

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

John A. Tibbs and Margaret B. Tibbs, Plaintiffs,

v.

3M Company; 4520 Corp., Inc.; A.O. Smith Corporation;
A.W. Chesterton Company; ABB Inc.; Air & Liquid
Systems Corporation; Aiw-2010 Wind Down Corp.;
Amentum Environment & Energy, Inc.; Anchor/Darling
Valve Company; Armstrong International, Inc.; Asbestos
Corporation Limited; ASCO, L.P.; Atlas Asbestos Co;
Atlas Turner, Inc.; AWT Air Company, Inc.; Bahnson,
Inc.; Banner Industries International, Inc.; Banner
Industries, LLC; Banner Industries Of N.E., Inc.; Barretts
Minerals Inc.; Beaty Investments, Inc.; Bechtel
Corporation; The Bonitz Company; Brand Insulations,
Inc.; BW/IP Inc.; Canvas Ct, LLC; Cape PLC; Carboline
Company; CB&I Laurens, Inc.; Cleaver-Brooks, Inc.;
Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Inc.; Copes-Vulcan,
Inc.; Covil Corporation; Crane Instrumentation &
Sampling, Inc.; Crosby Valve, LLC; Daniel International
Corporation; Davis Mechanical Contractors, Inc.;
Dezurik, Inc.; Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; Duke
Energy Corporation; Eaton Corporation; Ellington
Insulation Company, Inc.; Emerson Electric Co.; Fisher
Controls International LLC; Flame Refractories, Inc.;
Flowsolve Corporation; Flowsolve US Inc.; Fluor
Constructors International; Fluor Constructors
International, Inc.; Fluor Daniel Services Corporation;
Fluor Enterprises, Inc.; FMC Corporation; Foster
Wheeler Energy Corporation; Gardner Denver Nash,
LLC; General Boiler Casing Company, Inc.; General
Cable Corporation; General Cable Industries, Inc.;
General Electric Company; Gould Electronics Inc.;
Goulds Pumps, Incorporated; Goulds Pumps LLC; Great
Barrier Insulation Co.; Grinnell LLC; Hajoca
Corporation; Howden North America Inc.; HPC
Industrial Services, LLC; IMO Industries Inc.; ITT LLC;

Joy Global Underground Mining LLC; K-Mac Services Incorporated; Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; Mine Safety Appliances Company, LLC; MP Supply, Inc.; The Nash Engineering Company; Occidental Chemical Corporation; Paramount Global; Patterson Pump Company; PECW Holding Company; Pfizer Inc.; Piedmont Insulation, Inc.; Plastics Engineering Company; Presnell Insulation Co., Inc.; Redco Corporation; Riley Power Inc.; Rockwell Automation, Inc.; RSCC Wire & Cable LLC; Schneider Electric USA, Inc.; Sequoia Ventures Inc.; Spirax Sarco, Inc.; SPX Corporation; Stafford Insulation Company; Standard Insulation Company Of N. C., Inc.; Starr Davis Company, Inc.; Starr Davis Company Of S.C., Inc.; Sterling Fluid Systems (USA) LLC; TE Wire & Cable LLC; Thermo Electric Company, Inc.; Union Carbide Corporation; Valves And Controls Us, Inc.; Velan Valve Corp.; Viking Pump, Inc.; Vistra Intermediate Company LLC; The William Powell Company Wind Up, Ltd.; Yuba Heat Transfer LLC; Zurn Industries, LLC, Defendants,

and

Cape PLC, individually and as successor in interest to Cape Asbestos Company Limited, by and through its duly appointed Receiver Peter D. Protopapas, Third-Party Plaintiff, Respondent,

v.

