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File #: 200842

August 20, 2025

***VIA ELECTRONIC FILING***

Matthew Homsher, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2nd Floor North  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**Re: Monroe Energy, LLC, et al. v. Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P.  
Docket No. C-2025-3053018**

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Dear Secretary Homsher:

Attached for filing in the above-referenced proceeding is the Answer in Opposition of Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P., to the Complainants' Joint Motion to Modify the Procedural Schedule.

Copies will be provided as indicated on the Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,



Garrett P. Lent

GPL/dmc  
Attachment

cc: The Honorable Eranda Vero (*via email; w/attachment*)  
Certificate of Service

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

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Date: August 20, 2025

  
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Garrett P. Lent

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Monroe Energy LLC, Lucknow-Highspire	:	
Terminals LLC, Sheetz INC, and PBF	:	
Holding Company LLC	:	Docket No. C-2025-3053018
Complainants,	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P.	:	
	:	
Respondent.	:	

**ANSWER IN OPPOSITION OF LAUREL PIPE LINE COMPANY, L.P. TO  
THE COMPLAINANTS' JOINT MOTION TO MODIFY THE PROCEDURAL  
SCHEDULE**

**TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ERANDA VERO:**

Pursuant to Section 5.103(c) of the regulations of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”), 52 Pa. Code § 5.103(c), Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P. (“Laurel” or the “Company”) hereby files this Answer in Opposition to the Motion to Modify the Procedural Schedule (“Motion”) submitted by Monroe Energy, LLC (“Monroe”), Lucknow-Highspire Terminal, LLC (“LHT”), Sheetz, Inc. (“Sheetz”) and PBF Holding Company LLC (“PBF”) (collectively the “Complainants”) on August 15, 2025. For the reasons explained in this Answer, Laurel submits that the Complainants have failed to demonstrate any colorable cause, let alone good cause, exists for their request to modify the procedural schedule and delay the starting date for hearings in this matter until October 7, 2025. Laurel specifically notes that its witnesses have made themselves available for hearings on the currently scheduled dates, and that certain of its witnesses are not available during the period the Complainants have identified for hearings in the Motion. Therefore, the Motion should be denied, and the existing procedural schedule should be maintained.

However, if and only if the Administrative Law Judge Eranda Vero (the “ALJ”) and or the Commission is inclined to grant the Motion, Laurel submits that extension of bi-directional service at issue in this proceeding should be permitted to go into effect on November 1, 2025. As emphasized below, it is Laurel’s preferred course of action that the Motion be denied and the existing procedural schedule be maintained. Nevertheless, if the procedural schedule in this matter is modified as requested by the Complainants, Laurel submits that this additional action is necessary to avoid substantial prejudice to Laurel and its affiliate not subject to this Commission’s jurisdiction and to ensure that the resolution of this matter does not unnecessarily delay the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (“FERC”) review and approval of matters related to the initiation of new interstate service.

In support of this Answer, Laurel states as follows:

**I. RELEVANT BACKGROUND**

1. Laurel incorporates by reference the procedural background set forth in its Prehearing Memorandum dated May 8, 2025.

2. Since the submission of its Prehearing Memorandum, on May 21, 2025, the ALJ issued an Order Establishing a Litigation Schedule (“May 21 Order”). Among other things, the May 21 Order set (1) July 15, 2025 as the deadline for the submission of written direct testimony for the Complainants, and (2) August 29, 2025 as the deadline for the submission of written rebuttal testimony for Laurel. No party filed a timely request for further review of the May 21 Order, either by the ALJ or the Commission.

3. Also on May 21, 2025, and consistent with the May 21 Order, the Commission issued a Hearing Notice scheduling in-person evidentiary hearings to occur between September 9-12, 2025 in Philadelphia, PA.

4. The Complainants and Laurel have been actively engaged in discovery since May 5, 2025. Germane to the instant Motion, Laurel specifically notes that the ALJ issued four Orders Regarding Laurel’s Motions to Compel with respect to Laurel’s Set I Discovery on Monroe, LHT, Sheetz and BPF, on June 10, 2025.<sup>1</sup> In these Orders, the ALJ specifically denied Laurel’s ability to obtain discovery on the Complainants’ projections/analyses/conclusions/opinions that could be introduced through the pre-served written direct testimony of its expert witnesses.<sup>2</sup> No party filed a timely request for further review of this order, either by the ALJ or the Commission.

5. On July 15, 2025, the Complainants submitted five pieces of written direct testimony, including two pieces of testimony by external expert witnesses and three pieces of testimony by internal fact witnesses for Monroe, LHT and Sheetz.

6. Laurel has since issued additional discovery upon the Complainants with respect to the specific information and conclusions presented in the Complainants’ written direct testimony in accordance with the Prehearing Order issued in this matter and the Commission’s regulations.

