

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION**

RICHARD TEAGUE, on behalf of
himself individually and on behalf of all
others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

AGC AMERICA, INC.,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 1:24-cv-00823-VMC

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER

Before the Court is *Plaintiff's Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement* ([Doc. No. 45](#)) (the "Motion"), the terms of which are set forth in the Settlement Agreement between Plaintiff and Defendant AGC America, Inc. ("AGC") (collectively, referred to herein as the "Parties"), which is attached as **Exhibit 2** to the Plaintiff's Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement (the "Settlement Agreement").¹

Having fully considered the issue, the Court hereby **GRANTS** the Motion and **ORDERS** as follows:

¹ All defined terms in this Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement ("Preliminary Approval Order") have the same meaning as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, unless otherwise indicated.

1. **Class Certification for Settlement Purposes Only.** The Settlement Agreement provides for a Settlement Class defined as follows:

All living individuals residing in the United States who were sent a notice of the Incident indicating their Private Information may have been impacted in the Incident. Excluded from the Settlement Class are: (1) all persons who are directors of Defendant, or its respective subsidiaries and affiliated companies, and any entity in which Defendant has a controlling interest; (2) governmental entities; (3) the Judge assigned to the Action, that Judge's immediate family, and Court staff; (4) all individuals who timely opt-out of the Settlement; and (5) any person found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be guilty under criminal law of initiating, causing, aiding or abetting the criminal activity occurrence of the Incident, or who pleads *nolo contendere* to any such charge.

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e)(1), the Court finds that giving notice is justified. The Court finds that it will likely be able to approve the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court also finds that it will likely be able to certify the Settlement Class for purposes of judgment on the Settlement because it meets all of the requirements of Rule 23(a) and the requirements of Rule 23(b)(3). Specifically, the Court finds, for settlement purposes, that: (a) the Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all Settlement Class Members would be impracticable; (b) there are issues of law and fact that are common to the Settlement Class; (c) the claims of the Class Representative are typical of and arise from the same operative facts and the Class Representative seeks similar relief as the claims of the Settlement Class Members; (d) the Class

Representative will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class as the Class Representative has no interests antagonistic to or in conflict with the Settlement Class and has retained experienced and competent counsel to prosecute this Action on behalf of the Settlement Class; (e) questions of law or fact common to Settlement Class Members predominate over any questions affecting only individual members; and (f) a class action and class settlement is superior to other methods available for a fair and efficient resolution of this Litigation.

2. **Settlement Class Representative and Settlement Class Counsel.** The Court finds that Plaintiff Richard Teague will likely satisfy the requirements of Rule 23(e)(2)(A) and should be appointed as the Class Representative. Additionally, the Court finds that MaryBeth V. Gibson of Gibson Consumer Law Group, LLC and John J. Nelson of Milberg Coleman Bryson Philips Grossman, PLLC satisfy the requirements of Rule 23(e)(2)(A) and should be appointed as Settlement Class Counsel pursuant to Rule 23(g)(1).

3. **Preliminary Settlement Approval.** Upon preliminary review, the Court finds the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate to warrant providing notice of the Settlement to the Settlement Class and, accordingly, is preliminarily approved. In making this determination, the Court has considered the monetary and non-monetary benefits provided to the Settlement Class through the Settlement, the specific risks faced by the Settlement Class in prevailing on their claims, the good

faith, arms' length negotiations between the Parties and absence of any collusion in the Settlement, the effectiveness of the proposed method for distributing relief to the Settlement Class, the proposed manner of allocating benefits to Settlement Class Members, that the Settlement treats the Settlement Class Members equitably, and all of the other factors required by Rule 23 and relevant case law.

4. **Jurisdiction.** The Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) and personal jurisdiction over the parties before it. Additionally, venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

5. **Final Approval Hearing.** A Final Approval Hearing shall be held on **July 21, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. in** Courtroom 2105, United States District Court, 75 Ted Turner Drive SW Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3309, where the Court will determine, among other things, whether: (a) this Action should be finally certified as a class action for settlement purposes pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and (b) (3); (b) the Settlement should be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate, and finally approved pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e); (c) this Action should be dismissed with prejudice pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement; (d) Settlement Class Members (who have not timely and validly excluded themselves from the Settlement) should be bound by the releases set forth in the Settlement Agreement; (e) the application of Class Counsel for an award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses

should be approved pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(h); and (f) whether a Service Award should be awarded to the named Class Representative.

1. **Settlement Administrator.** The Court appoints Simpluris, Inc., as the Settlement Administrator, with responsibility for class notice and settlement administration. The Settlement Administrator is directed to perform all tasks the Settlement Agreement requires. The Settlement Administrator's fees will be paid pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

2. **Notice.** The proposed notice program set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Claim Form and the notices attached to the Settlement Agreement as **Exhibits 1, 2, and 3** are hereby approved. Non-material modifications to these Exhibits may be made by the Settlement Administrator in consultation and agreement with the Parties, but without further order of the Court.

