

Complaint

IN THE MATTER OF

**GLOBAL PARTNERS LP,
AND
RICHARD WIEHL**CONSENT ORDER, ETC. IN REGARD TO ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF SECTION 5 OF THE FEDERAL
TRADE COMMISSION ACT AND SECTION 7 OF THE CLAYTON ACT

*Docket No. C-4755; File No. 211 0050
Complaint, December 20, 2021 – Decision, March 1, 2022*

This consent order addresses the \$151 million acquisition by Global Partners LP of certain assets of Richard Wiehl. The complaint alleges that the Acquisition, if consummated, would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act and Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act by substantially lessening competition for the retail sale of gasoline in five local markets in Connecticut, and additionally by substantially lessening competition for the retail sale of diesel fuel in four of those same local markets. The consent order requires Respondents to divest certain retail fuel assets in five local markets in Connecticut to Petroleum Marketing Investment Group, LLC.

Participants

For the *Commission*: Kurt Herrera-Heintz.

For the *Respondents*: David Smith and Hill Welford, Vinson & Elkins, LLP; Alycia Ziarno, Nixon Peabody LLP.

COMPLAINT

Pursuant to the Clayton Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act (“FTC Act”), and its authority thereunder, the Federal Trade Commission (“Commission”), having reason to believe that Respondent Global Partners LP, has entered into an agreement to acquire twenty seven entities wholly owned by Respondent Richard Wiehl, that such acquisition, if consummated, would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 5 of the FTC Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45, and that a proceeding in respect thereof would be in the public interest, hereby issues this complaint, stating its charges as follows.

I. RESPONDENTS

1. Respondent Global Partners LP (“Global”) is a limited partnership organized, existing, and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of Delaware, with its executive offices and principal place of business located at 800 South Street, Suite 500, Waltham, Massachusetts, 02454.

2. Respondent Global is, and at all times relevant herein has been, engaged in, among other things, the retail sale of gasoline and diesel fuel in the United States.

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3. Respondent Richard Wiehl is a natural person with offices and principal place of business located at 497 Bic Drive, Milford, Connecticut 06461.

4. Respondent Richard Wiehl is, and at all times relevant herein has been, engaged in, among other things, the retail sale of gasoline and diesel fuel in the United States.

5. Each Respondent, either directly or through its subsidiaries, is, and at all times relevant herein has been, engaged in commerce, as “commerce” is defined in Section 1 of the Clayton Act as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 12, and Section 4 of the FTC Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 44.

II. THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION

6. Pursuant to a Purchase and Sale Agreement dated December 9, 2020, Global proposes to acquire substantially all of Richard Wiehl’s retail and wholesale assets (“the Acquisition”) for approximately \$151 million.

7. The Acquisition is subject to Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18.

III. THE RELEVANT MARKET

8. Relevant product markets in which to analyze the effects of the Acquisition are the retail sale of gasoline and the retail sale of diesel fuel. Consumers require gasoline for their gasoline-powered vehicles and can purchase gasoline only at retail fuel outlets. Consumers require diesel fuel for their diesel-powered vehicles and can purchase diesel only at retail fuel outlets. No economic or practical alternative to the retail sale of gasoline or diesel fuel at retail fuel outlets exists.

9. Relevant geographic markets in which to analyze the effects of the Acquisition on the retail sale of gasoline include five local markets within the State of Connecticut. Relevant geographic markets in which to analyze the effects of the Acquisition on the retail sale of diesel fuel include four local markets within the State of Connecticut.

10. The relevant geographic markets for retail gasoline and retail diesel fuel are highly localized, ranging from a few blocks to a few miles, depending on local circumstances. Each relevant market is distinct and reflects the commuting patterns, traffic flows, and outlet characteristics unique to each market. Consumers typically choose between nearby retail fuel outlets with similar characteristics along their planned routes.

IV. MARKET STRUCTURE

11. The Acquisition, if consummated, would reduce the number of independent market participants from three to two in three local markets for the retail sale of gasoline and in four local markets for the retail sale of diesel fuel. In two local markets for the retail sale of gasoline, the Acquisition, if consummated, would reduce the number of independent market participants from

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four to three. The Acquisition would result in a highly concentrated market in each local market. In several local markets, the Acquisition, if consummated, would result in competitive harm for both the retail sale of gasoline and the retail sale of diesel fuel.

V. BARRIERS TO ENTRY

12. Entry into each relevant market would not be timely, likely, or sufficient to deter or counteract the anticompetitive effects arising from the Acquisition. Significant entry barriers include the availability of attractive real estate, the time and cost associated with constructing a new retail fuel outlet, and the time associated with obtaining necessary permits and approvals.

VI. EFFECTS OF THE ACQUISITION

13. The effects of the Acquisition, if consummated, may be substantially to lessen competition or to tend to create a monopoly in the relevant markets in violation of Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 5 of the FTC Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45, by:

- a. increasing the likelihood that Respondent Global would unilaterally exercise market power in the relevant markets; and
- b. increasing the likelihood of collusive or coordinated interaction between any remaining competitors in the relevant markets.

VII. VIOLATIONS CHARGED

14. The Acquisition, if consummated, would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 5 of the FTC Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45.

15. The Purchase and Sale Agreement entered into by Respondents Global and Richard Wiehl constitutes a violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Federal Trade Commission, having caused this Complaint to be signed by the Secretary and its official seal affixed, at Washington, D.C., this twentieth day of December, 2021, issues its Complaint against Respondents.

By the Commission.

Order to Maintain Assets

ORDER TO MAINTAIN ASSETS

The Federal Trade Commission initiated an investigation of the proposed acquisition by Respondent Global Partners LP of certain retail service station and convenience store assets from Respondent Richard Wiehl (collectively “Respondents”). The Commission’s Bureau of Competition prepared and furnished to Respondents the Draft Complaint, which it proposed to present to the Commission for its consideration. If issued by the Commission, the Draft Complaint would charge Respondents with violations of Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45.

Respondents and the Bureau of Competition executed an Agreement Containing Consent Orders (“Consent Agreement”) containing (1) an admission by Respondents of all the jurisdictional facts set forth in the Draft Complaint, (2) a statement that the signing of said Consent Agreement is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by Respondents that the law has been violated as alleged in the Draft Complaint, or that the facts as alleged in the Draft Complaint, other than jurisdictional facts, are true, (3) waivers and other provisions as required by the Commission’s Rules, and (4) a proposed Decision and Order and Order to Maintain Assets.