7. On August 5, 2025, the Complainants filed a Motion to Modify the Procedural Schedule. That same day, the Complainants advised the ALJ that this motion was filed in error. A Petition to Withdraw the August 5, 2025, Motion to Modify the Procedural Schedule was filed on August 6, 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Monroe Energy, LLC, et al. v. Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P.*, Docket No. C-2025-3053018, Order Regarding Respondent’s Motions to Compel – Monroe (dated June 10, 2025) (“Monroe Order”); *Monroe Energy, LLC, et al. v. Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P.*, Docket No. C-2025-3053018, Order Regarding Respondent’s Motions to Compel – LHT (dated June 10, 2025) (“LHT Order”); *Monroe Energy, LLC, et al. v. Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P.*, Docket No. C-2025-3053018, Order Regarding Respondent’s Motions to Compel – Sheetz (dated June 10, 2025) (“Sheetz Order”); *Monroe Energy, LLC, et al. v. Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P.*, Docket No. C-2025-3053018, Order Regarding Respondent’s Motions to Compel – PBF (dated June 10, 2025) (“PBF Order”).

<sup>2</sup> Each of the orders specifically cited 52 Pa. Code § 5.324(a)(2) and permitted each of the Complainants to delay responding to Laurel’s discovery requests through the submission of written testimony. See Monroe Order, at pp. 9, 15, 16; LHT Order, at pp. 9, 15, 16; Sheetz Order, at pp. 9, 15, 16; PBF Order, at pp. 9, 15, 16. Laurel further notes that in each of these orders the ALJ concluded that “[t]he Complaint contains no allegations regarding the permissibility of bi-directional service in the context of Laurel’s certificate of public convenience,” when it denied Laurel’s discovery regarding this issue. Monroe Order, at p. 4, n.1; LHT Order, at p. 4, n.1; Sheetz Order, at p. 4, n.1; PBF Order, at p. 4, n.1.

8. On August 15, 2025, the instant Motion was filed. Prior to its submission, Counsel for the Complainants and Laurel have conferred regarding the issues identified in the Motion. However, at this time, the parties have not reached a mutually acceptable resolution of these issues.

**II. ANSWER IN OPPOSITION TO THE MOTION**

**A. THE MOTION SHOULD BE DENIED AND THE EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS CONTEMPLATED BY THIS MATTER SHOULD BE HELD AS SCHEDULED**

9. The crux of the Complainants’ request is that discovery has been “extensive”, and that it appears Laurel is preparing to present robust rebuttal testimony in response to the Complainants’ direct testimony. Motion, at pp. 2-4. The Complainants relatedly claim the current schedule does not afford them sufficient time to conduct discovery and/or prepare for hearings. Motion, at pp. 4-5. None of these arguments justify the Complainants’ request to modify the procedural schedule.

10. Since the May 21 Order was issued, the Complainants and Laurel have operated under a specific set of deadlines in order to prepare their respective cases. The amounts of time afforded to conduct discovery and prepare testimony have been known since May. If the Complainants had legitimate concerns regarding the timeframes provided by the May 21 Order, they could have and should have raised those concerns much earlier in this matter. Raising the “concerns” in the Motion, almost three months after the May 21 Order was issued and less than three weeks before hearings are scheduled to commence, strongly suggests this request is little more than a litigation tactic designed to delay the resolution of this matter. The ALJ and the Commission should not take this bait.

11. Relatedly, Laurel and its witnesses have prepared and anticipated attending in person hearings in Philadelphia from September 9-12, 2025. Modifying the procedural schedule as proposed in the Motion will raise significant issues with respect to the availability of at least

one of Laurel's contemplated witnesses, who is not available for hearings due to hearings scheduled in another matter during the month of October. Granting the Motion would, therefore, ultimately necessitate even further delays beyond those requested, in order for all of Laurel's witnesses to be available for hearings in this matter.

12. Furthermore, Laurel reminds Your Honor and the Commission that this proceeding resulted in the FERC holding review of the Petition for Declaratory Order ("PDO") of Buckeye Pipe Line Company, L.P. ("Buckeye") at FERC Docket No. OR25-6-000<sup>3</sup> in abeyance. *Buckeye Pipe Line Company, LP* 192 FERC ¶ 61,046 (2025). The need for a timely resolution of this matter is heightened by FERC's issuance of an order holding the PDO proceeding in abeyance pending this Commission's resolution of the Complaint insofar as it alleged a partial abandonment of intrastate service. Modifying the currently effective procedural schedule as requested by the Complainants would result in further, substantial delays of FERC's determinations, beyond those already resulting from the current procedural schedule. Moreover, the delays sought by the Complainants will further frustrate and delay the project completion date for Buckeye to initiate FERC-jurisdictional interstate petroleum products pipeline transportation service.

13. Finally, Laurel notes that the litigation schedule currently in place was established by Your Honor in order to strike a balance between the need to curtail delays of the initiation of a non-jurisdictional service (Tr. 30 (" . . . I do not see that a lot has changed in the party's position. And with the pipeline being delayed, maybe not a whole lot. I mean, some of it has changed, but not a whole lot. So, we need to curtail that." (emphasis added))) and the Complainants' desire to

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<sup>3</sup> The PDO involves Buckeye's request for certain approvals from the FERC related to the specific terms of its proposed incremental eastbound interstate petroleum products transportation service over the existing segment of the Laurel pipeline system located between Altoona and Sinking Spring in Pennsylvania (i.e., Line 720 and Line 724), while Laurel maintains existing westbound intrastate service over the entirety of the Laurel pipeline system—i.e., the "Bidirectional Service Extension."

submit written testimony in this matter (Tr. 31). Modifying the schedule would not curtail delays in the initiation of a non-jurisdictional service, it would increase them.