Anglo American PLC, individually and as successor in interest to Anglo American Corporation of South Africa LTD., De Beers PLC, individually and as successor in interest to De Beers S.A., De Beers Centenary AG, De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd., n/k/a De Beers Consolidated Mines Proprietary Ltd., De Beers UK Ltd., De Beers Jewellers LTD., De Beers Jewellers US, Inc., Anglo American US Holdings Inc., Element Six US Corp., Element Six Technologies US Corp., Element Six

Technologies (OR) Corp., First Mode Holdings, Inc., Platinum Guild International (U.S.A.) Jewelry Inc., Lightbox Jewelry Inc., Forevermark US Inc., Anglo American Crop Nutrients (U.S.A.) LLC, Charter Consolidated Ltd., ESAB Corporation, Central Mining & Investment Corporation Ltd., Cape Holdco Ltd., The Law Debenture Corporation PLC, Cape Industrial Services Group Ltd., Mohed Altrad, Altrad UK Ltd., Cape UK Holdings Newco Ltd., Altrad Services, Ltd., f/k/a Cape Industrial Services Ltd., Altrad Investment Authority S.A.S., Sparrows Offshore Group Ltd., Hawk Bidco US Inc., ArranCo US, LLC, Sparrows Offshore, LLC, and The Sparrows Group, LLC, Third-Party Defendants,

Of which Mohed Altrad, Altrad Investment Authority SAS, ArranCo US, LLC, Hawk Bidco (US) Inc., Sparrows Offshore, LLC, Charter Consolidated Ltd., ESAB Corporation, and Central Mining & Investment Corporation Ltd. are the Appellants.

Appellate Case No. 2024-000524

ORDER

This appeal arises out of a circuit court order dated March 12, 2024, granting the receiver's motions to compel discovery. This case consolidates notices of appeal from Appellants Mohed Altrad and Altrad Investment Authority SAS, Appellants ArranCo US, LLC, Hawk Bidco (US) Inc., and Sparrows Offshore LLC, and Appellants Charter Consolidated Ltd., ESAB Corporation, and Central Mining & Investment Corporation Ltd., all of which are appealing from the circuit court's March 12, 2024 order. Respondent Peter D. Protopapas, acting as receiver for Cape PLC, individually and as successor in interest to Cape Asbestos Company Limited, filed a motion to dismiss. Appellants filed returns objecting to the motion to dismiss, and Protopapas filed a reply.

Appellants characterize the circuit court's action as refusal to enter an injunction. Upon careful review, the order on appeal should be characterized as an order

granting the receiver's motions to compel discovery. After consideration of all submissions by the parties, the motion to dismiss is granted. *See Grosshuesch v. Cramer*, 377 S.C. 12, 30, 659 S.E.2d 112, 122 (2008) ("[D]iscovery orders, in general, are interlocutory and are not immediately appealable because they do not, within the meaning of the appealability statute, involve the merits of the action or affect a substantial right."); *Davis v. Parkview Apartments*, 409 S.C. 266, 280, 762 S.E.2d 535, 543 (2014) ("[T]o challenge the specific rulings of the discovery orders, the normal course is to refuse to comply, suffer contempt, and appeal from the contempt finding."); *Hamm v. S.C. Pub. Serv. Comm'n*, 312 S.C. 238, 241, 439 S.E.2d 852, 853 (1994) (holding discovery orders are interlocutory and not immediately appealable). The remittitur will be sent as provided by Rule 221(b) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules.


_____, C.J.
FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

FILED
Apr 17 2024

cc:

Matthew Todd Carroll, Esquire
Kevin A. Hall, Esquire
Mary Elizabeth O'Neill, Esquire
Steven James Pugh, Esquire
Benjamin Palmer Carlton, Esquire
Carmen Vaughn Ganjehsani, Esquire
Ashwin Ray Sanzgiri, Esquire
A. Victor Rawl, Jr., Esquire
John Thomas Lay, Jr., Esquire
Gray Thomas Culbreath, Esquire
Lindsay Anne Joyner, Esquire
Laura Watkins Jordan, Esquire
Eleanor Lasseigne Jones, Esquire
Jonathan M. Robinson, Esquire
Shanon N. Peake, Esquire
G. Murrell Smith, Jr., Esquire