The Commission considered the matter and determined that it had reason to believe that Respondents have violated the said Acts, and that a complaint should issue stating its charges in that respect. The Commission accepted the Consent Agreement and placed it on the public record for a period of 30 days for the receipt and consideration of public comments. Now, in further conformity with the procedure described in Commission Rule 2.34, 16 C.F.R. § 2.34, the Commission issues its Complaint, makes the following jurisdictional findings, and issues this Order to Maintain Assets:

1. Respondent Global Partners LP is a limited partnership organized, existing, and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of Delaware, with its executive offices and principal place of business located at 800 South Street, Suite 500, Waltham, Massachusetts, 02454-9161.
2. Respondent Richard Wiehl is a natural person with his office and principal place of business located at 497 Bic Drive, Milford, Connecticut 06461.
3. The Federal Trade Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding and over the Respondents, and the proceeding is in the public interest.

ORDER**I. Definitions**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, as used in this Order to Maintain Assets, the following definitions and the definitions used in the Consent Agreement and the Decision and Order, which are incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof, shall apply:

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- A. “Decision and Order” means the proposed Decision and Order contained in the Consent Agreement or the Decision and Order issued in this matter.
- B. “Orders” means this Order to Maintain Assets and the Decision and Order.

II. Asset Maintenance

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that until Respondents fully transfer each of the Divestiture Locations and related Retail Fuel Assets to the Acquirer, Respondents shall, subject to their obligations under the Order to Maintain Assets, ensure that each of the Divestiture Locations and related Retail Fuel Assets are operated and maintained in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practices, and shall:

- A. Operate the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practices and take all actions necessary to maintain the full economic viability, marketability, and competitiveness of such Retail Fuel Business;
- B. Prevent the destruction, removal, wasting, deterioration, closing, or impairment (other than as a result of ordinary wear and tear) of the Retail Fuel Assets, including:
 - 1. Maintaining, repairing, and replacing any Equipment to the extent and in a manner consistent with past practices;
 - 2. Maintaining inventory levels in a manner consistent with past practices;
 - 3. Not terminating, canceling, renewing, or amending any Contract, except as consistent with past practices; and
 - 4. Not entering any Contract that would restrain or restrict the ability of the Acquirer to compete against Respondents;
- C. Make any payment required to be paid under any contract or lease when due, and otherwise satisfy all liabilities and obligations associated with the Retail Fuel Assets;
- D. Provide the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets with sufficient funds to operate at least at current rates of operation, to meet all capital calls, to perform routine or necessary maintenance, to repair or replace facilities and equipment, and to carry on at least at their scheduled pace all capital projects, business plans, development projects, promotional activities, and marketing activities;
- E. Provide resources as may be necessary to respond to competition against the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets, prevent diminution in sales of such

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Retail Fuel Business, and maintain the competitive strength of such Retail Fuel Business;

- F. Not reduce operating hours;
- G. Not reduce, change, or modify in any material respect, the level of marketing, promotional, pricing, or advertising practices, programs, and policies for the Retail Fuel Business related to the Retail Fuel Assets, other than changes in the ordinary course of business consistent with changes made at Respondents' other businesses that Respondents will not divest;
- H. Not target, encourage, or convert customers of the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets to become customers of Respondents' other businesses that will not be divested; provided, however, that nothing in this subparagraph shall prevent Respondents from engaging in advertising, marketing, and promotion activities: (i) generally applicable to all of Respondent businesses, or (ii) in the ordinary course of business and in accordance with past practice;
- I. Provide support services at levels customarily provided by Respondents;
- J. Maintain all licenses, permits, approvals, authorizations, or certifications related to or necessary for the operation of the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets, and otherwise operate such Retail Fuel Business in accordance and compliance with all regulatory obligations and requirements;
- K. Not sell, transfer, encumber, or otherwise impair the Retail Fuel Assets (other than in the manner prescribed in the Orders);
- L. Not take any action that lessens the full economic viability, marketability, or competitiveness of the Retail Fuel Assets;
- M. Not terminate the operations of the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets;
- N. Preserve the existing relationships with suppliers, customers, employees, governmental authorities, vendors, landlords, site operators, and others having business relationships with the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets;
- O. Maintain the working conditions, staffing levels, and a work force of equivalent size, training, and expertise associated with the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets, including:
 - 1. When vacancies occur, replacing the employees in the regular and ordinary course of business, in accordance with past practice; and

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2. Not transferring any employees from the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets to any of Respondents' assets or businesses that Respondents will not divest.

Provided, however, that Respondents may take actions that the Acquirer has requested or agreed to in writing and that has been approved in advance by Commission staff, in all cases to facilitate the Acquirer's acquisition of the Divestiture Locations and related Retail Fuel Assets and consistent with the purposes of this Order and the Order to Maintain Assets.

III. Transitional Assistance**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

- A. Until Respondents have transferred all Business Information included in the Retail Fuel Assets to the Acquirer, Respondents shall ensure that the Business Information is maintained and updated in the ordinary course of business and shall provide the Acquirer with access to Business Information (wherever located and however stored) that Respondents have not yet transferred to the Acquirer, and to employees who possess the Business Information.
- B. At the option of the Acquirer, Respondents shall provide the Acquirer with Transitional Assistance sufficient to (1) transfer efficiently the Retail Fuel Assets to the Acquirer and (2) allow the Acquirer to operate the acquired Retail Fuel Assets in a manner that is equivalent in all material respects to the manner in which Respondents did so prior to the Acquisition.
- C. Respondents shall provide Transitional Assistance:
 1. As set forth in a Divestiture Agreement, or as otherwise reasonably requested by the Acquirer (whether before or after the Divestiture Date);
 2. At the price set forth in the Divestiture Agreement, or if no price is set forth, at Direct Cost; and
 3. For a period sufficient to meet the requirements of Section III, which shall be, at the option of the Acquirer, for up to 15 months after the Divestiture Date;

Provided, however, that within 15 days after a request by the Acquirer, Respondents shall file with the Commission a written request to extend the time period for providing Transitional Assistance in order to achieve the purposes of this Order.

- D. Respondents shall allow the Acquirer to terminate, in whole or part, any Transitional Assistance at any time upon commercially reasonable notice and without cost or penalty.

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- E. Respondents shall not cease providing Transitional Assistance due to a breach by the Acquirer of a Divestiture Agreement, and shall not limit any damages (including indirect, special, and consequential damages) that the Acquirer would be entitled to receive in the event of Respondent's breach of any agreement relating to Transitional Assistance.

