

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

**ECF ACCESS ON JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> AND  
EFFECT OF SNOW STORM ON COURT OPERATIONS:  
OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT**

Electronic filers may have experienced difficulty with filing cases and pleadings on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> from about 9:00 AM Eastern time to early afternoon. Those problems resulted from a Distributed Denial of Service (“DDoS”) attack directed at [www.uscourts.gov](http://www.uscourts.gov). That attack impacted ECF operations for many courts. (Like most government agencies and corporations, the Courts are subjected to occasional DDoS attacks – but this time one line of defense failed for a short time.)

With our Website down, we had difficulty communicating the problem to electronic filers. Those who called chambers or the Clerk’s office were informed. Paper filings from electronic filers were accepted. Fortunately, the problems did not last an entire business day.

These problems came shortly after the snow storm of January 5<sup>th</sup> resulted in the closing of the bankruptcy court operations in the Indianapolis courthouse on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Clerk’s office operations continued on both of those days: the Evansville and New Albany offices were open, and nearly all Indianapolis staff teleworked both days. CM/ECF was operational the entire time. That state of affairs created some confusion as to the status of deadlines expiring on Monday and Tuesday.

The Judges are considering ways to make our procedures more clear when situations like these arise: where either a courthouse has been closed – but the entire Court hasn’t ceased operations – or where CM/ECF becomes unavailable for an extended period. (Procedures would be spelled out in our CM/ECF Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual.)

Do you have any thoughts on how the Court should handle these situations? How should we give notice? How treat deadlines? Is it reasonable to expect that, as long as CM/ECF is available it’s ‘business as usual’ for attorneys? Please send any comments through our local rules comment box: [Local\\_Rules\\_Comments@insb.uscourts.gov](mailto:Local_Rules_Comments@insb.uscourts.gov). Comments received by Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, will arrive in time for the Judges to consider at their next meeting.

January 21, 2014

/s/ Kevin P. Dempsey  
Clerk