Docket #0109 Date Filed: 03/02/2026

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:	Chapter 11
Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC,	Case No. 26-60110 (WAK)
Debtor.[1]	

APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER REDUCING TIME FOR NOTICE OF THE SUPPLEMENT TO MOTION OF THE DEBTOR AND DEBTOR IN POSSESSION FOR INTERIM AND FINAL ORDERS (I) AUTHORIZING THE DEBTOR TO PAY PREPETITION EMPLOYEE WAGES, BENEFITS AND RELATED ITEMS AND (II) GRANTING CERTAIN RELATED RELIEF

The above-captioned debtor and debtor in possession (the "Debtor"), by and through its undersigned counsel, makes this application (this "Application") for entry of an order pursuant to Rule 9006(c)(1) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedures and Local Bankruptcy Rule 9013-5(b), reducing the notice period and scheduling a hearing for March 18, 2026 at 2:00 P.M. (prevailing Eastern Time) (the "Hearing"), or as soon thereafter as counsel may appear and be heard, before the Honorable Wendy A. Kinsella, Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of New York, at the United States Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of New York, James M. Hanley U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building, 100 South Clinton Street, Syracuse, New York, to consider approving the relief requested in the Debtor's Supplement [Docket No.] (the "Supplement") to its *Motion of the Debtor and Debtor in Possession for Interim and Final Orders (I) Authorizing the Debtor to Pay Prepetition Employee Wages, Benefits and*

[1] The Debtor is Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC (EIN 13-1432885). The Debtor's noticing address in this Chapter 11 Case is 33 Winfield Street, Norwalk, Connecticut 06855.

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Related Items and (II) Granting Certain Related Relief [Docket No. 14] (the "Employees Motion").[2] In support of this Application, the Debtor respectfully submits to the Court as follows:

BACKGROUND

1. On February 16, 2026 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtor commenced a case under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Chapter 11 Case"). The Debtor is authorized to continue to operate its business and manage its properties as a debtor in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.

2. The Debtor is a global supplier of mineral products, operating mines and processing facilities in six different states. The Debtor mines bentonite clay, kaolin clay, pyrophyllite and wollastonite and processes and sells products used in industrial applications (e.g., construction coatings, ceramics and refractories) and life sciences (e.g., pharmaceuticals, personal care, animal care, agriculture and horticulture). Prior to 2008, a predecessor in interest to the Debtor mined and sold talc for use in industrial applications, which is the source of the litigation and judgments that have led to the commencement of this Chapter 11 Case.

3. A comprehensive description of the Debtor's business and operations, capital structure and the events leading to the commencement of the Chapter 11 Case can be found in the *Declaration of Dean Vomero, Chief Restructuring Officer of Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC, in Support of First Day Motions of Debtor and Debtor in Possession* [Docket No. 3] (the "First Day Declaration"), filed on the Petition Date and incorporated herein by reference.

4. On February 17, 2026, the Court entered an interim order approving the relief requested in the Employees Motion on an interim basis [Docket No. 41] (the "First Interim Order").

[2] Any capitalized term used but not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in the Employees Motion and/or the Supplement, as applicable.

5. On February 26, 2026, the Court entered an interim order approving the relief requested in the Employees Motion on a further interim basis [Docket No. 99] (the "Second Interim Order").

6. A further hearing to consider the relief requested in the Employees Motion, on a final basis, is scheduled to be held on March 18, 2026 (the "Final Hearing").

7. On March 2, 2026, the Debtor filed its Supplement to the Employees Motion, respectfully requesting the authority, but not direction, to pay amounts owed under the Debtor's Safety Recognition Program, in an amount not to exceed $7,500 in the aggregate.

8. The Debtor was reminded of the Safety Recognition Program after the First Interim Order and the Second Interim Order were entered in this Chapter 11 Case. As such, the Debtor is now seeking authority to pay amounts owed under the Safety Recognition Program.

RELIEF REQUESTED

9. The Debtor respectfully requests entry of an order, in substantially the form attached hereto as ***Exhibit A***, reducing the notice period for the Hearing.

10. Generally, motions must be served 21 days prior to the hearing date. Local Rule 9013-1(e). However, Bankruptcy Rule 9006(c)(1) provides that "[w]hen a rule, notice given under a rule, or court order requires or allows an act to be done within a specified time, the court may—for cause and with or without a motion or notice—reduce the time." FED R. BANKR. P. 9006(c)(1).

11. Local Rule 9013-5(b) provides that parties may seek an expedited hearing by application showing good and sufficient reasons for shortening the normal notice period.

