

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
WESTERN DIVISION

IN RE: IOWA READY-MIX CONCRETE
ANTITRUST LITIGATION

No. 5:10-CV-04038-MWB
(CONSOLIDATED CASES)

**ORDER PRELIMINARILY APPROVING SETTLEMENT,
CERTIFYING ALLIANCE/GREAT LAKES SETTLEMENT
CLASS, AND DIRECTING NOTICE**

Plaintiff Brown Commercial Construction, Inc. (“Plaintiff”) by Co-Lead Counsel, and Defendants Great Lakes Concrete, Inc. (“Great Lakes”), Kent Robert Stewart (“Stewart”) GCC Alliance Concrete, Inc. (“GCC Alliance”), Steven Keith VandeBrake (“VandeBrake”), and VS Holding Company, f/k/a Alliance Concrete, Inc. (“VS Holding”) (collectively, “Alliance/Great Lakes Class Settling Defendants”) by counsel, have submitted the “Settlement Agreement with Great Lakes Concrete, Inc., Kent Robert Stewart, GCC Alliance Concrete, Inc., Steven Keith VandeBrake, and VS Holding Company, f/k/a Alliance Concrete, Inc.” dated as of July 8, 2011 (“Settlement”), and have applied, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (“Rule 23”), for an order: (1) certifying a Settlement Class; (2) preliminarily approving the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate; (3) approving forms and a program for notice to the Settlement Class; and (4) scheduling a hearing to consider final approval of the Settlement. The Court has given due consideration to the terms of the Settlement, the Exhibits to the Settlement, the submissions of the parties in support of preliminary approval of the Settlement, and the record of proceedings herein, and now finds that the proposed Settlement should be preliminarily approved pending notice to Class Members and a final hearing on whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate to the Class.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Terms capitalized herein and not otherwise defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Settlement Agreement with Great Lakes Concrete, Inc., Kent Robert Stewart, GCC Alliance Concrete, Inc., Steven Keith VandeBrake, and VS Holding Company, f/k/a Alliance Concrete, Inc.

2. This Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this Action and jurisdiction of the Plaintiffs and Defendants in the above-captioned case (the “Parties”).

3. This action may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23 for settlement purposes as to the Alliance/Great Lakes Class Settling Defendants on behalf of the following class (the “Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class”):

All persons or entities who purchased Ready-Mix Concrete from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2009 directly from the Hartley, Lake Park, Sanborn, Sibley, and Spencer plants that Alliance Concrete owned before January 14, 2008 and that GCC Alliance has owned since that date, and the Great Lakes Ocheyden, Milford, Spencer, or Spirit Lake plants, but excluding federal government entities, Defendants named in the Second Amended Consolidated Class Action Complaint and their co-conspirators and respective predecessors, parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates.

4. The Court finds for purposes of settlement that the prerequisites to class certification under Rule 23(a) are satisfied, including:

a. The proposed Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable;

b. There are questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff and members of the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class, including whether Great Lakes and Alliance Concrete, and Great Lakes and GCC Alliance, participated in an unlawful conspiracy to raise, fix, maintain, or stabilize the price of Ready-Mix Concrete in the Northwest Iowa Area at artificially high levels, in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, and whether members of the proposed Settlement Class were injured by the conspiracy;

c. The claims of the Plaintiff are based on the same legal theory and are typical of the claims of the members of the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class; and

d. The Plaintiff is represented by counsel who are experienced in complex litigation, have no interests in conflict with the interests of members of the proposed Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class, have displayed their commitment to representing the interests of members of the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class, during the course of litigation to date, and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class.

5. The Court finds for purposes of settlement that the prerequisites to class certification under Rule 23(b)(3) are satisfied because questions of law and fact common to all members of the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class predominate over questions affecting only individual members of that Class, and certification of the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class is superior to other available methods for fair and efficient resolution of this controversy.

6. The Court appoints Plaintiff Brown Commercial Construction, Inc. as Settlement Class Representative. The Court further appoints Interim Co-Lead Counsel, Irwin B. Levin of Cohen & Malad, LLP, and Gregory P. Hansel of Preti Flaherty Beliveau & Pachios LLP as Settlement Class Counsel.

7. The Court finds that the terms of the Settlement in accordance with and as set forth in the Settlement Agreement are well within the range of a fair, reasonable and adequate settlement between the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class and the Alliance/Great Lakes Class Settling Defendants under the circumstances of this case. The Court therefore preliminarily approves the Settlement and directs the parties to the Settlement to perform and satisfy the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement that are triggered by such preliminary approval.

8. The proposed Notice of Class Action Settlement and Hearing in the forms attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit “A” (for mailed notice) and Exhibit “B” (for publication notice), and the manner of mailing and distribution of such Notice, as set forth in Paragraph 10 below, are hereby approved by this Court as the best notice practicable to the Settlement Class. The form and manner of notice proposed in the Settlement comply with Rules 23(c) and (e) and the requirements of due process.