IV. Employees**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

- A. Until 6 months after the Divestiture Date, Respondents shall cooperate with and assist the Acquirer of the Retail Fuel Assets to evaluate independently and offer employment to any Retail Fuel Employee.
- B. Respondents shall:
1. No later than 10 days after a request from the Acquirer, provide to the Acquirer a list of all Retail Fuel Employees and provide Employee Information for each;
 2. No later than 10 days after a request from the Acquirer, provide the Acquirer an opportunity to privately interview any of the Retail Fuel Employees outside the presence or hearing of any employee or agent of any Respondent, and to make offers of employment to any of the Retail Fuel Employees;
 3. Remove and not enter into any impediments within the control of Respondents that may deter Retail Fuel Employees from accepting employment with the Acquirer, including, but not limited to, removal of any non-compete or confidentiality provisions of employment or other contracts with Respondents that may affect the ability or incentive of those individuals to be employed by the Acquirer, and shall not make any counteroffer to an Retail Fuel Employee who receives an offer of employment from the Acquirer; *provided, however*, that nothing in this Order shall be construed to require Respondents to terminate the employment of any employee or prevent Respondents from continuing the employment of any employee;
 4. Continue to provide Retail Fuel Employees with compensation and benefits, including regularly scheduled raises and bonuses and the vesting of benefits;
 5. Provide reasonable financial incentives for Retail Fuel Employees to continue in their positions, and as may be necessary, to facilitate the employment of such Retail Fuel Employees by an Acquirer; and

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6. Not interfere, directly or indirectly, with the hiring or employing by the Acquirer of any Retail Fuel Employee, not offer any incentive to such employees to decline employment with the Acquirer, and not otherwise interfere with the recruitment of any Retail Fuel Employee by the Acquirer.
- C. Respondents shall not, for a period of 180 days following the Divestiture Date, directly or indirectly, solicit or otherwise attempt to induce any Person employed by the Acquirer to terminate his or her employment with the Acquirer; *provided, however*, Respondents may:
1. Hire any such Person whose employment has been terminated by the Acquirer;
 2. Advertise for employees in newspapers, trade publications, or other media, or engage recruiters to conduct general employee search activities, in either case not targeted specifically at one or more Person employed by the Acquirer; or
 3. Hire a Person who has applied for employment with Respondents, as long as such application was not solicited or induced in violation of Section IV.
- D. Respondent Global shall not enforce any noncompete provision or noncompete agreement against any Person seeking employment from or otherwise doing business with any of the Divestiture Locations.

V. Confidential Information**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

- A. Respondents shall not (x) disclose (including to Respondents' employees) or (y) use for any reason or purpose, any Confidential Information received or maintained by Respondents; *provided, however*, that Respondents may disclose or use such Confidential Information in the course of:
1. Performing its obligations or as permitted under this Order, the Decision and Order, or any Divestiture Agreement; or
 2. Complying with financial reporting requirements, obtaining legal advice, prosecuting or defending legal claims, responding to investigations, or enforcing actions threatened or brought against the Retail Fuel Assets or any Divestiture Locations, or as required by law or regulation, including any applicable securities exchange rules or regulations.
- B. If disclosure or use of any Confidential Information is permitted to Respondents' employees or to any other Person under Section V, Respondents shall limit such disclosure or use (1) only to the extent such information is required, (2) only to

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those employees or Persons who require such information for the purposes permitted under Paragraph V.A, and (3) only after such employees or Persons have signed an agreement to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

- C. Respondents shall enforce the terms of Section V and take necessary actions to ensure that their employees and other Persons comply with the terms of Section V, including implementing access and data controls, training its employees, and other actions that Respondents would take to protect their own trade secrets and proprietary information.

VI. Monitor**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

- A. At any time after Respondents sign the Consent Agreement, the Commission may appoint a Person to serve as Monitor to observe and report on Respondents' compliance with their obligations as set forth in the Orders.
- B. If the Commission determines to appoint a Monitor, the Commission shall select the Monitor subject to the consent of Respondents, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. Respondents shall be deemed to have consented to the selection of the proposed Monitor if, within 10 days of notice by staff of the Commission of the identity of the proposed Monitor, Respondents have not opposed in writing, including the reasons for opposing, the selection of the proposed Monitor.
- C. Respondents and the Monitor may enter into an agreement relating to the Monitor's services. Any such agreement:
1. Shall be subject to the approval of the Commission;
 2. Shall not limit, and the signatories shall not construe it to limit, the terms of Section VI or the Section relating to the Monitor in the Decision and Order ("Monitor Sections"), and to the extent any provision in the agreement varies from or conflicts with any provision in the Monitor Sections, Respondents and the Monitor shall comply with the Monitor Sections; and
 3. Shall include a provision stating that the agreement does not limit, and the signatories shall not construe it to limit, the terms of the Orders in this matter, and to the extent any provision in the agreement varies from or conflicts with any provision in the Orders, Respondents and the Monitor shall comply with the Orders.
- D. The Monitor shall:
1. Have the authority to monitor Respondents' compliance with the obligations set forth in the Orders;

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2. Act in consultation with the Commission or its staff;
3. Serve as an independent third party and not as an employee or agent of Respondents or of the Commission;
4. Serve without bond or other security;
5. At the Monitor's option, employ such consultants, accountants, attorneys, and other representatives and assistants as are reasonably necessary to carry out the Monitor's duties and responsibilities;
6. Enter into a non-disclosure or other confidentiality agreement with the Commission related to Commission materials and information received in connection with the performance of the Monitor's duties and require that each of the Monitor's consultants, accountants, attorneys, and other representatives and assistants shall also enter into a non-disclosure or other confidentiality agreement with the Commission;
7. Notify staff of the Commission, in writing, no later than 5 days in advance of entering into any arrangement that creates a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest, including a financial, professional or personal conflict. If the Monitor becomes aware of such a conflict only after it has arisen, the Monitor shall notify the Commission as soon as the Monitor becomes aware of the conflict;
8. Report in writing to the Commission concerning Respondents' compliance with this Order on a schedule as determined by Commission staff, and at any other time requested by the staff of the Commission; and
9. Unless the Commission or its staff determine otherwise, the Monitor shall serve until Commission staff determines that Respondents have satisfied all obligations under the designated Sections of this Order, and files a final report.