12. Here, a full 21-day notice period without the relief requested in the Supplement would be detrimental to the reorganization of the Debtor.

13. The Debtor respectfully submits that continuing the Safety Recognition Program is vital in incentivizing its employees to maintain the highest standards of safety while working at their respective job sites.

14. Additionally, allowing the Debtor to promptly remit the amounts owed to employees for their safety achievements in 2025 will help maintain workplace morale and instill Employee confidence in the Debtor's reorganization efforts.

15. Furthermore, the Court will be promoting judicial economy by contemporaneously considering the relief requested in the Supplement and Employees Motion on March 18, 2026—instead of scheduling two hearings on two separate dates.

16. In light of the foregoing, the Debtor respectfully submits that sufficient cause exists for scheduling the Hearing on shortened notice and respectfully refers the Court to the Declaration of Charles J. Sullivan, Esq. pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 9013-5(b) in support of the Debtor's request for an order shortening notice for the Hearing (the "Sullivan Declaration") attached hereto as ***Exhibit B***.

17. The Debtor further respectfully submits that an order reducing the time for notice of the Hearing will not materially prejudice any party in interest.

NOTICE

18. Upon entry of an order shortening time, the Debtor will transmit copies of that order, this Application, the Sullivan Declaration, and the Supplement as soon as practicable to: (i) the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of New York, (ii) the Top Talc Counsel List, (iii) counsel for the proposed DIP Lender, (iv) any persons that have requested or

that are required to receive special notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002 and (v) as otherwise directed by the Court. In light of the nature of the relief requested herein, the Debtor submits that no further notice is necessary or should be required.

19. No previous request for the relief requested in the Application has been filed with this, or any other, Court.

WHEREFORE, the Debtor respectfully requests that this Court enter an order in substantially the form attached hereto as ***Exhibit A***, (a) scheduling the Hearing for 2:00 P.M. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 18, 2026, (b) reducing the notice period required for the Hearing, and (c) granting such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

[*Remainder of page intentionally left blank*]

Dated: March 2, 2026
Syracuse, New York

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Charles J. Sullivan

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Proposed Counsel for the Debtor and Debtor in Possession

EXHIBIT A

Proposed Order

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:	Chapter 11
Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC,	Case No. 26-60110 (WAK)
Debtor.[1]	

ORDER REDUCING TIME

Upon the application (the "Application") filed by Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC, the above-captioned debtor and debtor in possession (the "Debtor"), seeking entry of an order shortening the notice period for the Supplement [Docket No. 108] (the "Supplement") to the *Motion of the Debtor and Debtor in Possession for Interim and Final Orders (I) Authorizing the Debtor to Pay Prepetition Employee Wages, Benefits and Related Items and (II) Granting Certain Related Relief* [Docket No. 14] (the "Employees Motion");[2] and the Declaration of Charles J. Sullivan, Esq. dated

[1] The Debtor is Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC (EIN 13-1432885). The Debtor's noticing address in this Chapter 11 Case is 33 Winfield Street, Norwalk, Connecticut 06855.

[2] Any capitalized term used but not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in the Employees Motion and the Supplement.

March 2, 2026 filed in support of the Application (the "Sullivan Declaration"); and upon finding that the Court has jurisdiction to consider the Application pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334; that venue of this Chapter 11 Case in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; that this matter is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); that cause exists for reducing the period required for notice of the Supplement and scheduling a hearing to consider the Supplement on an expedited basis; and that the relief requested in the Application is in the best interests of the Debtor's estate, creditors and other parties in interest; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. A hearing to consider the Supplement (the "Hearing") shall be held on March 18, 2026 at 2:00 P.M. (prevailing Eastern Time), or as soon thereafter as counsel may appear and be heard, before the Honorable Wendy A. Kinsella, Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of New York, at the United States Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of New York, James M. Hanley U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building, 100 South Clinton Street, Syracuse, New York. Any party wishing to appear at the Hearing may do so in person at the courthouse OR by video via Teams, for which pre-registration is required by 11:00 a.m. on the day of the Hearing. Go to https://www.nynb.uscourts.gov/Remote-Hearing-Appearances to register.