3. **Findings Concerning Notice.** The Court finds that the proposed form, content, and method of giving notice to the Settlement Class as described in the notice program and the Settlement Agreement and its exhibits: (a) will constitute the best practicable notice to the Settlement Class; (b) are reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class Members of the pendency of the Action, the terms of the proposed Settlement, and their rights under the proposed Settlement, including, but not limited to, their rights to object to or exclude themselves from the proposed Settlement and other rights under the terms of the

Settlement Agreement; (c) are reasonable and constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all Settlement Class Members and other persons entitled to receive notice; (d) meet all applicable requirements of law, including Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(c); and (e) and meet the requirements of the Due Process Clause(s) of the United States and Georgia Constitutions. The Court further finds that the notice provided for in the Settlement Agreement is written in plain language, uses simple terminology, and is designed to be readily understandable by Settlement Class Members. The Settlement Administrator is directed to carry out the notice program in conformance with the Settlement Agreement.

4. **Class Action Fairness Act Notice.** Within ten (10) days after the filing of this Settlement Agreement with the Court, the Settlement Administrator, acting on behalf of Defendant, shall have served or caused to be served a notice of the proposed Settlement on appropriate officials in accordance with the requirements under the Class Action Fairness Act (“CAFA”), 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b).

5. **Exclusion from Class.** Any Settlement Class Member who wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class must individually sign and timely and appropriately submit valid written notice of such intent to the designated Post Office box established by the Settlement Administrator in the manner provided in the notice. The written notice must (a) state a full name, address, telephone number, and email address (if any); (b) contain the case name and number: *Richard Teague v.*

AGC America, Inc., Case No. 1:24-cv-00823-VMC (N.D. Ga.); (c) contain the Settlement Class Member's signature; and (d) state the Settlement Class Member's intent to be excluded from the Settlement Class and Settlement. To be effective, such requests for exclusion must be postmarked no later than the Opt-Out Date, which is no later than sixty (60) days from the date on which the notice program commences, and as stated in the notice.

The Settlement Administrator shall promptly furnish to Class Counsel and to Defendant's counsel a complete list of all timely and valid requests for exclusion (the "Opt-Out List").

If a Final Approval Order and Judgment is entered, all Persons falling within the definition of the Settlement Class who do not request to be excluded from the Settlement Class shall be bound by the terms of this Settlement Agreement and the Final Approval Order and Judgment. All Persons who submit valid and timely notices of their intent to be excluded from the Settlement Class shall not receive any cash benefits of and/or be bound by the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

Objections and Appearances. A Settlement Class Member (who does not submit a timely written request for exclusion) desiring to object to the Settlement Agreement may submit a timely written notice of his or her objection by the Objection Date and as stated in the notice. The Long Notice and the Settlement Website shall instruct Settlement Class Members who wish to object to the

Settlement Agreement to send their written objections to the Settlement Administrator at the address indicated in the Long Notice and to Parties' Counsel at the addresses indicated in the Long Notice, and to file their objection with this Court. The Long Notice shall advise Settlement Class Members of the deadline for submission of any objections—the "Objection Date." Any such notices of an intent to object to the Settlement Agreement must be written and (i) the objector's full name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address (if any); (ii) the case name and docket number— *Richard Teague v. AGC America, Inc.*, Case No. 1:24-cv-00823-VMC (N.D. Ga.); (iii) documentation sufficient to establish membership in the Settlement Class, such as a copy of the Postcard Notice the objector received (iv) a written statement of all grounds for the objection, accompanied by any legal support for the objection the objector believes applicable and any supporting documents; (v) the identity of any and all counsel representing the objector in connection with the objection; (vi) a statement whether the objector and/or his or her counsel will appear at the Final Approval Hearing and a list of all persons who will be called to testify at the Final Approval Hearing in support of the objection (if any); (vii) a list of any other objections submitted by the Settlement Class Member and their counsel (if he or she is represented by counsel) to any class actions submitted in any court, whether state, federal, or otherwise, in the previous five (5) years; and (viii) the objector's signature (an attorney's signature is not sufficient). An objecting

Settlement Class Member has the right, but is not required to, attend the Final Approval Hearing. If an objecting Settlement Class Member intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either with or without counsel, he or she must also file a notice of appearance with the Court, as well as serve notice on Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel by the Objection Date.

Any Settlement Class Member who fails to comply with the requirements for objecting shall waive and forfeit any and all rights he or she may have to appear separately and/or to object to the Settlement Agreement and shall be bound by all the terms of the Settlement Agreement and by all proceedings, orders, and judgments in the Action. The provisions stated in the Settlement Agreement shall be the exclusive means for any challenge to the Settlement Agreement. Any challenge to the Settlement Agreement, the final order approving this Settlement Agreement, or the Final Order and Judgment to be entered upon final approval shall be pursuant to appeal under the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure and not through a collateral attack.