E. Respondents shall:

1. Cooperate with and assist the Monitor in performing his or her duties for the purpose of reviewing Respondents' compliance with their obligations under the Orders, including as requested by the Monitor, (a) providing the Monitor full and complete access to personnel, information and facilities; and (b) making such arrangements with third parties to facilitate access by the Monitor;
2. Not interfere with the ability of the Monitor to perform his or her duties pursuant to the Orders;

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3. Pay the Monitor's fees and expenses as set forth in an agreement approved by the Commission, or if such agreement has not been approved, pay the Monitor's customary fees, as well as expenses the Monitor incurs performing his or her duties under the Order, including expenses of any consultants, accountants, attorneys, and other representatives and assistants that are reasonably necessary to assist the Monitor in carrying out his or her duties and responsibilities;
 4. Not require the Monitor to disclose to Respondents the substance of the Monitor's communications with the Commission or any other Person or the substance of written reports submitted to the Commission pursuant to the Orders; and
 5. Indemnify and hold the Monitor harmless against any loss, claim, damage, liability, and expense (including attorneys' fees and out of pocket costs) that arises out of, or is connected with, a claim concerning the performance of the Monitor's duties under the Orders, unless the loss, claim, damage, liability, or expense results from gross negligence or willful misconduct by the Monitor.
- F. Respondents may require the Monitor and each of the Monitor's consultants, accountants, attorneys, and other representatives and assistants to enter into a customary confidentiality agreement, so long as the agreement does not restrict the Monitor's ability to access personnel, information, and facilities or provide information to the Commission, or otherwise observe and report on the Respondents' compliance with the Orders.
- G. If the Monitor resigns or the Commission determines that the Monitor has ceased to act, has failed to act diligently, or is otherwise unable to continue serving as a Monitor due to the existence of a conflict or other reasons, the Commission may appoint a substitute Monitor. The substitute Monitor shall be afforded all rights, powers, and authorities and shall be subject to all obligations of the Monitor Sections of the Orders. The Commission shall select the substitute Monitor, subject to the consent of the Respondents. Respondents:
1. Shall not unreasonably withhold consent to the appointment of the selected substitute Monitor;
 2. Shall be deemed to have consented to the selection of the proposed substitute Monitor if, within 10 days of notice by staff of the Commission of the identity of the proposed substitute Monitor, Respondents have not opposed in writing, including the reasons for opposing, the selection of the proposed substitute Monitor; and
 3. May enter into an agreement with the substitute Monitor relating to the substitute Monitor's services that either (a) contains substantially the same

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terms as the Commission-approved agreement referenced in Paragraph VI.C; or (b) receives Commission approval.

- H. The Commission may on its own initiative or at the request of the Monitor issue such additional orders or directions as may be necessary or appropriate to assure compliance with the requirements of this Order.

VII. Divestiture Trustee**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

- A. If Respondents have not fully complied with the obligations to assign, grant, license, divest, transfer, deliver, or otherwise convey the Retail Fuel Assets as required by this Order, the Commission may appoint a trustee (“Divestiture Trustee”) to assign, grant, license, divest, transfer, deliver, or otherwise convey these assets in a manner that satisfies the requirements of this Order. In the event that the Commission or the Attorney General brings an action pursuant to § 5(l) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(l), or any other statute enforced by the Commission, Respondents shall consent to the appointment of a Divestiture Trustee in such action to assign, grant, license, divest, transfer, deliver, or otherwise convey these assets. Neither the appointment of a Divestiture Trustee nor a decision not to appoint a Divestiture Trustee under Section VII shall preclude the Commission or the Attorney General from seeking civil penalties or any other relief available to it, including a court-appointed Divestiture Trustee, pursuant to § 5(l) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, or any other statute enforced by the Commission, for any failure by the Respondents to comply with this Order.
- B. The Commission shall select the Divestiture Trustee, subject to the consent of Respondents which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. The Divestiture Trustee shall be a Person with experience and expertise in acquisitions and divestitures. If Respondents have not opposed, in writing, including the reasons for opposing, the selection of any proposed Divestiture Trustee within 10 days after notice by the staff of the Commission to Respondents of the identity of any proposed Divestiture Trustee, Respondents shall be deemed to have consented to the selection of the proposed Divestiture Trustee.
- C. Not later than 10 days after the appointment of a Divestiture Trustee, Respondents shall execute a trust agreement that, subject to the prior approval of the Commission, transfers to the Divestiture Trustee all rights and powers necessary to permit the Divestiture Trustee to effect the relevant divestitures required by this Order. Any failure by Respondents to comply with a trust agreement approved by the Commission shall be a violation of this Order.
- D. If a Divestiture Trustee is appointed by the Commission or a court pursuant to Section VII, Respondents shall consent to the following terms and conditions regarding the Divestiture Trustee’s powers, duties, authority, and responsibilities:

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1. Subject to the prior approval of the Commission, the Divestiture Trustee shall have the exclusive power and authority to assign, grant, license, divest, transfer, deliver, or otherwise convey the assets that are required by this Order to be assigned, granted, licensed, divested, transferred, delivered, or otherwise conveyed;
2. The Divestiture Trustee shall have one year from the date the Commission approves the trustee agreement described herein to accomplish the divestitures, which shall be subject to the prior approval of the Commission. If, however, at the end of the one year period, the Divestiture Trustee has submitted a plan of divestiture or the Commission believes that the divestitures can be achieved within a reasonable time, the divestiture period may be extended by the Commission,

Provided, however, the Commission may extend the divestiture period only 2 times;

3. Subject to any demonstrated legally recognized privilege, the Divestiture Trustee shall have full and complete access to the personnel, books, records, and facilities related to the relevant assets that are required to be assigned, granted, licensed, divested, delivered, or otherwise conveyed by this Order and to any other relevant information, as the Divestiture Trustee may request. Respondents shall develop such financial or other information as the Divestiture Trustee may request and shall cooperate with the Divestiture Trustee. Respondents shall take no action to interfere with or impede the Divestiture Trustee's accomplishment of the divestitures. Any delays in divestitures caused by Respondents shall extend the time for divestitures under Section VII in an amount equal to the delay, as determined by the Commission or, for a court-appointed Divestiture Trustee, by the court;
4. The Divestiture Trustee shall use commercially reasonable best efforts to negotiate the most favorable price and terms available in each contract that is submitted to the Commission, subject to Respondents' absolute and unconditional obligation to divest expeditiously and at no minimum price. The divestitures shall be made in the manner and to Acquirers that receive the prior approval of the Commission as required by this Order,

Provided, however, if the Divestiture Trustee receives bona fide offers from more than one acquiring person for a divestiture, and if the Commission determines to approve more than one such acquiring person for the divestiture, the Divestiture Trustee shall divest to the acquiring person selected by Respondents from among those approved by the Commission,

Provided further, however, that Respondents shall select such person within 5 days of receiving notification of the Commission's approval;