14. For these reasons, the Motion fails to set forth any justifiable cause, let alone good cause, to grant the modification of the procedural schedule the Complainants seek. Therefore, the Motion should be denied, and in-person evidentiary hearings should be held as scheduled from September 9-12, 2025.

**B. IF ANY MODIFICATION OF THE SCHEDULE IS GRANTED, THEN THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE AND THE COMMISSION MUST TAKE ADDITIONAL ACTIONS TO AVOID SUBSTANTIAL PREJUDICE TO LAUREL AND ITS AFFILIATE**

15. As described in Section II.A., above, Laurel submits that the instant Motion should be denied, and the procedural schedule should not be modified as proposed by the Complainants. However, if and only if the ALJ and/or the Commission is inclined to modify the procedural schedule then Laurel submits that the ALJ and the Commission should also confirm that the Bi-directional Service Extension will not be prohibited from going into service effective November 1, 2025.

16. From the outset of this proceeding, Laurel has been clear that no certificate of public convenience and no modifications to its existing, Commission-approved tariff are required for Bidirectional Service Extension. The ALJ has also made clear that “[t]he Complaint contains no allegations regarding the permissibility of bi-directional service in the context of Laurel’s certificate of public convenience.”<sup>4</sup> This conclusion is consistent with the prior findings and determinations in the *2018 Recommended Decision*<sup>5</sup> and the *2018 Final Order*.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Monroe Order, at p. 4, n.1; LHT Order, at p. 4, n.1; Sheetz Order, at p. 4, n.1; PBF Order, at p. 4, n.1.

<sup>5</sup> *Application of Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P.*, Docket Nos. A-2016-2575829 and G-2017-2587567, Recommended Decision, at p. 50 (dated March 23, 2018) (“*2018 Recommended Decision*”).

<sup>6</sup> *Application of Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P.*, Docket Nos. A-2016-2575829 and G-2017-2587567, Opinion and Order, at pp. 20, 25 (entered July 12, 2018) (“*2018 Final Order*”).

17. However, FERC has held its ruling of the PDO in abeyance and the Bidirectional Service Extension has been delayed. This determination increases the need to ensure that an order is issued without undue delay in this proceeding.

18. In order to ensure that this proceeding does not delay FERC review of a proposed interstate service and/or the initiation of a proposed interstate service, Laurel submits that, if and only if the Motion is granted the ALJ and the Commission should also confirm that the Bi-directional Service Extension will not be prohibited from going into service effective November 1, 2025.

19. This additional measure would be necessary and appropriate if the Motion is granted, to ensure that the relief sought by the Complainants is not merely an attempt to stymie the initiation of interstate service by delaying the resolution of proceedings before the Commission related to Laurel's intrastate service. Without this further protection, there is no assurance that the Complainants will not seek further extensions in this proceeding in an effort to further delay the initiation of interstate service by Laurel's affiliate, which will result in further harms to Laurel's affiliate. In contrast, if the Complainants believe that any of the consequences of the commencement of service violate the Public Utility Code, then they could seek a full remedy in civil court for any alleged violation of the Public Utility Code, for intrastate volumes, or of the Interstate Commerce Act,<sup>7</sup> for interstate shipments.

20. Laurel emphasizes that its primary position is that the instant Motion should be denied and that this proceeding should continue on the schedule established by the May 21 Order. This alternative should only be considered if the ALJ and/or the Commission determines the procedural schedule should be modified in some fashion. Furthermore, Laurel reserves all rights

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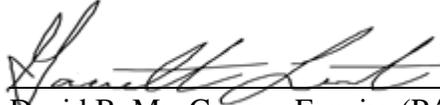
<sup>7</sup> 6 49 U.S.C.A. App Section 13(1) (1976). FERC may award damages, Interstate Commerce Act Section 16(1), and complainants have two years from the alleged violations in which to file a complaint. Interstate Commerce Act Section 16(3)(b). The governing provisions of the Interstate Commerce Act may be found at the FERC's website: <https://www.ferc.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/interstate-commerce-act-ica.pdf>.

to seek Commission review of any decision that modifies the procedural schedule in this matter without adopting the additional condition proposed herein.

**III. CONCLUSION**

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P. respectfully requests that Administrative Law Judge Eranda Vero deny the Motion to Modify the Procedural Schedule submitted by the Complainants. Alternatively, and only if the Administrative Law Judge Eranda Vero is inclined to modify the procedural schedule set in this matter, Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P. respectfully requests that the Administrative Law Judge and the Commission confirm that the Bi-directional Service Extension will not be prohibited from going into service effective November 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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