be performance bonds or product liability insurance. *Mutual of*
17 *Enumclaw Ins. Co. v. Patrick Archer Const., Inc.*, 123 Wn. App. 728, 733 (2004); *see also M &*
18 *S Indus.*, 64 Wn. App. at 922. On the other hand, damages arising from workmanship defects
19 can give rise to an "occurrence." The Court looks to the "kind of losses" resulting from defective
20 construction to determine if the property damage constitutes an "occurrence." *Yakima Cement*
21 *Products Co. v. Great Am. Ins. Co.*, 93 Wn.2d 210, 217 (1980) ("defective manufacture of

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23 ² The Court need not decide whether the other alleged damages are covered by the
24 general policy language because, as discussed below, the Court concludes they are barred by
exclusions. *See infra* Part IV.C.2.

1 concrete panels, [that] necessitate[ed] their removal, refabrication, and repair constitute[d] an
2 ‘accident’ and thus an ‘occurrence’). Washington courts construe ‘accident’ and ‘occurrence’ broadly
3 in favor of finding coverage for the insured. *Yakima Cement*, 93 Wn.2d at 216-17.

4 AHM’s third party property damage resulting from defective workmanship amounts to an
5 ‘occurrence’ under the terms of the policy. *Yakima Cement*, 93 Wn.2d at 217. Contrary to IH’s
6 argument, the existence of an ‘occurrence’ is not determined by whether the action is for breach of
7 contract or negligent manufacture. An ‘occurrence’ under Washington law includes the “deliberate
8 manufacture of a product which inadvertently is mismanufactured.” *Id.* at 215. Likewise, the
9 Ninth Circuit relying on *Yakima Cement* held that a subcontractor’s “unintentional mismanufacture”
10 of concrete piles that caused third party property damage constituted an ‘occurrence’ under a CGL
11 policy. *Dewitt*, 307 F.3d at 1133. Whether there is an ‘occurrence’ depends on whether the
12 mismanufacture was unintentional rather than intentional, not on whether the action is for
13 negligence or breach of contract. *See Mid-Continent Cas. Co v. Titan Const. Corp.*, 281
14 Fed.Appx. 766, 768 (9th Cir. 2008) (finding occurrence in action for breach of a contract
15 warranty provision resulting from negligent mismanufacture). This corresponds to “accident”
16 defined as an “unintended and unforeseen injurious occurrence.” *Black’s Law Dictionary* 15 (7th
17 ed. 1999). Because, as alleged, Transform breached the contract warranty provision by
18 providing inadvertently defective products to AHM, there was an “occurrence.” Thus, AHM’s rip
19 and tear damages fall within the general scope of coverage.

20 2. ‘Your Product’ Exclusion

21 After analyzing the scope of general liability coverage, the Court next considers if
22 coverage is barred by any policy exclusions. *Dewitt*, 307 F.3d at 1133. Exclusions are strictly
23 construed in favor of finding coverage for the insured. *Diamaco*, 97 Wn. App. at 338-44. IH
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1 contends that the damages alleged are barred by Exclusion K, ‘Damage to Your Product,’ which
2 bars coverage for ‘property damage’ to ‘your product’ arising out of it or any part of it.’ (Dkt. #20-2
3 at 19). The policy stipulates that both Transform’s ‘product’ and ‘work’ are the ‘manufacturing of
4 modular built structures.’ *Id.* at 30.

5 The IH insurance policy defines ‘your product’ as ‘any goods or products, other than real
6 property, manufactured, sold, handled, distributed or disposed of by’³ Transform, and includes
7 ‘materials, parts or equipment furnished in connection with such goods or products.’ (Dkt. #20-2
8 at 29). Washington courts have interpreted this broad definition to mean ‘goods which are
9 processed or assembled in the ordinary channels of commerce’ and those ‘in which the insured
10 trades or deals.’ *Patrick Archer*, 123 Wn. App. at 733; *Olympic S.S. Co., Inc. v. Centennial Ins.*
11 *Co.*, 117 Wn.2d 37, 49-50 (1991). Likewise, ‘handled’ under a CGL policy means ‘to buy, sell,
12 distribute, or trade in.’ *Olympic S.S.*, 117 Wn.2d at 50-51 (not ‘handling’ within the terms of the
13 exclusion where a company merely affixed labels to cans).

