

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

SCA EFiled: Jul 09 2024
10:44AM EDT
Transaction ID 73575089

HOPE GAS, INC.,
Petitioner

vs.

Wood County Civil Action No. 24-P-71
Supreme Court Docket No. 24-299

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS and
MATTHEW R. IRBY, West Virginia State Tax Commissioner,
Respondents

ORDER GRANTING REFERRAL

On May 28, 2024, the petitioner Hope Gas, Inc., by counsel John J. Meadows, Devon J. Stewart, and William Ballard, Steptoe Johnson PLLC, filed a motion to refer this case to the Business Court Division in accordance with Rule 29 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules ("TCR"). On June 17, 2024, the respondents, the West Virginia Board of Public Works and the West Virginia State Tax Commissioner Matthew R. Irby, by Sean M. Whelan, Deputy Attorney General, filed a response to the motion to refer stating that the respondents do not object to referral.

Upon careful review and consideration of the motion, 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), 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 motion to refer this action to the Business Court Division is GRANTED.

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 John D. Beane, Judge of the Circuit Court of Wood County, and to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Wood County.

ENTERED: JULY 8, 2024




TIM ARMSTEAD
Chief Justice