United States District Court
Southern District of Texas
ENTERED

JUN 12 2001

Michael N. Milby, Clerk
By Deputy:

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

IN THE MATTER OF
EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES
RELATED TO
TROPICAL STORM ALLISON

GENERAL ORDER 2001-3

GENERAL ORDER CONTINUING DEADLINES IN HOUSTON DIVISION

The Court is aware of the devastation caused in the Houston division by tropical storm Allison. The electronic media (radio and television stations) have run announcements that the Mayor of Houston requested citizens to avoid downtown on June 11 and the electronic media have run announcements that the Houston federal building would be closed on Monday, June 11, 2001. **Therefore, for purposes of Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 9006(a), the Court finds that the Clerk's office was inaccessible on June 11, 2001.**

The Court is also aware that the flooding caused by tropical storm Allison and the resultant loss of electrical power has denied some attorneys access to their offices, files, and data. The Court is informed that in many office buildings the damages and flooding will prevent access to office space for several days.

Because bankruptcy cases involve short deadlines and frequent disposition of contested matters without hearings if a party does not respond timely and request a hearing, the inability to access offices, files, and data increases the potential for adverse disposition of a matter despite an attorney's best efforts. The Court is also aware that even though an attorney's office might be open, the storm might prevent key employees from attending to the firm's business and might prevent essential collaboration between counsel and third parties (such as witnesses, consultants, and experts).

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED THAT

1. This order shall apply only in the Houston Divison.
2. To the extent that the Court has the authority to extend deadlines under FRBP 9006(b), the Court hereby extends to **June 18, 2001**, the deadline for filing any motion, response, answer, memorandum, or other pleading if that deadline would have expired between June 11, 2001, and June 15, 2001 (inclusive). This extension is not intended to apply to deadlines that the Court has no authority to extend by this order (FRBP 9006(b)(2), (3).)
3. Any extensions beyond June 18, 2001, should be requested in specific cases. Parties are reminded that the Court has limited or no authority to extend deadlines in some matters and are further reminded that motions for extension must be filed prior to the deadline in some matters.

4. Parties and counsel are expected to appear at scheduled hearings on June 12, 2001, and thereafter. If counsel or parties are prevented from attendance by storm-related circumstances beyond their control, they must file (and serve as appropriate) motions for continuance **at the earliest possible opportunity.**

5. The judges of this Court may, as circumstances in individual cases warrant, make exceptions from, extensions of, or other modifications of this order.

Done at Houston, Texas this 12 day of June, 2001.

Honorable Manuel D. Leal

Honorable Karen K. Brown

Honorable Letitia Z. Clark

Honorable Wesley W. Steen

Honorable William Greendyke