

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

**James K. Abcouwer,
Plaintiff**

**vs. Civil Action No. 12-C-416 (Kanawha County)
Supreme Court Docket No. 20-BCD-04**

**Trans Energy, Inc.,
Defendant**

and

**James K. Abcouwer,
Plaintiff**

**vs. Civil Action No. 13-C-56 (Kanawha County)
Supreme Court Docket No. 20-BCD-04**

**EQT Corporation, William F.
Woodburn, and Loren E. Bagley,
Defendants**

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals has been advised that Defendants EQT Corporation, Trans Energy, Inc., William F. Woodburn, and Loren E. Bagley, by counsel, Michael B. Hissam, Andrew C. Robey, Kayla S. Reynolds, and the law firm of Hissam Forman Donovan Ritchie PLLC, have filed a renewed motion to refer the above-styled cases to the Business Court Division pursuant to Rule 29 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules. Previous motions to refer were denied on April 13, 2018 (Kanawha County Civil Action No. 12-C-416) and April 30, 2018 (Kanawha County Civil Action No. 13-C-56). Plaintiff James K. Abcouwer, by counsel, Marvin W. Masters, Kimberly K. Dotson, and the Masters Law Firm LC, filed a response in opposition to the renewed motion to refer.

Upon careful review and consideration of the renewed motion and the response thereto, the Chief Justice has determined that these disputes do not require specialized treatment to improve the expectation of a fair and reasonable resolution, and, therefore, these cases do not meet the criteria for referral under Rule 29.04 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules.

It is hereby ORDERED that the renewed motion to refer these cases to the Business Court Division is DENIED and that a copy of this order be transmitted to the Honorable Michael D. Lorensen, Chair of the Business Court Division; to the Central Office of the Business Court Division; to the Honorable Charles E. King, Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; to the Honorable Carrie L. Webster, Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; and to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, who is to provide copies of the same to all parties of record or their counsel.

ENTERED: AUGUST 11, 2020



TIM ARMSTEAD
Chief Justice