

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

Riley Natural Gas Company,
a West Virginia corporation,
Plaintiff

v. No. 15-C-405-3 (Harrison County)

Northstar Energy Corporation,
a West Virginia corporation,
Defendant

The Honorable James A. Matish, Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, has filed a motion to refer the above-referenced action to the Business Court Division pursuant to Rule 29 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules ("TCR"). Defendant Northstar Energy Corporation, by counsel, Stephen L. Thompson, and the law firm of Barth & Thompson, has filed a response in opposition to this motion. Plaintiff Riley Natural Gas Company, by counsel, Shawn A. Morgan, and the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, filed a letter consenting to the 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). 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 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 a copy of this ORDER be transmitted to the Central Office of the Business Court Division; the Honorable James A. Matish, Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; and to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Harrison County, who is to provide copies of the same to all parties of record or their counsel.

ENTERED: JUNE 7, 2016



MENIS E. KETCHUM
Chief Justice