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5. The Divestiture Trustee shall serve, without bond or other security, at the cost and expense of Respondents, on such reasonable and customary terms and conditions as the Commission or a court may set. The Divestiture Trustee shall have the authority to employ, at the cost and expense of Respondents, such consultants, accountants, attorneys, investment bankers, business brokers, appraisers, and other representatives and assistants as are necessary to carry out the Divestiture Trustee's duties and responsibilities. The Divestiture Trustee shall account for all monies derived from the divestiture and all expenses incurred. After approval by the Commission of the account of the Divestiture Trustee, including fees for the Divestiture Trustee's services, all remaining monies shall be paid at the direction of the Respondents, and the Divestiture Trustee's power shall be terminated. The compensation of the Divestiture Trustee shall be based at least in significant part on a commission arrangement contingent on the divestiture of all of the relevant assets that are required to be divested by this Order;
6. Respondents shall indemnify the Divestiture Trustee and hold the Divestiture Trustee harmless against any losses, claims, damages, liabilities, or expenses arising out of, or in connection with, the performance of the Divestiture Trustee's duties, including all reasonable fees of counsel and other expenses incurred in connection with the preparation for, or defense of, any claim, whether or not resulting in any liability, except to the extent that such losses, claims, damages, liabilities, or expenses result from gross negligence or willful misconduct by the Divestiture Trustee;
7. The Divestiture Trustee shall have no obligation or authority to operate or maintain the Retail Fuel Assets required to be divested by the Decision and Order;
8. The Divestiture Trustee shall report in writing to Respondents and to the Commission every 30 days concerning the Divestiture Trustee's efforts to accomplish the divestiture; and
9. Respondents may require the Divestiture Trustee and each of the Divestiture Trustee's consultants, accountants, attorneys, and other representatives and assistants to sign a customary confidentiality agreement,

Provided, however, that such agreement shall not restrict the Divestiture Trustee from providing any information to the Commission.

- E. The Commission may, among other things, require the Divestiture Trustee and each of the Divestiture Trustee's consultants, accountants, attorneys, and other representatives and assistants to sign an appropriate confidentiality agreement related to Commission materials and information received in connection with the performance of the Divestiture Trustee's duties.

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- F. If the Commission determines that a Divestiture Trustee has ceased to act or failed to act diligently, the Commission may appoint a substitute Divestiture Trustee in the same manner as provided in Section VII.
- G. The Commission or, in the case of a court-appointed Divestiture Trustee, the court, may on its own initiative or at the request of the Divestiture Trustee issue such additional orders or directions as may be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the divestitures and other obligations or action required by this Order.

VIII. Prior Approval

IT IS FURTHERED ORDERED that Respondent Global shall not, without prior approval of the Commission, acquire directly or indirectly, through subsidiaries or otherwise, any leasehold, ownership interest, commission franchise interest, or any other interest, in whole or in part, in any Retail Fuel Business in any Prior Approval Location.

X. Compliance Reports

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

- A. Respondent Global shall:
 - 1. Notify Commission staff via email at bccompliance@ftc.gov of the Acquisition Date no later than 5 days after the Acquisition Date; and
 - 2. Submit each complete Divestiture Agreement to the Commission at ElectronicFilings@ftc.gov and bccompliance@ftc.gov no later than 30 days after the Divestiture Date.
- B. Respondents shall submit verified written reports (“compliance reports”) in accordance with the following:
 - 1. Respondents shall submit Compliance Reports 30 days after this Order to Maintain Assets is issued and every 30 days thereafter until this Order to Maintain Assets terminates, and additional Compliance Reports as the Commission or its staff may request.

Provided, however, that Respondent Richard Wiehl shall submit interim Compliance Reports 30 days after this Order to Maintain Assets is issued and every 30 days thereafter only until he has completed his obligations under Sections II, IV and VI of the Decision and Order.
 - 2. Each compliance report shall contain sufficient information and documentation to enable the Commission to determine independently whether Respondents are in compliance with the Order. Conclusory statements that Respondents have complied with its obligations under this

Order to Maintain Assets

Order are insufficient. Respondents shall include in their reports, among other information or documentation that may be necessary to demonstrate compliance, a full description of the measures Respondents have implemented or plans to implement to ensure that they have complied or will comply with each section of the Orders.

3. For a period of 5 years after filing a compliance report, Respondents shall retain all material written communications with each party identified in each compliance report and all non-privileged internal memoranda, reports, and recommendations concerning fulfilling its obligations under this Order during the period covered by such compliance report. Respondents shall provide copies of these documents to Commission staff upon request.
4. Respondents shall verify each compliance report in the manner set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1746 by the Chief Executive Officer or another officer or employee specifically authorized to perform this function. Respondents shall file their compliance reports with the Secretary of the Commission at ElectronicFilings@ftc.gov and to the Compliance Division at bccompliance@ftc.gov, as required by Commission Rule 2.41(a), 16 C.F.R. § 2.41(a). In addition, Respondents shall provide a copy of each compliance report to the Monitor if the Commission has appointed one in this matter.

XI. Change in Respondents

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent Global shall notify the Commission at least 30 days prior to:

- A. Any proposed dissolution of Global Partners LP;
- B. Any proposed acquisition, merger or consolidation of Global Partners LP; or
- C. Any other change in Respondent Global, including assignment and the creation, sale, or dissolution of subsidiaries, if such change may affect compliance obligations arising out of this Order.

XII. Access

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for the purpose of determining or securing compliance with this Order, and subject to any legally recognized privilege, upon written request and 5 days' notice to the relevant Respondent, made to its principal place of business as identified in this Order, registered office of its United States subsidiary, or its headquarters office, the notified Respondent shall, without restraint or interference, permit any duly authorized representative of the Commission:

- A. Access, during business office hours of the Respondent and in the presence of counsel, to all facilities and access to inspect and copy all business and other records

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and all documentary material and electronically stored information as defined in Commission Rules 2.71(a)(1) and (2), 16 C.F.R. § 2.71(a)(1) and (2), in the possession or under the control of the Respondent related to compliance with this Order, which copying services shall be provided by the Respondent at the request of the authorized representative of the Commission and at the expense of the Respondent; or

- B. To interview officers, directors, or employees of the Respondent, who may have counsel present, regarding such matters.

XIII. Purpose

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the purpose of this Order is to remedy the harm to competition the Commission alleged in its Complaint and ensure the Acquirer can operate the Retail Fuel Assets at least equivalent in all material respects to the manner in which the Retail Fuel Assets were operated prior to the Acquisition.

XIV. Term

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order to Maintain Assets shall terminate the day after the Decision and Order in this matter becomes final or the Commission withdraws acceptance of the Consent Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Commission Rule 2.34, 16 C.F.R. § 2.34.

By the Commission.

DECISION

The Federal Trade Commission initiated an investigation of the proposed acquisition by Respondent Global Partners LP of certain retail service station and convenience store assets from Respondent Richard Wiehl (collectively “Respondents”). The Commission’s Bureau of Competition prepared and furnished to Respondents the Draft Complaint, which it proposed to present to the Commission for its consideration. If issued by the Commission, the Draft Complaint would charge Respondents with violations of Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45.

