

CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

CHOCTAW NATION, )  
Appellant, )  
vs. ) Docket Nos. IBCA 4847-4855/2006  
MICHAEL O. LEAVITT, SECRETARY, ) ISDA Compact No. 60G950037  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ) (eff. Oct. 1, 1996 to the present)  
HUMAN SERVICES; CHARLES GRIM, )  
DIRECTOR, INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE;) )  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
Appellees. )

**PARTIES' JOINT MOTION TO SUSPEND PROCEEDINGS**

Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure Before the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals, Rule 127, Appellant, Choctaw Nation, and Appellees, Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Charles Grim, Director, Indian Health Service; and the United States of America, by their undersigned counsel, move to suspend all proceedings in this appeal.

In support of this motion, the parties show as follows:

1. In this appeal, Appellant asserted that Appellee is liable for money damages due to non-payment of certain "contract support costs" for contracts entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 U.S.C §450 *et seq.*, between Appellant and Appellee. In its Answer, Appellee contends that several of Appellant's claims are barred by laches or the six-year presentment period set forth in 41 U.S.C. §605(a).

2. Similar legal issues are a part of several other appeals pending before the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals (CBCA), including *Arctic Slope Native Association, Ltd v. Leavitt, et al*, IBCA Nos. 4794-2006 through 4803-2006, and *Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians v. IHS*, IBCA Nos. 4724-2005 through 4727-2005. The parties in

the *ASNA* and *Coos* appeals are scheduled to conclude briefing within the upcoming weeks, and oral arguments are scheduled for February 28, 2007 and March 15, 2007, respectively. The parties expect that a decision will be issued by the CBCA shortly thereafter. The dispositions of these motions will in all likelihood assist the parties in evaluating how they wish to proceed with this appeal.

3. Given the pendency of the motions to dismiss filed by the Appellee in the above-referenced cases, among other things, the parties agree that the most efficient course of action is to suspend this appeal until March 30, 2007, reserving to either party the right to request that the suspension be lifted prior thereto for good cause shown.

4. In addition, the parties agree that this Motion to Suspend Proceedings does not prejudice either party to file dispositive motions under Rule 108(b) in the future. Furthermore, the parties agree that Appellee can supplement its Appeal File during the pendency of this suspension without causing the suspension to be lifted.

For the foregoing reasons, the parties respectfully request that this Motion to Suspend Proceedings be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 26, 2007

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Appellees. )

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO SUSPEND PROCEEDINGS**

The parties' Motion to Suspend Proceedings is hereby GRANTED. The appeal is suspended until March 30, 2007, and either party may move that the suspension be lifted prior thereto for good cause shown.

In addition, this suspension does not prejudice either party to file dispositive motions under Rule 108(b) in the future, and Appellee may supplement its Appeal File during the pendency of this suspension without causing the suspension to be lifted.

SO ORDERED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candida Steel  
Administrative Judge