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PVC Pipe Buyers Cut Deals Totaling $212.5M In Price-Fix Fight

By **Dorothy Atkins**

Law360 (November 6, 2026, 7:00 PM EST) -- Direct PVC pipe buyers asked an Illinois federal judge Thursday to preliminarily approve settlements totaling $212.5 million with five manufacturers in consolidated price-fixing litigation, which would more than double the $200 million recovery for direct purchasers already approved in the litigation.

In a 20-page memo supporting their motion, the direct pipe buyers urged U.S. District Judge LaShonda A. Hunt to preliminarily approve their latest settlements totaling nine-figures with defendants Cantex Inc., Diamond Plastics Corp., Prime Conduit Inc., Sanderson Pipe Corp. and Southern Pipe Inc. Some of the defendants are owned or co-owned by Japanese companies Mitsubishi Corp. and Shin-Etsu Chemical.

The memo argues that the proposed deal offers class members "significant cash payment and substantial cooperation that will enable the parties to litigate more effectively and efficiently."

In addition to paying into an interest-bearing settlement fund, the five defendants also agreed to give plaintiffs' counsel documents and data they already handed over to the U.S. Department of Justice and other government regulators in response to investigations into PVC pipe and fittings, the memo says.

The five companies also agreed to make several witnesses available for deposition and trial, and they agreed to provide transactional data and documents from a set of agreed-upon custodians, the memo says. Additionally, they agreed to authenticate and provide declarations for documents that the plaintiffs intend to have admitted for summary judgment or trial, according to the memo.

A hearing on the motion is set for Nov. 18 before Judge Hunt.

The proposed deal is the latest cut in antitrust litigation initially filed in September 2024, alleging the defendants conspired to fix and raise prices of PVC pipes and fittings sold to direct purchasers in the U.S. since at least Jan. 1, 2020.

If approved, the latest proposed settlement would apply to a class of individuals and entities who purchased PVC pipes or fittings in the U.S. directly from one or more of the defendants between Jan. 1, 2020, through March 31, 2026. The memo estimates that there are more than 15,000 persons and entities in the class.

Judge Hunt has already **approved** a total of $200 million in settlements in the litigation, including direct purchasers' $67 million settlement with Westlake Corp., $72.5 million agreement with Atkore International Inc. and $39.5 million deal with Otter Tail Corp.

Judge Hunt also set $130 million in settlement funds in motion for the litigation's end users, as she also granted final approval to a $50 million Atkore settlement and $30 million Otter Tail deal for those plaintiffs.

Counsel for the direct purchaser plaintiff class declined to comment Friday, and counsel and representatives for the settling defendants didn't immediately respond to requests for comment Friday.

The direct purchaser plaintiff class is represented by Robert N. Kaplan, Elana Katcher, Matthew P. McCahill, Matthew Lindenmuth, Carihanna Morrison and Gary L. Specks of Kaplan Fox & Kilsheimer LLP, Joseph M. Vanek, David Germaine, John P. Bjork, Allison G. Margolies, Phillip F. Cramer and James Almon of Sperling Kenny Nachwalter LLC, Dianne M. Nast, Joseph Roda, Michael Ford, Michele Burkholder and Michael Tarringer of Nastlaw LLC, Joshua H. Grabar and Julia Varano of Grabar Law Office, Linda P. Nussbaum and Meghan J. Talbot of Nussbaum Law Group PC, Roberta D. Liebenberg and Jeffrey B. Gittleman of Fine Kaplan & Black PRC, Eric R. Lifvendahl of Lifvendahl Law LLC, Richard L. Coffman of the Coffman Law Firm, and Mitchell A. Toups of Weller Green Toups & Terrell LLP.

Cantex Inc., Diamond Plastics Corp., Prime Conduit Inc., Sanderson Pipe Corp. and Southern Pipe Inc. are represented by John DeQ. Briggs, Richard B. Dagen, Daniel K. Oakes, Daniel Matheson and Kenina J. Lee of Axinn LLP.

The case is In re: PVC Pipe Antitrust Litigation, case number 1:24-cv-07639, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

--Additional reporting by Lauraann Wood. Editing by Jay Jackson Jr.

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