

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

**Antero Resources Corporation,
Petitioner**

**vs) No. 18-AA-1 (Ritchie County)
Supreme Court Docket No. 20-BCD-11**

**Dale Steager, West Virginia State Tax Commissioner;
Arlene Mossor, Assessor of Ritchie County; and
the County Commission of Ritchie County, Sitting as
the Board of Assessment Appeals,
Respondents**

AND

**Antero Resources Corporation,
Petitioner**

**vs) No. 20-P-83-2 (Harrison County)
Supreme Court Docket No. 20-BCD-12**

**Dale Steager, West Virginia State Tax Commissioner;
Joseph R. Romano, Assessor of Harrison County; and
the County Commission of Harrison County, Sitting as
the Board of Assessment Appeals,
Respondents**

AND

**Antero Resources Corporation,
Petitioner**

**vs) No. 19-AA-1 (Doddridge County)
Supreme Court Docket No. 20-BCD-13**

**Dale Steager, West Virginia State Tax Commissioner;
David Sponaule, Assessor of Doddridge County; and
the County Commission of Doddridge County, Sitting as
the Board of Assessment Appeals,
Respondents**

AND

**Antero Resources Corporation,
Petitioner**

**vs) No. 18-AA-1 (Tyler County)
Supreme Court Docket No. 20-BCD-14**

**Dale Steager, West Virginia State Tax Commissioner;
Lisa Jackson, Assessor of Tyler County; and
the County Commission of Tyler County, Sitting as
the Board of Assessment Appeals,
Respondents**

AND

**Antero Resources Corporation,
Petitioner**

**vs) No. 18-AA-1 (Doddridge County)
Supreme Court Docket No. 20-BCD-15**

**Dale Steager, West Virginia State Tax Commissioner;
David Sponaugle, Assessor of Doddridge County; and
the County Commission of Doddridge County, Sitting as
the Board of Assessment Appeals,
Respondents**

AND

**Antero Resources Corporation,
Petitioner**

**vs) No. 18-P-235-3 (Harrison County)
Supreme Court Docket No. 20-BCD-16**

**Dale Steager, West Virginia State Tax Commissioner;
Joseph R. Romano, Assessor of Harrison County; and
the County Commission of Harrison County,
Sitting as the Board of Assessment Appeals,
Respondents**

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals has been advised that a motion to refer to the Business Court Division pursuant to Rule 29 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules (“TCR”) has been filed in each of the above-styled actions by Antero Resources Corporation, by counsel John J. Meadows and Craig A. Griffith, Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC.

Reply memoranda in opposition to each motion to refer were filed by the West Virginia State Tax Commissioner and the County Assessors, by counsel L. Wayne Williams, Assistant Attorney General. The County Commissions of Harrison and Doddridge Counties, by counsel Jonathan Nicol and R. Terrance Rodgers, Kay Casto & Chaney PLLC, filed reply memoranda in opposition to the motion to refer in Harrison County Civil Action Nos. 20-P-83-2 and 18-P-235-3 and Doddridge County Civil Action Nos. 18-AA-1 & 19-AA-1. The County Commission of Tyler County by counsel D. Luke Furbee, Prosecuting Attorney, filed a reply memorandum opposing the motion to refer filed in Tyler County Civil Action No. 18-AA-1. The Honorable Thomas A. Bedell, Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, filed a reply memorandum to the motion to refer in Harrison County Civil Action No. 20-P-83-2. The Honorable James A. Matish, Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, filed a reply memorandum in support of the motion to refer in Harrison County No. 18-P-235-3.

Upon careful review and consideration of the motions and the reply memoranda filed thereto, the Chief Justice has determined that the principal claims in these actions involve matters of significance to the transactions, operations, or governance between business entities as required by TCR 29.04(a)(1). The Chief Justice has further determined that the interests of judicial economy weigh in favor of referral and that specialized treatment is likely to improve the expectation of a fair and reasonable resolution of the controversies as required by TCR 29.04(a)(2), and the motions to refer should therefore be granted.

It is hereby ORDERED that the motions to refer these actions to the Business Court Division are granted, and this order shall be transmitted 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.

It is finally ORDERED that a copy of this order shall be transmitted to the Central Office of the Business Court Division; the Honorable Jeffrey D. Cramer, Judge of Second Judicial Circuit; the Honorable Timothy L. Sweeney, Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit; the Honorable Thomas A. Bedell and the Honorable James A. Matish, Judges of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; and the Clerks of the Circuit Courts of Tyler, Doddridge, Ritchie, and Harrison Counties, who shall provide copies of the same to all counsel of record.

ENTERED: DECEMBER 30, 2020



TIM ARMSTEAD
Chief Justice