

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA**

ANTERO RESOURCES CORPORATION,
Petitioner

vs.

**Doddridge Civil Action No. 21-P-31
Supreme Court Docket No. 22-BCD-02**

**MATTHEW R. IRBY, West Virginia State Tax Commissioner,
DAVID SPONAUGLE, Assessor of Doddridge County, and
COUNTY COMMISSION OF DODDRIDGE COUNTY,**
Respondents

AND

ANTERO RESOURCES CORPORATION,
Petitioner

vs.

**Ritchie Civil Action No. 21-P-15
Supreme Court Docket No. 22-BCD-03**

**MATTHEW R. IRBY, West Virginia State Tax Commissioner,
ARLENE MOSSER, Assessor of Ritchie County, and
COUNTY COMMISSION OF RITCHIE COUNTY,**
Respondents

ORDER GRANTING REFERRAL

On February 11, 2022, the petitioner, Antero Resources Corporation, by counsel, John J. Meadows, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, filed separate motions to refer these cases to the Business Court Division in accordance with Rule 29 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules (“TCR”). On March 2, 2022, the County Commission of Doddridge County, by counsel, Jonathan Nicol and R. Terrance Rodgers, Kay Casto & Chaney, PLLC, filed a response to the motion to refer Doddridge County Civil Action No. 21-P-31. The State Tax Commissioner, by Sean M. Whelan, Assistant Attorney General, filed responses to both motions on March 3, 2022.

Upon careful review and consideration of the motions, the Chief Justice has determined that the principal claims in the actions involve matters of significance to the transactions,

operations, or governance between business entities as required by TCR 29.04(a)(1), and that specialized treatment is likely to improve the expectation of a fair and reasonable resolution of the controversy as required by TCR 29.04(a)(2).

It is ORDERED that the motions to refer this action to the Business Court Division are GRANTED.

It is further ORDERED that cases are consolidated for purposes of consideration by the Business Court Division.

The Clerk of Court shall provide a copy of this order to the Honorable Michael D. Lorensen, Chair of the Business Court Division, for assignment of a presiding judge and such other actions as are necessary to effectuate the provisions of TCR 29; to the Central Office of the Business Court Division, to the Honorable Timothy L. Sweeney, Judge of the Circuit Courts of Doddridge and Ritchie Counties, and to the Clerk of the Circuit Courts of Doddridge County and Ritchie County.

ENTERED: MARCH 29, 2021




JOHN A. HUTCHISON
Chief Justice