Respondents and the Bureau of Competition executed an Agreement Containing Consent Orders (“Consent Agreement”) containing (1) an admission by Respondents of all the jurisdictional facts set forth in the Draft Complaint, (2) a statement that the signing of said Consent Agreement is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by Respondents that the law has been violated as alleged in the Draft Complaint, or that the facts as alleged in the Draft Complaint, other than jurisdictional facts, are true, (3) waivers and other provisions as

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required by the Commission's Rules, and (4) a proposed Decision and Order and Order to Maintain Assets.

The Commission considered the matter and determined that it had reason to believe that Respondents have violated the said Acts, and that a complaint should issue stating its charges in that respect. The Commission accepted the Consent Agreement and placed it on the public record for a period of 30 days for the receipt and consideration of public comments; at the same time, it issued and served its Complaint and Order to Maintain Assets. Now, in further conformity with the procedure described in Rule 2.34, the Commission makes the following jurisdictional findings and issues the following Decision and Order ("Order"):

1. Respondent Global Partners LP is a limited partnership organized, existing, and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of Delaware, with its executive offices and principal place of business located at 800 South Street, Suite 500, Waltham, Massachusetts, 02454-9161.
2. Respondent Richard Wiehl is a natural person with his office and principal place of business located at 497 Bic Drive, Milford, Connecticut 06461.
3. Petroleum Marketing Group, Inc. is a corporation organized, existing, and doing business under, and by virtue of the laws of the state of Maryland, with its office and principal place of business located at 2900 Telestar Court, Falls Church, VA 22042.
4. The Federal Trade Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding and over the Respondents, and the proceeding is in the public interest.

ORDER**I. Definitions**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, as used in this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. "Global" means Global Partners LP, its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, successors, and assigns; and the joint ventures, subsidiaries, partnerships, divisions, groups, and affiliates controlled by Global Partners LP, and the respective directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, successors, and assigns of each.
- B. "Wiehl" means Richard Wiehl, a natural person, all partnerships, joint ventures, subsidiaries, divisions, and affiliates controlled by Richard Wiehl (including Wheels of CT, Inc., Consumers Petroleum of Connecticut, Inc., Putling Greens I, LLC, CPCI, LLC, and Wiehl Estate, LLC), and the respective directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, successors, and assigns of each.

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- C. “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.
- D. “Acquirer” means
 - 1. PMG; or
 - 2. Any other Person that the Commission approves to acquire the Retail Fuel Assets pursuant to this Order.
- E. “Acquisition” means the proposed acquisition described in the agreement titled “Purchase and Sale Agreement by and between Sellers listed on Schedule 1, As Seller and Global Partners LP, As Buyer dated as of December 9, 2020.”
- F. “Acquisition Date” means the date Respondents consummate the Acquisition.
- G. “Business Information” means books, records, data, and information, wherever located and however stored, used in or related to the operation of the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets, including documents, written information, graphic materials, and data and information in electronic format, along with the knowledge of employees, contractors, and representatives. Business Information includes books, records, data, and information relating to sales, marketing, logistics, products and SKUs, pricing, promotions, advertising, personnel, accounting, business strategy, information technology systems, customers, suppliers, vendors, research and development, Equipment operations, and all other information used in the operation of the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets.
- H. “Confidential Information” means all Business Information not in the public domain, except for any information that was or becomes generally available to the public other than as a result of disclosure by Respondents.
- I. “Consent” means an approval, consent, ratification, waivers, or other authorization.
- J. “Contract” means an agreement, contract, lease, license agreement, consensual obligation, promise or undertaking (whether written or oral and whether express or implied), whether or not legally binding with third parties.
- K. “Direct Cost” means the cost of labor, materials, travel, and other expenditures directly incurred. The cost of any labor included in Direct Cost shall not exceed the hours of labor provided times the then-current average hourly wage rate, including benefits, for the employee providing such labor; *provided, however*, that with respect to the transitional supply of Fuel Products, the Direct Cost shall be calculated net of any rebates, Renewable Identification Number sharing, or other discounts or allowances and shall not include any mark-up, profit, overhead, minimum volume penalties, or other upward adjustments by Respondents.

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- L. “Divestiture Agreement” means:
1. The Asset Purchase Agreement by and among Alliance Energy LLC, Global Montello Group Corp. and Petroleum Marketing Investment Group, LLC entered into on September 13, 2021, and all amendments, exhibits, attachments, agreements, and schedules thereto, attached to this Decision and Order as Nonpublic Appendix A; or
 2. Any other agreement between Respondents (or a Divestiture Trustee appointed pursuant to Section IX of this Order) and an Acquirer for the purchase of any of the Retail Fuel Assets, and all amendments, exhibits, attachments, agreements, and schedules thereto.
- M. “Divestiture Date” means the closing date of any of the Divestiture Locations by the Acquirer as required by this Order.
- N. “Divestiture Locations” means any Retail Fuel Business operated by Respondents prior to the Acquisition Date at the following locations:
1. 82 Stony Hill Road, Bethel, Connecticut, 06801;
 2. 1139 Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut, 06430;
 3. 2093 Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut, 06824;
 4. 25 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford, Connecticut, 06460;
 5. 300 Bridgeport Road, Milford, Connecticut, 06460;
 6. 7294 & 7296 Main Street, Stratford, Connecticut, 06614; and
 7. 210 Danbury Road, Wilton, Connecticut, 06897.
- O. “Divestiture Trustee” means the Person appointed by the Commission pursuant to Section IX of this Order.
- P. “Employee Information” means, to the extent permitted by law, the following information summarizing the employment history of each employee that includes:
1. Name, job title or position, date of hire, and effective service date;
 2. Specific description of the employee’s responsibilities;
 3. The base salary or current wages;
 4. Most recent bonus paid, aggregate annual compensation for Respondent’s last fiscal year, and current target or guaranteed bonus, if any;