14 The parties fail to cite any controlling Washington cases where third-party materials
15 supplied to a manufacturer were damaged. However, the Court finds *Peterson v. Dakota*
16 *Molding* persuasive. 738 N.W.2d 501, 507-08 (N.D. 2007). There Peterson supplied all
17 materials but one plastic portion for Dakota Molding to manufacture a funnel. *Id.* Peterson
18 alleged that all these materials were damaged when the funnels turned out to be defective. *Id.*
19 Coverage for this type of damage was barred by the ‘your product’ and ‘your work’ exclusions,
20 because Dakota Molding’s ‘product and work involved not only providing the plastic portion of
21 the funnel, but also the manufacturing of the completed funnel product, and consequently

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23 ³ Contrary to AHM’s contention, the ‘real property’ exclusion of ‘your product’ is not
24 applicable here. As components of a larger structure, Transform’s modules and the materials used
to construct them do not constitute ‘real property.’

1 included any materials, parts or equipment furnished in connection with its goods or products or
2 with its work or operations.” *Id.* at 509.

3 AHM supplied all the materials Transform used to construct the modules. AHM claims
4 these materials were damaged because there were screws in the pipes, and the modules had to be
5 torn out and replaced because they were so defective. Once Transform received the materials
6 and used them to manufacture the modules, they became components of Transform’s “product,”
7 “manufactured, sold, handled, [and] distributed” by Transform. (Dkt. #20-2 at 29); *Peterson*, 738
8 N.W.2d at 507-08; *Patrick Archer*, 123 Wn. App. at 733. Manufacturing modules is the business
9 in which Transform “trades or deals.” *Patrick Archer*, 123 Wn. App. at 733. Furthermore, the
10 materials used to create the modules were “handled” by Transform, because they were used in the
11 distribution and trade of the modules. *Olympic S.S.*, 117 Wn.2d at 51. Thus, both the finished
12 modules and the materials supplied to Transform for manufacture are the “product” of Transform.
13 IH owes no duty to indemnify Transform for damages to these products.

14 In contrast, damage to AHM’s own work falls outside the exclusion because it is not the
15 “product” of Transform. *See M & S Indus.*, 64 Wn. App. at 925-26 (coverage present where
16 “defective product causes damage to another person’s tangible property”); *Dewitt*, 307 F.3d at 1133
17 (“there must be property damage separate from the defective product itself”).⁴

18 3. “Impaired Property” Exclusion

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21 ⁴ The Court declines to reach Exclusion L, “Damage to Your Work,” for two reasons. First,
22 since Transform’s “product” and “work” are the same, the “your work” exclusion (if applicable) would
23 bar coverage for Transform’s modules and materials supplied to Transform. These are already
24 barred under the “your product” exclusion. Second, there is a dispute whether Transform used
subcontractors to perform its contract obligations, which would make the exclusion inapplicable.
The Court cannot determine as a matter of law whether subcontractors were used or not, so it
further declines to reach Exclusion L.

1 The parties dispute whether Exclusion M, “Damage to Impaired Property or Property Not
2 Physically Injured,” bars coverage for AHM’s damages. The exclusion and definition are:

3 “Property damage” to “impaired property” or property that has not been physically
4 injured, arising out of:

- 5 (1) A defect, deficiency, inadequacy or dangerous condition in “your product” or
6 “your work”; or
7 (2) A delay or failure by you or anyone acting on your behalf to perform a
8 contract or agreement in accordance with its terms.

9 Impaired property means tangible property, other than “your product” or “your work”,
10 that cannot be used or is less useful because:

- 11 a. It incorporates “your product” or “your work” that is known to be defective,
12 deficient, inadequate or dangerous; or
13 b. You have failed to fulfill the terms of a contract or agreement;
14 if such property can be restored to use by:
15 a. The repair, replacement, adjustment or removal of “your product” or “your work”;
16 or
17 b. Your fulfilling the terms of the contract or agreement. (Dkt. #20-2 at 20, 27).

18 IH argues that this exclusion “bar[s] coverage for ‘loss of use’ claims (1) when the loss was caused
19 by the insured’s poor workmanship or faulty materials; and (2) when there has been no physical
20 injury to property other than the insured’s work itself.” (Dkt # 20-1 at 20, citing *Transcontinental*
21 *Ins. Co. v. Ice Sys. of Am., Inc.*, 847 F. Supp. 947, 950 (M.D. Fla. 1994); *Kvaerner Metals Div. v.*
22 *Commercial Union Ins. Co.*, 825 A.2d 641, 655 (Pa. Super. Ct., 2003).

