

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Brian Holtsclaw, individually and for others similarly situated v.
Stake Center Locating, LLC, a Utah limited liability company

Holtsclaw · No. 1:24-cv-00490-RMR-SBP · Decided January 7, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Colorado granted Plaintiff Brian Holtsclaw’s motion for a three-week extension of the deadline to file a motion for class certification. The court found good cause based on the timing, volume, and organization of class-wide pay data produced by Defendant, and concluded that Plaintiff had acted diligently and that Defendant would not be prejudiced. The court accepted the class-certification motion as timely when filed within twenty-one days of the original September 2, 2025 deadline.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Colorado
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Susan Prose
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Colorado
DECIDED	January 7, 2026
DOCKET	1:24-cv-00490-RMR-SBP
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved for an extension of time to file a motion for class certification after Defendant produced class-wide pay data. The magistrate judge granted the motion under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The decision whether to modify a scheduling order is committed to the sound discretion of the trial court; modification requires good cause under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; unpublished district-court order.
PARTIES	Brian Holtsclaw, individually and for others similarly situated v. Stake Center Locating, LLC, a Utah limited liability company

TOPICS

- class actions
- discovery dispute
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

employment law

class actions

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff demonstrated good cause under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b) to extend the scheduling-order deadline for filing a class-certification motion.
2. Whether the relevant factors governing modification of a scheduling order favored granting Plaintiff's requested three-week extension.

HOLDINGS

1. Good cause existed to extend the deadline because Plaintiff adequately explained the delay, demonstrated sufficient diligence, and showed that the deadline could not reasonably be met despite diligent efforts.
2. The factors favored granting Plaintiff's motion because the first, third, fourth, and fifth factors favored Plaintiff, the sixth was neutral, and Defendant's opposition alone was insufficient to outweigh the other considerations.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Scheduling order deadlines "may be modified only for good cause and with the judge's consent.""
(Analysis)

"Properly construed, 'good cause' means that scheduling deadlines cannot be met despite a party's diligent efforts." (Analysis)

"For the reasons above, the court GRANTS Plaintiff's Motion for Extension of Time." (Conclusion)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Defendant produced class-wide pay data on August 22, 2025, shortly before the September 2, 2025 class-certification deadline. Plaintiff's counsel delayed approximately one week in attempting to access the production because counsel believed a passphrase was required and had not yet been provided. Plaintiff also asserted that the production was more voluminous and less organized than anticipated, requiring additional time to review despite diligent efforts.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court had set September 2, 2025 as the deadline for Plaintiff's class-certification motion. Defendant produced class-wide pay data on August 22, 2025, and Plaintiff sought a three-week extension to access and review the production. Defendant opposed the extension, but the court found good cause and accepted Plaintiff's class-certification motion, filed within twenty-one days of the original deadline, as timely.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Strobe v. Collins, 315 F. App'x 57, 61 (10th Cir. 2009)
- Minter v. Prime Equip. Co., 451 F.3d 1196, 1205 n.4 (10th Cir. 2006)
- Colo. Visionary Acad. v. Medtronic, Inc., 194 F.R.D. 684, 687 (D. Colo. 2000)
- Summers v. Mo. Pac. R.R. Sys., 132 F.3d 599, 604 (10th Cir. 1997)
- Lehman Bros. Holdings Inc. v. Universal Am. Mortg. Co., LLC, 300 F.R.D. 678, 681 (D. Colo. 2014)
- Smith v. United States, 834 F.2d 166, 169 (10th Cir. 1987)
- Benton v. Avedon Eng'g, Inc., No. 10-cv-01899-RBJ-KLM, 2013 WL 1751886, at *1 (D. Colo. Apr. 23, 2013)
- Tesone v. Empire Marketing Strategies, 942 F.3d 979, 988 (10th Cir. 2019)
- Sinclair Wyo. Ref. Co. v. A & B Builders, Ltd., 989 F.3d 747, 783 (10th Cir. 2021)
- Morales-Fernandez v. INS, 418 F.3d 1116, 1119, 1122 (10th Cir. 2005)

OPINION

Holtsclaw

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Civil Action No. 1:24-cv-00490-RMR-SBP BRIAN HOLTSCRAW, individually and for others similarly situated, Plaintiff, v. STAKE CENTER LOCATING, LLC, a Utah limited liability company, Defendant.

ORDER

Susan Prose, United States Magistrate Judge. This matter comes before the court on Plaintiff Brian Holtsclaw ("Plaintiff")'s Motion for Extension of Time to File for Class Certification ("Motion"). ECF No. 60. The undersigned considers the Motion pursuant to the Order of Reference, ECF No. 17, the memorandum referring the Motion, ECF No. 61, and 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). The court has reviewed the Motion, the related filings, and the applicable law. For the reasons set forth below, the Motion is GRANTED.

