

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

**Antero Resources Corporation,
Petitioner**

vs) No. 16-AA-1 (Tyler County)

**Dale Steager, West Virginia State Tax Commissioner;
Jackson L. Hayes, Assessor of Tyler County; and
the County Commission of Tyler County,
Respondents**

AND

**Antero Resources Corporation,
Petitioner**

vs) No. 17-AA-1 (Tyler County)

**Dale Steager, West Virginia State Tax Commissioner;
Jackson L. Hayes, Assessor of Tyler County; and
the County Commission of Tyler County,
Respondents**

AND

**Antero Resources Corporation,
Petitioner**

vs) No. 17-AA-1 (Doddridge County)

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

AND

**Antero Resources Corporation,
Petitioner**

vs) No. 17-AA-3 (Doddridge County)

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

AND

**Antero Resources Corporation,
Petitioner**

vs) No. 17-AA-1 (Ritchie County)

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

AND

**Antero Resources Corporation,
Petitioner**

vs) No. 17-AA-2 (Ritchie County)

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

AND

**Antero Resources Corporation,
Petitioner**

vs) No. 17-C-98-2 (Harrison County)

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

The petitioner, Antero Resources Corporation, by counsel John Meadows and Craig Griffith, Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, has filed separate motions to refer to the Business Court Division pursuant to Rule 29 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules (“TCR”), in each of the above-styled actions.

Reply memoranda in opposition to each motion to refer were filed by The State Tax Department and the West Virginia State Tax Commissioner, by L. Wayne Williams, Assistant Attorney General. The Tyler County Commission, by Luke Furbee, Prosecuting Attorney, filed reply memoranda opposing the motions to refer in Tyler County Nos. 16-AA-1 and 17-AA-1. In addition, the Honorable Thomas A. Bedell, filed a reply memorandum to the motion to refer in Harrison County No. 17-C-98-2.

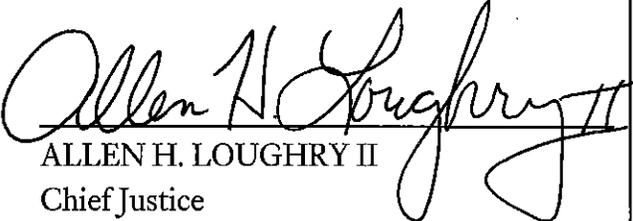
Upon careful review and consideration of the motions, and the reply memoranda filed thereto, the Chief Justice has determined that the principal claims in these actions involve matters of significance to the transactions, operations, or governance between business entities as required by TCR 29.04(a)(1). 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 Christopher C. Wilkes, 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 these matters shall be consolidated for consideration by the Business Court Division.

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 Cramer, Judge of the Circuit Court of Tyler County; the Honorable Timothy Sweeney, Judge of the Circuit Court of Ritchie and Doddridge Counties; the Honorable Thomas A. Bedell, Judge of the Circuit Court of Harrison

County; and the Clerks of the Circuit Courts of Tyler, Doddridge, Ritchie, and Harrison County, who shall provide copies of the same to all counsel of record.

ENTERED: June 22, 2017


ALLEN H. LOUGHRY II
Chief Justice