# ORAL ARGUMENT SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 16, 2015 No. 14-1112 & No. 14-1151

# In the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

No. 14-1112: IN RE MURRAY ENERGY CORPORATION

Petitioner.

Filed: 03/12/2015

No. 14-1151: Murray Energy Corporation

Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY and REGINA A. McCarthy, Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency

Respondents.

On Petition for Writ of Prohibition & On Petition for Judicial Review

# JOINT REPLY OF PETITIONER AND INTERVENOR-PETITIONERS IN SUPPORT OF MOTION REGARDING ORAL ARGUMENT FORMAT AND OPPOSITION TO RESPONDENTS' CROSS-MOTION

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") does not deny that the two consolidated original actions brought by petitioner Murray Energy Corporation present issues of great economic and regulatory importance and involve foundational separation-of-powers, federalism, and statutory issues. Nor does EPA deny that the consolidated *Murray Energy* cases, Nos. 14-1112 and 14-1151, have been briefed separately from a related case, No. 14-1146, brought by West Virginia and eleven other states. Perhaps most importantly, this Court previously determined that the *Murray Energy* cases should be briefed and argued separately from, albeit in tandem with, the related *West Virginia* case (No. 14-1146).

Now, with briefing complete, EPA asks the Court to change course and consolidate the *Murray Energy* cases with the *West Virginia* case just six weeks prior to oral argument. And absent such a consolidation, EPA asks in the alternative that each side in the complex *Murray Energy* cases be allotted a mere 15 minutes of argument. These requests are manifestly self-serving. If adopted, EPA's preferred argument format would prove prejudicial to the petitioner side's ability to present and fully explain its case and the Court's ability to fairly consider it. EPA's request is especially puzzling given that the *Murray Energy* and *West Virginia* cases are the only matters scheduled for oral argument that day.

#### **BACKGROUND**

On June 18, 2014, and August 15, 2014, respectively, Murray Energy Corporation brought the two above-captioned original actions. In No. 14-1112, Murray Energy Corporation seeks a writ of prohibition against EPA's *ultra vires* rulemaking efforts to regulate existing electric generating units under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act when those sources are already regulated under Section 112 of the Act. In No. 14-1151, Murray Energy Corporation challenges EPA's final legal conclusion that it has the authority to do so. On August 1, 2014, West Virginia and other states petitioned for review of EPA's settlement agreement that prompted the section 111(d) rulemaking.

On November 13, 2014, the Court ordered that the two *Murray Energy* cases "be consolidated" and that they be briefed and argued separately from, but before the same panel as, the related *West Virginia* case, No. 14-1146. *See* Order at 2, as amended Nov. 13, 2014, ECF No. 1522086. On January 27, 2015, the Court further ordered that the consolidated *Murray Energy* arguments and the *West Virginia* argument take place on April 16, 2015. Order, ECF No. 1534467. That January 27 order made no mention of revisiting the November 13 order, which consolidated the *Murray Energy* cases and left separate the *West Virginia* case, for purposes of both briefing (then well underway) and oral argument.

#### **ARGUMENT**

As explained in our motion, the two *Murray Energy* cases involve distinct sets of parties and issues and, given its complexity and importance, an allotment of 35 minutes per side is reasonable. The Court has previously allowed similarly lengthy arguments in far less complex cases, and it has heard argument in related but unconsolidated cases sequentially, without combining the matters into one big argument. Tellingly, EPA's opposition and crossmotion cites no prior arguments before this Court as precedent favoring its preferred format.

In *Virginia v. EPA*, for example, the Court ordered a 30-minute-per-side argument, and allowed three arguing counsel on petitioners' side, in a case involving far less important issues. *Virginia* presented successful constitutional and statutory challenges under the Clean Air Act to an EPA regulatory program limited to requiring "California cars" in the northeast region. *See Virginia v. EPA*, 108 F.3d 1397 (1997). The Court allowed three arguing counsel a total of 30 minutes of argument time in that much less consequential case. Case No. 95-1163, Order October 2, 1996. In this case, petitioners reasonably request 35 minutes per side in order to allow for argument not only by one attorney on behalf of petitioner Murray Energy Corporation and one attorney on behalf of all intervenors, but also one attorney limited to only five minutes on a specific constitutional law argument to be presented by Professor Laurence Tribe, an expert in that field.

Nor is there merit to EPA's belated contention that the states' *West Virginia* argument should now be consolidated into *Murray Energy*. States enjoy a "special solicitude" not only in a standing analysis, *see Massachusetts v. EPA*, 549 U.S. 497, 518, 520 (2007), but also under the Court's procedural rules. *See, e.g.*, Circuit Rule 29(a) (providing that states, unlike private parties, need not seek consent before filing amicus briefs). Here, not just one state but twelve seek to come to the Court's podium and explain the merits of their unique, albeit related, case.

Simply put, the fact that cases are related does not mean they should be consolidated. All parties to both the *Murray Energy* and *West Virginia* matters submitted their briefing under an expectation that the Court's November 13 order had decided in favor of separate arguments and would be adhered to at the April 16, 2015 argument session. In issuing its November order, the Court considered the degree of "relatedness" between the two matters and concluded that they should be heard on the same day before the same panel, but not consolidated. And the parties who filed these three cases — Murray Energy, West Virginia, and eleven other states — fully agree. *See* Reply in Support of Petitioners' Motion Regarding Oral Argument and Opposition to EPA's Cross-Motion, *West Virginia v. EPA*, No. 14-1146 (D.C. Cir. filed Mar. 11, 2015), ECF No. 1541781.

Finally, Petitioner and intervenor-petitioners respectfully renew their request that argument in the two *Murray Energy* cases proceed before argument in *West Virginia*, a sequencing to which EPA has now waived any objection.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The two *Murray Energy* cases and the *West Virginia* case were briefed separately by order of the Court. They should now be argued separately, as the Court's January 27 Order contemplates, and the *Murray Energy* cases should be heard first with each side allotted 35 minutes of argument.

Dated: March 12, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Joint Reply of Petitioner and Intervenor-Petitioners in Support of Motion Regarding Oral Argument Format and Opposition to Respondents' Cross-Motion has been served electronically by Petitioner, Murray Energy Corporation, through the Court's CM/ECF system on all ECF registered counsel.

Dated: March 12, 2015

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