23 Washington courts interpret “impaired property” exclusions like the one at issue here to bar
24 coverage for economic or “loss of use” claims. *Hayden*, 141 Wn.2d at 65-66; *Vanport Homes*, 147
Wn.2d at 762. Impaired property exclusions do not apply when there is physical injury to
tangible property. *Vanport Homes*, 147 Wn.2d at 762. (“impaired property” exclusion did not bar
coverage since there was potential physical damage to customers’ property resulting from
insured’s faulty construction of new homes); *see also Hayden*, 141 Wn.2d at 65-66 (interpreting a
“loss of use” exclusion to apply only to tangible property not physically injured).

1 While the exclusion bars coverage for loss of use, AHM's rip and tear damages caused
2 physical injury to tangible property. Third party property damage that arises from a defective
3 product can amount to physical injury to tangible property. *Dewitt*, 307 F.3d at 1134 (finding that
4 when another subcontractor's work had to be removed and destroyed because it was damaged by
5 defective installation of concrete piles, it constituted physical injury to tangible property). AHM's
6 work product was "doomed" from the moment it was built around the defective modules. *Baugh*,
7 836 F.2d at 1170. Since physical damage to AHM's work resulted from Transform's faulty
8 workmanship, the exclusion is not applicable. *Hayden*, 141 Wn.2d at 65-66; *Vanport Homes*, 147
9 Wn.2d at 762.

10 The Court is not persuaded by IH's argument that it was denied an opportunity to
11 investigate the claimed damages, so that it was unable to develop a full defense under the
12 "impaired property" exclusion. IH contends that, as a result, it was unable to determine if the
13 property could be restored to use by Transform fulfilling the terms of the contract. This
14 argument is only relevant if the "impaired property" exclusion applies to the rip and tear damages,
15 which it does not. *See Vanport Homes*, 147 Wn.2d at 762; *Hayden*, 141 Wn.2d at 65-66.

16 4. 'Recall of Products' Exclusion

17 IH contends that coverage is barred under Exclusion N, "Recall Of Products, Work Or
18 Impaired Property," which excludes damages resulting from loss of use, repair, replacement,
19 removal, etc., "if such product, work, or property is withdrawn or recalled from the market or
20 from use . . . because of a known or suspected defect." (Dkt. #20-2 at 10). Since exclusionary
21 clauses are strictly construed in favor of finding coverage, Washington courts do not consider
22 "recall" exclusions to bar coverage for third party damage when products are not recalled or
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1 withdrawn from the market. *Yakima Cement*, 22 Wn. App. at 542-44. There is no contention that
2 the condos were recalled from the market, so the exclusion does not bar coverage. *Id.*⁵

3 **D. Contract Limitation Period Dispute**

4 Indian Harbor alleges that AHM's state complaint is barred by the contract limitation
5 period. The construction contract between AHM and Transform specifies:

6 **Limitation Period.** Any claim or cause of action by Buyer against Seller . . . must
7 be commenced in a court of competent jurisdiction *within 18 months of the date of*
8 *delivery by Seller to Buyer of the goods* which are the subject of the claim or
cause of action. Any unresolved claim or cause of action which is not timely
commenced is waived and released by Buyer. (Dkt. #20-2 at 88, italics added).

9 Tolling commenced at earliest September 5, 2008, when delivery of the goods (modules) began.
10 AHM filed the state suit against Transform on February 24, 2010, within 18 months of
11 September 5, 2008. AHM achieved service of process on Transform within 90 days of filing the
12 complaint. *See* RCW 4.16.170. Accordingly, the state suit was timely commenced. *Id.*

13 **CONCLUSION**

14 Having reviewed the relevant pleadings, the declarations and exhibits attached thereto,
15 and the remainder of the record, the Court hereby finds and ORDERS:

16 (1) IH's motion for summary judgment (Dkt. #20) is GRANTED IN PART and DENIED
17 IN PART. As a matter of law, damage to Transform's finished modules and AHM's materials
18 provided to transform are not covered by the policy. On the other hand, taking the facts in the
19 light most favorable to AHM, the Court cannot say as a matter of law that IH is not legally
20 obligated to indemnify its insured for rip and tear damages and delay damages.

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22 ⁵ The parties do not address whether delay damages are covered or barred under the IH
23 insurance policy. They instead dispute whether delay damages are recoverable based on the
24 construction contract language, which the Court declines to interpret. *See supra* Part IV.B. As a
result, the Court cannot say as a matter of law that IH is not legally obligated to indemnify its
insured for delay damages.

1 (2) The Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this order to all counsel of record.
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4 Dated September 8, 2010.
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8 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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