2. Objections to the relief requested in the Supplement, if any, shall be filed and served upon (i) proposed Counsel for the Debtor, Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, One Lincoln Center, Syracuse, New York 13202 (Attn: Stephen A. Donato, Esq., Charles J. Sullivan, Esq., Grayson T. Walter, Esq., and Andrew S. Rivera, Esq.), Jones Day - New York, NY office, 250 Vesey Street New York, NY 10281 (Attn: Heather Lennox, Esq.), and Jones Day - Cleveland, OH office, North Point 901 Lakeside Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44114 (Attn: T. Daniel Reynolds, Esq. and Nicholas

Buchta, Esq.); (ii) counsel for the DIP Lender, McDonald Hopkins LLC, 300 N Lasalle, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60654 (Attn: David Agay, Esq.) and Barclay Damon LLP, 125 East Jefferson Street, Syracuse, NY 13202 (Attn: Jefferey A. Dove, Esq.); and (iii) the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of New York, 100 State St., Suite 4230, Rochester, NY 14614 (Attn: Erin P. Champion, Esq.) **by noon on March 17, 2026** (prevailing Eastern Time).

3. Service of copies of this Order, the Application, the Sullivan Declaration, and the Supplement shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of the Hearing and no further notice shall be required, if transmitted by first class mail, overnight delivery, ECF notification and/or electronic mail not later than **one (1) business day after entry of the Order** to: (i) the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of New York, (ii) the Top Talc Counsel List, (iii) counsel for the proposed DIP Lender, and (iv) any persons that have requested or that are required to receive special notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002.

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EXHIBIT B

Sullivan Declaration

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:	Chapter 11
Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC,	Case No. 26-60110 (WAK)
Debtor.[1]	

DECLARATION OF CHARLES J. SULLIVAN, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER REDUCING TIME FOR NOTICE OF THE SUPPLEMENT TO MOTION OF THE DEBTOR AND DEBTOR IN POSSESSION FOR INTERIM AND FINAL ORDERS (I) AUTHORIZING THE DEBTOR TO PAY PREPETITION EMPLOYEE WAGES, BENEFITS AND RELATED ITEMS AND (II) GRANTING CERTAIN RELATED RELIEF

I, Charles J. Sullivan, do hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that:

1. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law in the State of New York and before this Court and am a member for the law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, proposed counsel to Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC, the above-captioned debtor and debtor in possession (the "Debtor"). As such, I am familiar with the facts and circumstances set forth herein.

2. I make this Declaration in support of the Debtor's Application (the "Application") for entry of an order reducing time for notice of the Debtor's Supplement (the "Supplement") to its *Motion of the Debtor and Debtor in Possession for Interim and Final Orders (I) Authorizing the Debtor to Pay Prepetition Employee Wages, Benefits and Related Items and (II) Granting Certain Related Relief* [Docket No. 14] (the "Employees Motion").[2]

3. On March 2, 2026, the Debtor filed the Supplement with the Court contemporaneously herewith.

[1] The Debtor is Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC (EIN 13-1432885). The Debtor's noticing address in this Chapter 11 Case is 33 Winfield Street, Norwalk, Connecticut 06855.

[2] Any capitalized term used but not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in the Employees Motion and/or the Supplement, as applicable.

4. The Debtor was reminded of the Safety Recognition Program after the First Interim Order and the Second Interim Order were entered in this Chapter 11 Case. As such, the Debtor is now seeking authority to pay amounts owed under the Safety Recognition Program.

5. Local Rule 9013-1(e) generally requires that notice of a motion be provided 21 days prior to the scheduled hearing date.

6. Bankruptcy Rule 9006(c)(1) provides that "[w]hen a rule, notice given under a rule, or court order requires or allows an act to be done within a specified time, the court may—for cause and with or without a motion or notice—reduce the time." FED R. BANKR. P. 9006(c)(1).

7. Local Rule 9013-5(b) provides that parties may seek an expedited hearing by application showing good and sufficient reasons for shortening the normal notice period.

8. Here, the Debtor is requesting the Court to hear and consider the Supplement on the same day as the relief requested in the Employees Motion, on a final basis. This will promote judicial economy and avoid disruption and uncertainty amongst the Debtor's work force.

9. The relief requested in the Supplement is immediately necessary and vital in incentivizing its employees to maintain the highest standards of safety while working at their respective job sites to ensure that the Debtor maintains high levels of workplace safety and morale.

10. Under the circumstances presented, cause exists for reducing the notice period and scheduling a hearing on March 18, 2026 to consider the relief requested in the Supplement. An order reducing time for the hearings to consider the Supplement will benefit the Debtor, its estate, its creditors, and other parties in interest.

11. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the Application, this Declaration and the Supplement, the Debtor respectfully requests that the Court issue an order reducing the notice

period and scheduling a hearing to consider the Supplement on March 18, 2026 at 2:00 P.M. (prevailing Eastern Time) or as soon thereafter as the Court may be available.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed on March 2, 2026

By: /s/ Charles J. Sullivan
Charles J. Sullivan, Esq.