I. ANALYSIS

The court assumes familiarity with the underlying allegations and procedural history in this matter, which is largely irrelevant for the purpose of ruling upon the Motion except as addressed below. Scheduling order deadlines "may be modified only for good cause and with the judge's consent." Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b). To demonstrate good cause pursuant to Rule 16, the moving party must "show that it has been diligent in attempting to meet the deadlines, which means it must provide an adequate explanation for any delay." Strobe v. Collins, 315 F. App'x 57, 61 (10th Cir. 2009)

(citation omitted); *Minter v. Prime Equip. Co.*, 451 F.3d 1196, 1205 n.4 (10th Cir. 2006). “Properly construed, ‘good cause’ means that scheduling deadlines cannot be met despite a party’s diligent efforts. . . . Carelessness is not compatible with a finding of diligence and offers no reason for a grant of relief.” *Colo. Visionary Acad. v. Medtronic, Inc.*, 194 F.R.D. 684, 687 (D. Colo. 2000) (internal quotation and citation omitted). *Accord Summers v. Mo. Pac. R.R. Sys.*, 132 F.3d 599, 604 (10th Cir. 1997) (holding that “total inflexibility is undesirable” in the context of a motion to adopt a new scheduling order); *Lehman Bros. Holdings Inc. v. Universal Am. Mortg. Co., LLC*, 300 F.R.D. 678, 681 (D. Colo. 2014) (setting forth the standards outlined above). The decision to modify the Scheduling Order “is committed to the sound discretion of the trial court.” *Smith v. United States*, 834 F.2d 166, 169 (10th Cir. 1987); see also *Benton v. Avedon Eng’g, Inc.*, No. 10–cv–01899–RBJ–KLM, 2013 WL 1751886, at *1 (D. Colo. April 23, 2013). “When exercising its discretion, the Court considers the following factors: (1) whether trial is imminent; (2) whether the request to reopen or extend discovery is opposed; (3) whether the non- moving party would be prejudiced; (4) whether the moving party was diligent in obtaining discovery within the guidelines established by the Court; (5) the foreseeability of the need for additional discovery in light of the time allowed for discovery by the Court; and (6) the likelihood that the discovery will lead to relevant evidence.” *Lehman Bros.*, 300 F.R.D. at 681 (citing *Smith*, 834 F.2d at 169). In responding to the Motion, Defendant first argues that because counsel for Plaintiff allegedly waited a week after Defendant’s August 22, 2025 production of class-wide pay data to attempt to access the production provided by Defendant, Plaintiff’s Motion must be denied. “Response,” ECF No. 62 at 7-9. Counsel for Plaintiff has explained that they held the legitimate belief they had not yet received a “passphrase” from Defendant they would need to access the production and that they ultimately reached out to Defendant when this passphrase was not forthcoming. “Reply,” ECF No. 64 at 3-6. The court finds this to be an adequate explanation for the week’s delay that, standing alone and in light of the considerations set forth in *Lehman Bros.*, justifies a week’s extension. See also, e.g., *Tesone v. Empire Marketing Strategies*, 942 F.3d 979, 988 (10th Cir. 2019) (party requesting extension must show diligent efforts to meet the deadline and an adequate explanation for the delay). Defendant also argues that Plaintiff did not diligently seek “pay data” until the court set a September 2, 2025 class certification motion deadline at the end of July; that Defendant told Plaintiff on August 15, 2025 that it would produce the pay data by August 22, 2025; and that Plaintiff never objected to this timeline. Response at 9-11. Plaintiff provides citations and sources suggesting that he did in fact diligently seek the data at issue starting at a much earlier date. See, e.g., Reply at 1-3. Moreover, Plaintiff also asserts that the production provided by Defendant is significantly more voluminous and less organized than counsel had anticipated, requiring counsel to expend more time sifting through the data than expected, despite diligent efforts. *Id.* at 6-8. Either of these justifications, even standing alone, would provide an adequate explanation for requesting the relatively brief three-week extension sought here. Finally, in opposing Plaintiff’s request, Defendant has stated no reason why permitting the extension

would be prejudicial to Defendant, despite acknowledging that prejudice is a relevant consideration in this context. See ECF No. 62 at 6; *Lehman Bros.*, 300 F.R.D. at 681. The court finds that the first, third, fourth, and fifth *Lehman Bros.* factors favor Plaintiff and that each factor, both individually and collectively, outweighs the second factor (which favors Defendant) here, while the sixth *Lehman Bros.* factor is neutral. The court notes that trial is not imminent, finds no prejudice to Defendant, and concludes that Plaintiff has acted with sufficient diligence and within the guidelines established by the court. See *id.* Plaintiff does not seek additional discovery, but merely a brief and foreseeable extension of time to sort through the discovery he has received, and the parties do not dispute that the evidence at issue is relevant. See *id.* Accordingly, the only factor set forth in *Lehman Bros.* that weighs in favor of Defendant here is the fact that Defendant opposes Plaintiff's Motion. See *id.* This alone is not sufficient to outweigh any other consideration set forth in *Lehman Bros.* Plaintiff's Motion is therefore granted, good cause having been shown, and Plaintiff's Motion to Certify Class, filed within twenty-one days of the former September 2, 2025 deadline, is accepted as timely.

II. CONCLUSION

For the reasons above, the court GRANTS Plaintiff's Motion for Extension of Time. DATED: January 7, 2026 BY THE COURT: Susan Prose United States Magistrate Judge ' Rule 72 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that within fourteen (14) days after service of a Magistrate Judge's order or recommendation, any party may serve and file written objections with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Colorado. 28 U.S.C. §§ 636(b)(1) (A), (B); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(a), (b). Failure to make any such objection will result in a waiver of the right to appeal the Magistrate Judge's order or recommendation. See *Sinclair Wyo. Ref. Co. v. A & B Builders, Ltd.*, 989 F.3d 747, 783 (10th Cir. 2021) (firm waiver rule applies to non-dispositive orders); but see *Morales-Fernandez v. INS*, 418 F.3d 1116, 1119, 1122 (10th Cir. 2005) (firm waiver rule does not apply when the interests of justice require review, including when a "pro se litigant has not been informed of the time period for objecting and the consequences of failing to object").