

Howard Ehram

From: Howard Ehram [howard@chinesedrywallscreening.com]
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2009 7:58 AM
To: Howard Ehram
Subject: Chinese Drywall - General Legal Update

The following information is paraphrased from information received from Ervin Gonzalez of Colson Hicks Eidson (www.colson.com):

Cases have been consolidated in the Eastern District of Louisiana, Judge Fallon has the cases. He wants to fast track the property damage cases and wants the first case tried in six months. The Judge wants to try 5 cases to get a sense for the issues and damages. He thinks that may result in early settlements. He is going to create a master pleading plan so that the attorneys do not have to serve the Defendants in every case. They will be able to adopt the master pleadings which will be a big cost savings. CPSC has been working with the Chinese government.

Health effects are still believed to be temporary.

A memo was found to prove that Knauf knew about the problems in 2006 yet kept selling the defective drywall with impunity. Damages are estimated to be in excess of \$2.5 billion. Ervin and others are working with several political types to continue the pressure on the Chinese government to be responsible and accountable.

Palm Beach courts do not intend to consolidate their cases. Broward has consolidated their cases before Judge Weinstein. Miami-Dade is creating a mini MDL (multi district litigation) system with the cases consolidated for discovery and pleadings but then going back to the initial Judge for trial.

The cases are moving and the insurance fight is just beginning. The end game is to get the clients paid for their damages from any and all available sources.

I continue to add contacts to my newsletter group, if you would not like to receive future updates please let me know and I will remove you. If you were forwarded this e-mail and want to be added to the list, send me an e-mail with "add me to CDS Newsletter group" in the subject line.

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