

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re:) Chapter 11
FANSTEEL INC., et al.,¹)
Debtors.) Case No. 02-10109 (JJF)
) (Jointly Administered)
) Related Docket No. 1966
Objection Deadline (Proposed): February 9, 2004 by 12:00 noon p.m. E.T.
Hearing Date (Proposed): February 11, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. E.T.

**MOTION TO SHORTEN TIME OF NOTICE PERIOD WITH
RESPECT TO MOTION OF DEBTORS UNDER 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a), 502(c) AND 1142
FOR ORDER DETERMINING OR ESTIMATING THE AMOUNT TO
BE RESERVED FOR CERTAIN DISPUTED UNLIQUIDATED CLAIMS**

Fansteel Inc., a Delaware corporation, and its direct and indirect subsidiaries, as debtors and debtors in possession (the "Debtors") hereby move ("Motion to Shorten") the Court pursuant to Rule 9006(c) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), Del.Bankr.LR 9004-1(e), and 11 U.S.C. § 105 for an Order shortening the notice period under Bankruptcy Rule 2002(a)(2) with respect to the attached Motion of the Debtors under 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a), 502(c) and 1142 for Order Determining or Estimating the Amount to be Reserved for Certain Disputed Unliquidated Claims, (the "Motion"). By way of the Motion, the Debtors seek entry of an order determining or estimating the amount to be reserved for certain disputed unliquidated claims before the projected plan Distribution Date², which will occur no later than 20 business days after the Effective Date (ie. by February 20, 2004) of February 20,

¹ The Debtors are the following entities: Fansteel Inc., Fansteel Holdings, Inc., Custom Technologies Corp., Escast, Inc., Wellman Dynamics Corp., Washington Mfg. Co., Phoenix Aerospace Corp., and American Sintered Technologies, Inc.

² As that term is defined in the Amended Plan

DOCKET # 1982
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The Motion seeks an order of this Court, pursuant to sections 105(a), 502(c) and 1142 of the Bankruptcy Code, determining or estimating the amount, if any, that should be held in the Disputed Claims Reserve (as that term is defined in the Amended Joint Reorganization Amended Plan confirmed on November 17, 2003) for each of the Disputed Unliquidated Claims identified on Exhibit A annexed to the Motion. The Debtors believe that prosecution of objections to the allowance of each of the claims identified on Exhibit A will ultimately result in the disallowance of such claims in their entirety. Accordingly, by way of the Motion the Debtors request that the Court determine that no amount or a minimal amount will constitute a sufficient reserve for the Disputed Unliquidated Claims prior to the Plan Distribution.

Given the nature of the relief requested and the benefit to the estates by a consensual plan process, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court consider the Motion at the omnibus hearing scheduled on February 11, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. prevailing Eastern Time.

Accordingly, the Debtors seek entry of an order from this Court shortening the notice period so that the Motion may be heard at the omnibus hearing, scheduled for February 11, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. prevailing Eastern Time (the "Hearing"). The Debtors propose to serve the Notice of Motion of the Debtors under 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a), 502(c) and 1142 for Order Determining or Estimating the Amount to be Reserved for Certain Disputed Unliquidated Claims ("Notice of Motion") on all parties by hand delivery or overnight delivery service.

The Debtors submit that shortening the time for parties to respond to the Motion will not prejudice the rights of any party in interest.

This Motion to Shorten Time; the proposed Notice of Motion, and the Motion, have been served on the parties set forth in the Notice of Motion by hand delivery or overnight delivery.

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request the entry of an Order shortening time and approving the form of the Notice attached hereto.

Dated: January 30, 2004

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-and-

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Counsel for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

SO ORDERED this 2 day of

February, 2004

Joseph J. Farnan, Jr.
The Honorable Joseph J. Farnan, Jr.
United States District Court Judge