12. **Claims Process.** Settlement Class Counsel and AGC's counsel have created a process for Settlement Class Members to claim benefits under the Settlement. The Court preliminarily approves this process and directs the Settlement Administrator to make the Claim Form or its substantial equivalent available to Settlement Class Members in the manner specified in the notice.

The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for effectuating the claims process. Settlement Class Members who qualify for and wish to submit a Claim Form shall do so in accordance with the requirement and procedures specified in the notices and Claim Form. If the Final Order and Judgment is entered, all Settlement Class Members who qualify for any benefit under the Settlement but fail to submit a claim in accordance with the requirements and procedures specified in the notice and the Claim Form shall be forever barred from receiving any such benefit, but will in all other respects be subject to and bound by the provisions in the Final Order and Judgment, including the releases contained therein.

6. **Termination of Settlement.** This Preliminary Approval Order shall become null and void and shall be without prejudice to the rights of the Parties, all of whom shall be restored to their respective positions existing before the Court entered this Preliminary Approval Order and before they entered the Settlement Agreement, if: (a) the Court does not enter this Preliminary Approval Order; (b) Settlement is not finally approved by the Court or is terminated in accordance with the Settlement Agreement; (c) there is no Effective Date; or (d) otherwise consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement. In such event, (a) the Parties shall be restored to their respective positions in the Action and shall jointly request that all scheduled deadlines in the Action be reasonably extended by the Court so as to avoid prejudice to any Party or Party's counsel; (b) the terms and provisions of the

Settlement Agreement shall have no further force and effect with respect to the Parties and shall not be used in the Action or in any other proceeding for any purpose, and (c) any judgment or order entered by the Court in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement shall be treated as vacated, *nunc pro tunc*.

14. **Use of Order.** This Preliminary Approval Order shall be of no force or effect if the Final Order and Judgment is not entered or there is no Effective Date and shall not be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against Defendant of any fault, wrongdoing, breach, or liability. Nor shall this Preliminary Approval Order be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against the Class Representative or any other Settlement Class Member that his or her claims lack merit or that the relief requested is inappropriate, improper, unavailable, or as a waiver by any Party of any defense or claims they may have in this Litigation or in any other lawsuit.

15. **Continuance of Hearing.** The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the Final Approval Hearing and related deadlines without further written notice to the Settlement Class. If the Court alters any of those dates or times, the revised dates and times shall be posted on the Settlement Website maintained by the Settlement Administrator. The Court may approve the Settlement, with such modifications as may be agreed upon by the Parties, if appropriate, without further notice to the Settlement Class.

16. **Stay of Litigation.** All proceedings in the Litigation, other than those related to approval of the Settlement Agreement, are hereby stayed. Further, any actions brought by Settlement Class Members concerning the Released Claims are hereby enjoined and stayed pending final approval of the Settlement Agreement.

17. **Schedule and Deadlines.** The Court orders the following schedule of dates for the specified actions/further proceedings:

SETTLEMENT TIMELINE

<u>From Order Granting Preliminary Approval</u>	
CAFA Notice to State and Federal officials	+10 days after filing Motion for Preliminary Approval
Defendant provides Settlement Class List to the Settlement Administrator	+15 days after Preliminary Approval
Defendant will cause to be deposited \$34, 126 into the Settlement Administration Fund	+30 days after Court's entry of Preliminary Approval Order
Settlement Website Active	+30 days after Preliminary Approval
Notice Date	+30 days after entry of this Preliminary Approval Order at which time notice will be fully commenced
Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Expenses and Service Award	At least 21 days prior to Objection Deadline
Opt-Out Deadline	60 days after Notice Date
Objection Deadline	60 days after Notice Date
Claims Deadline	90 days after Notice Date
Final Approval Brief and Response to Objections Due	At least 14 days prior to Final Approval Hearing
Final Approval Hearing	No less than 90 days after CAFA Notices are mailed.
Effective Date	30 days after entry of Final Approval Order

Funding of \$562,874, the balance of Settlement by Defendant	+30 days after Final Approval Order
Settlement Class Representatives and Plaintiff’s Counsel must voluntarily dismiss with prejudice each action in the Litigation	21 Business Days after the Effective Date
Settlement Administrator Payment of Attorneys’ Fees and Expenses to Class Counsel	Within 14 days after Effective Date
Settlement Administrator disburses monetary benefit to Settlement Class Members	+ 30 days after Effective Date
Settlement Administrator provides CMIS instructions to Settlement Class Members	+30 days after Effective Date

SO ORDERED THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH, 2026.

Hon. Victoria Marie Calvert
 United States District Court Judge