9. Pursuant to Rule 23(e), a final fairness hearing (the “Fairness Hearing”) shall be held before the undersigned at _____ o’clock, on _____, at the United States Courthouse, 320 Sixth Street, Sioux City, Iowa, for the purpose of: (a) determining whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate and should be finally approved; (b) determining whether an order and judgment should be entered dismissing the claims of the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class members against the Alliance/Great Lakes Class Settling Defendants; and (c) considering Class Counsel’s application for an incentive award for Plaintiff and an award of Settlement-related attorneys’ fees, costs and expenses pursuant to Rule 23(h). The Court may adjourn, continue, and reconvene the Fairness Hearing pursuant to oral announcement without further notice to the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class, and the Court may consider and grant final approval of the Settlement, with or without minor modification and without further notice to the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class.

10. In accordance with the Settlement, Class Counsel shall: (a) mail or cause to be mailed to each Class member for whom an address is available, as soon as practicable but no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, a copy of the Mailed Notice in the form attached to the Settlement as Exhibit “A”; and (b) cause the Published Notice, attached to the Settlement as Exhibit “B,” to be published in two issues of the *Sioux City Journal* and any other

newspapers recommended by the notice and claims administrator no later than forty-five (45) days from the date of this Order.

11. Class members shall be afforded an opportunity to request exclusion from the Class. A request for exclusion from the Class must: (i) state that the Class member intends to “opt-out” or request “exclusion” from the Settlement Class; (ii) contain the full name and current address of the person or entity requesting exclusion; (iii) contain the title and a statement of authority of any person requesting exclusion from the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class on behalf of an entity other than an individual; (iv) contain the title of the Lawsuit: “In re: Iowa Ready-Mix Concrete Antitrust Litigation;” (v) be signed by the person or on behalf of the entity requesting exclusion; and (vi) be sent to Settlement Class Counsel by U.S. mail, first class and postage prepaid, with a postmark on or before a date certain to be agreed by Plaintiff and the Alliance/Great Lakes Class Settling Defendants but no less than thirty (30) days after the date that Mailed Notice is issued (the “Exclusion Deadline”). Members of the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class who submit a timely and valid request for exclusion shall not participate in and shall not be bound by the Settlement. Members of the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class who do not timely and validly opt out of the Settlement Class in accordance with the Notice shall be bound by all determinations and judgments in the action concerning the Settlement, whether favorable or unfavorable.

12. Class members who have not excluded themselves shall be afforded an opportunity to object to the terms of the Settlement. Any objection must: (i) contain the full name and current address of the person objecting; (ii) contain the title and a statement of authority of any person objecting on behalf of an entity other than an individual; (iii) contain the title of the Lawsuit: “In re: Iowa Ready-Mix Concrete Antitrust Litigation;” (iv) state the

reasons for the Class member's objection; (v) be accompanied by any evidence, briefs, motions or other materials the Class member intends to offer in support of the objection; (vi) be signed by or on behalf of the Class member; and (vii) be sent to the parties and the Court by U.S. mail, first class and postage prepaid, with a postmark on or before a date certain to be agreed by Plaintiffs and the Alliance/Great Lakes Class Settling Defendants but no less than thirty (30) days after the date that Mailed Notice is issued (the "Objection Deadline").

13. Any member of the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class who does not make his, her, or its objection known in the manner provided in the Settlement and Notices shall be deemed to have waived such objection and shall forever be foreclosed from making any objection to the fairness or adequacy of the proposed Settlement.

14. Any request for intervention in this action for purposes of commenting on or objecting to the Settlement must meet the requirements set forth above, including the deadline for filing objections, must be accompanied by any evidence, briefs, motions or other materials the proposed intervenor intends to offer in support of the request for intervention, and must meet the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa.

15. Except for counsel of record for the parties, any lawyer intending to appear at the Fairness Hearing must be authorized to represent an Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class Member, must be duly admitted to practice law before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa, and must file a written appearance no later than a date certain to be agreed by Plaintiffs and the Alliance/Great Lakes Class Settling Defendants but no less than thirty (30) days after the date that Mailed Notice is issued (the "Appearance Deadline"). Copies

of the appearance must be served on Class Counsel and counsel for the Alliance/Great Lakes Class Settling Defendants in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

16. Not more than fifteen (15) days after the Exclusion Deadline, Class Counsel shall file a Notice of Settlement Class Exclusions, listing the names of all persons or entities who timely and validly excluded themselves from the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class.

17. On or before a date certain to be agreed by Plaintiffs and the Alliance/Great Lakes Class Settling Defendants but no less than thirty (30) days prior to the Objection Deadline, Class Counsel shall file a motion for approval of an incentive award for Plaintiff and for approval of attorneys' fees and reasonable expenses, to be paid from the Settlement Fund under the terms of the Settlement once all appeals and/or the time for appeals of the Settlement have been exhausted, along with any supporting materials.

18. If Final Approval of the Settlement is not achieved, or if the Settlement is terminated for any reason whatsoever, the Settlement and all proceedings had in connection therewith shall be without prejudice to the status quo ante rights of the Plaintiff and the Alliance/Great Lakes Class Settling Defendants in this action, and all Orders issued pursuant to the Settlement shall be vacated.

19. The Court may adjourn the date and/or time of the Fairness Hearing without further notice to the members of the Alliance/Great Lakes Settlement Class, and retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement.

SO ORDERED.

Date: _____

The Honorable Mark W. Bennett, Judge
United States District Court,
Northern District of Iowa