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5. Written performance reviews for the past three years, if any;
 6. Employment status (*i.e.*, active or on leave or disability; full-time or part-time);
 7. Any other material terms and conditions of employment in regard to such employee that are not otherwise generally available to similarly situated employees; and
 8. At the Acquirer's option, copies of all employee benefit plans and summary plan descriptions (if any) applicable to the employee.
- Q. "Equipment" means all tangible personal property (other than Inventories) of every kind owned or leased by Respondents in connection with the operation of any Divestiture Locations, including, but not limited to all: fixtures, furniture, computer equipment and third-party software, office equipment, telephone systems, security systems, registers, credit card systems, credit card invoice printers and electronic point of sale devices, money order machines and money order stock, shelving, display racks, walk-in boxes, furnishings, signage, canopies, fuel dispensing equipment, UST systems (including all fuel storage tanks, fill holes and fill hole covers and tops, pipelines, vapor lines, pumps, hoses, Stage I and Stage II vapor recovery equipment, containment devices, monitoring equipment, cathodic protection systems, and other elements associated with any of the foregoing), parts, tools, supplies, and all other items of equipment or tangible personal property of any nature or other systems used in the operation of any Divestiture Locations, together with any express or implied warranty by the manufacturers, sellers, or lessors of any item or component part, to the extent such warranty is transferrable, and all maintenance records and other related documents.
- R. "Fuel Products" means refined petroleum gasoline and diesel products.
- S. "Governmental Authorization" means any Consent, license, registration, or permit issued, granted, given or otherwise made available by or under the authority of any governmental body or pursuant to any legal requirement.
- T. "Intellectual Property" means all intellectual property, including: (1) commercial names, assumed fictional business names, trade names, "doing business as" (d/b/a names), registered and unregistered trademarks, service marks and applications, and trade dress; (2) patents, patent applications and inventions and discoveries that may be patentable; (3) registered and unregistered copyrights in both published works and unpublished works; (4) rights in mask works; (5) know-how, trade secrets, confidential or proprietary information, customer lists, software, technical information, data, process technology, plans, drawings, and blue prints; and (6) rights in internet web sites and internet domain names.

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- U. “Inventories” means all inventories of every kind and nature for retail sale associated with any Divestiture Locations, including: (1) Fuel Products, kerosene, and other petroleum-based motor fuels stored in bulk and held for sale to the public; and (2) usable, non-damaged and non-out-of-date products and items held for sale to the public, including, without limitation, food-related items requiring further processing, packaging, or preparation and ingredients from which prepared foods are made to be sold.
- V. “Monitor” means any Person appointed by the Commission to serve as a monitor pursuant to this Order or the Order to Maintain Assets.
- W. “Orders” means this Order and the Order to Maintain Assets entered in this action.
- X. “Person” means any individual, partnership, corporation, business trust, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, joint stock company, trust, unincorporated association, joint venture or other entity, or a governmental body.
- Y. “PMG” means Petroleum Marketing Group, Inc., its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, successors, and assigns; and the joint ventures, subsidiaries, partnerships, divisions, groups, and affiliates controlled by Petroleum Marketing Group, Inc., including Petroleum Marketing Investment Group, LLC. and the respective directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, successors, and assigns of each.
- Z. “Prior Approval Location” means a Retail Fuel Business within a 2-mile driving distance from a Divestiture Location.
- AA. “Retail Fuel Assets” means all of Respondents’ right, title, and interest in and to all property and assets, real, personal, or mixed, tangible and intangible, of every kind and description, wherever located, used in, or relating to the Retail Fuel Business operated at the Divestiture Locations, including:
1. All real property interests (including fee simple interests and real property leasehold interests), including all easements, and appurtenances, together with all buildings and other structures, facilities, and improvements located thereon, owned, leased, or otherwise held;
 2. All Equipment, including any Equipment removed from any Divestiture Location since the date of the announcement of the Acquisition and not replaced;
 3. All Inventories;
 4. All accounts receivable;

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5. All Contracts and all outstanding offers or solicitations to enter into any Contract, and all rights thereunder and related thereto;
6. All Governmental Authorizations and all pending applications therefor or renewals thereof, to the extent transferable;
7. All Business Information; and
8. All intangible rights and property, including Intellectual Property owned or licensed (as licensor or licensee) by Respondent, going concern value, goodwill, and telephone and telecopy listings;

Provided, however, that the Retail Fuel Assets need not include the Retained Assets.

- BB. “Retail Fuel Business” means all business activities related to (1) the retail sale of Fuel Products, and (2) the operation of any associated convenience store and other business or service.
- CC. “Retail Fuel Employee” means any full-time, part-time, or contract individual employed by Respondents, as applicable, at any Divestiture Locations, as of September 13, 2021.
- DD. “Retained Assets” means:
1. Corporate or regional offices;
 2. Intellectual property;
 3. Trade names and trademarks that Respondents use primarily for businesses other than the Divestiture Locations to be divested;
 4. Software that can readily be purchased or licensed from sources other than Respondents and that has not been materially modified (other than through user preference settings);
 5. Enterprise software that Respondents use primarily to manage and account for businesses other than the relevant businesses to be divested;
 6. The portion of any Business Information that contains information about any business other than the businesses to be divested, and from which Confidential Information has been redacted; and
 7. Inventory that an Acquirer agrees not to purchase or that cannot be transferred by law in the applicable jurisdiction.

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- EE. “Transitional Assistance” means technical services, personnel, assistance, training, the supply of Fuel Products, and other logistical, administrative, and other transitional support as required by an Acquirer to facilitate the transfer of the Retail Fuel Assets from the Respondents to the Acquirer, including, but not limited to, services, training, personnel, and support related to: audits, finance and accounting, accounts receivable, accounts payable, employee benefits, payroll, pensions, human resources, information technology and systems, maintenance and repair of facilities and equipment, Fuel Products supply, purchasing, quality control, R&D support, technology transfer, use of Respondents’ brands for transitional purposes, operating permits and licenses, regulatory compliance, PCI Compliance, EMV Compliance, sales and marketing, customer service, supply chain management, and customer transfer logistics.

II. Divestiture**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

- A. No later than 20 days after the Acquisition Date, Respondent Global shall divest the Retail Fuel Assets, as ongoing businesses, absolutely and in good faith, to PMG;

Provided, however, that if within 12 months after issuing the Order, the Commission determines, in consultation with the Acquirer and the Monitor, should one be appointed, the Acquirer needs one or more Retained Assets to operate the Retail Fuel Assets in a manner that achieves the purposes of the Order, Respondents shall divest, absolutely and in good faith, such needed Retained Assets to the Acquirer; and

Provided further, however, that if Business Information relating to the Retail Fuel Assets includes information (1) that also relates to other retained businesses of Respondents and cannot be segregated in a manner that preserves the usefulness of the information as it relates to the Retail Fuel Assets or (2) where Respondents have a legal obligation to retain the original copies, then Respondents shall provide only copies of the materials containing such information with appropriate redactions to the Acquirer and shall provide the Acquirer access to the original materials if copies are insufficient for regulatory or evidentiary purposes.

