

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

**Dallas T. Runyon, Sr. and David E. Runyon,
Plaintiffs**

vs.) Civil Action No. 17-C-108 (Mingo County)

**Citizens Telecommunications Company of West
Virginia, Frontier West Virginia, Inc. and
Appalachian Power Company,
Defendants**

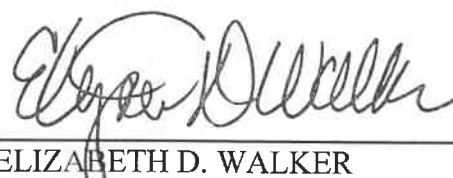
The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals has been advised that Defendant Frontier West Virginia Inc., by counsel, Ronda L. Harvey, William M. Lorensen, and the law firm of Bowles Rice LLP, and Defendant Appalachian Power Company, by counsel, W. Bradley Sorrells and the law firm of Robinson & McElwee PLLC, have filed a joint motion to refer the above-referenced case to the Business Court Division pursuant to Rule 29 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules ("TCR"). Plaintiffs Dallas T. Runyon and David E. Runyon, by counsel, Michael B. Hissam and the law firm of Hissam Forman Donovan Ritchie PLLC, filed a response stating that they do not oppose the motion to refer.

Upon careful review and consideration of the motion to refer and the response thereto, the Chief Justice has determined that the principal claims in the action involve matters of significance to the transactions, operations, or governance between business entities as required by TCR 29.04(a)(1). The mere fact that the action involves individuals does not, of itself, exclude the case from eligibility. The Chief Justice has further determined 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), and the motion to refer should therefore be granted.

It is hereby ORDERED that the motion to refer this action to the Business Court Division is 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 further ORDERED that a copy of this ORDER be transmitted to the Central Office of the Business Court Division; the Honorable Miki Thompson, Judge of the Thirtieth Judicial Circuit; and to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Mingo County, who is to provide copies of the same to all parties of record or their counsel.

ENTERED: OCTOBER 18, 2019



ELIZABETH D. WALKER
Chief Justice