

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
(CHARLESTON DIVISION)**

Case Name: Michelle H. et al v. Haley et al

Case Number: 2:15-cv-00134-RMG

March 30, 2015

Dkt. No. 21.

TEXT ORDER: The Court has had considerable success in recent years promoting early mediation in complex litigation, which has allowed the parties to focus their energies on seeking common solutions rather than engaging in protracted litigation. The most notable of these successful mediations involved the litigation over the deepening of the Savannah Harbor, which involved environmental groups, the Georgia Ports Authority and the Army Corps of Engineers. The mediators in that matter were former Congressman John Spratt and then Magistrate Judge (now District Judge) Bruce Hendricks. In light of that experience, the Court has asked Senior United States District Judge Michael Duffy whether he would be willing to serve as a mediator in this matter and he has graciously agreed to do so. Mediation, of course, requires willing participants who enter into the process with the objective of seeking a resolution of a legal dispute through a negotiated settlement. The Court directs the parties to consult their clients and to advise the Court within 10 days of this order whether they are willing to participate in early mediation. To the extent there is an interest in early mediation, the parties should further advise the Court whether they would like the entry of a brief stay while negotiations are pursued. AND IT IS SO ORDERED. Signed by Honorable Richard M Gergel on 3/30/2015.