- B. If Respondents have divested the Retail Fuel Assets to PMG prior to the date this Order becomes final, and if, at the time the Commission determines to make this Order final, the Commission notifies Respondents that:

1. PMG is not acceptable as the acquirer of the Retail Fuel Assets, then Respondents shall rescind the divestiture to PMG within 5 days of notification, and shall divest the Retail Fuel Assets no later than 180 days from the date this Order is issued, as on-going businesses, absolutely and in good faith, at no minimum price, to a Person that receives the prior approval

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of the Commission and in a manner that receives the prior approval of the Commission; or

2. The manner in which the divestiture to PMG was accomplished is not acceptable, the Commission may direct Respondents, or appoint a Divestiture Trustee, to modify the manner of divestiture of the Retail Fuel Assets as the Commission may determine is necessary to satisfy the requirements of this Order.

- C. Respondents shall obtain, no later than the Divestiture Date and at their sole expense, all Consents from third parties and all Governmental Authorizations that are necessary to effect the complete transfer and divestiture of the Retail Fuel Assets to the Acquirer and for Acquirer to operate any aspect of the relevant Divestiture Locations;

Provided, however, that:

1. Respondents may satisfy the requirement to obtain all Consents from third parties by certifying that the Acquirer has entered into equivalent agreements or arrangements directly with the relevant third party that are acceptable to the Commission, or has otherwise obtained all necessary Consents and waivers; and
 2. With respect to any Governmental Authorizations relating to the Retail Fuel Assets that are not transferable, Respondents shall, to the extent permitted under applicable law, allow the Acquirer to operate the Retail Fuel Assets under Respondents' Governmental Authorizations pending the Acquirer's receipt of its own Governmental Authorizations, and Respondents shall provide such assistance as the Acquirer may reasonably request in connection with its efforts to obtain such Governmental Authorizations.
- D. Respondents shall assist each Acquirer to conduct a due diligence investigation of the Retail Fuel Assets and Divestiture Locations the Acquirer seeks to purchase, including by providing sufficient and timely access to all information customarily provided as part of a due diligence process, and affording the Acquirer and its representatives (including prospective lenders and their representatives) full and free access, during regular business hours, to the personnel, assets, Contracts, Governmental Authorizations, Business Information, and other documents and data relating to the relevant Divestiture Locations, with such rights of access to be exercised in a manner that does not unreasonably interfere with the operations of Respondents.

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III. Divestiture Agreement**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

- A. The Divestiture Agreement shall be incorporated by reference into this Order and made a part hereof, and any failure by Respondents to comply with the terms of the Divestiture Agreement shall constitute a violation of this Order; *provided, however*, that the Divestiture Agreement shall not limit, or be construed to limit, the terms of this Order. To the extent any provision in the Divestiture Agreement varies from or conflicts with any provision in this Order such that Respondents cannot fully comply with both, Respondents shall comply with the Order.
- B. Respondents shall not modify or amend the terms of the Divestiture Agreement after the Commission issues the Order without the prior approval of the Commission, except as otherwise provided in Commission Rule 2.41(f)(5), 16 C.F.R. § 2.41(f)(5).

IV. Transitional Assistance**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

- A. Until Respondents have transferred all Business Information included in the Retail Fuel Assets to the Acquirer, Respondents shall ensure that the Business Information is maintained and updated in the ordinary course of business and shall provide the Acquirer with access to Business Information (wherever located and however stored) that Respondents have not yet transferred to the Acquirer, and to employees who possess the Business Information.
- B. At the option of the Acquirer, Respondents shall provide the Acquirer with Transitional Assistance sufficient to (1) transfer efficiently the Retail Fuel Assets to the Acquirer and (2) allow the Acquirer to operate the acquired Retail Fuel Assets in a manner that is equivalent in all material respects to the manner in which Respondents did so prior to the Acquisition.
- C. Respondents shall provide Transitional Assistance:
 - 1. As set forth in a Divestiture Agreement, or as otherwise reasonably requested by the Acquirer (whether before or after the Divestiture Date);
 - 2. At the price set forth in the Divestiture Agreement, or if no price is set forth, at Direct Cost; and
 - 3. For a period sufficient to meet the requirements of Section IV, which shall be, at the option of the Acquirer, for up to 15 months after the Divestiture Date;

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Provided, however, that within 15 days after a request by the Acquirer, Respondents shall file with the Commission a written request to extend the time period for providing Transitional Assistance in order to achieve the purposes of this Order.

- D. Respondents shall allow the Acquirer to terminate, in whole or part, any Transitional Assistance at any time upon commercially reasonable notice and without cost or penalty.
- E. Respondents shall not cease providing Transitional Assistance due to a breach by the Acquirer of a Divestiture Agreement, and shall not limit any damages (including indirect, special, and consequential damages) that the Acquirer would be entitled to receive in the event of Respondent's breach of any agreement relating to Transitional Assistance.

V. Employees**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

- A. Until 6 months after the Divestiture Date, Respondents shall cooperate with and assist the Acquirer of the Retail Fuel Assets to evaluate independently and offer employment to any Retail Fuel Employee.
- B. Respondents shall:
 - 1. No later than 10 days after a request from the Acquirer, provide to the Acquirer a list of all Retail Fuel Employees and provide Employee Information for each;
 - 2. No later than 10 days after a request from the Acquirer, provide the Acquirer an opportunity to privately interview any of the Retail Fuel Employees outside the presence or hearing of any employee or agent of any Respondent, and to make offers of employment to any of the Retail Fuel Employees;
 - 3. Remove and not enter into any impediments within the control of Respondents that may deter Retail Fuel Employees from accepting employment with the Acquirer, including, but not limited to, removal of any non-compete or confidentiality provisions of employment or other contracts with Respondents that may affect the ability or incentive of those individuals to be employed by the Acquirer, and shall not make any counteroffer to an Retail Fuel Employee who receives an offer of employment from the Acquirer; *provided, however*, that nothing in this Order shall be construed to require Respondents to terminate the employment of any employee or prevent Respondents from continuing the employment of any employee;

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4. Continue to provide Retail Fuel Employees with compensation and benefits, including regularly scheduled raises and bonuses and the vesting of benefits;
 5. Provide reasonable financial incentives for Retail Fuel Employees to continue in their positions, and as may be necessary, to facilitate the employment of such Retail Fuel Employees by an Acquirer; and
 6. Not interfere, directly or indirectly, with the hiring or employing by the Acquirer of any Retail Fuel Employee, not offer any incentive to such employees to decline employment with the Acquirer, and not otherwise interfere with the recruitment of any Retail Fuel Employee by the Acquirer.
- C. Respondents shall not, for a period of 180 days following the Divestiture Date, directly or indirectly, solicit or otherwise attempt to induce any Person employed by the Acquirer to terminate his or her employment with the Acquirer; *provided, however*, Respondents may:
1. Hire any such Person whose employment has been terminated by the Acquirer;
 2. Advertise for employees in newspapers, trade publications, or other media, or engage recruiters to conduct general employee search activities, in either case not targeted specifically at one or more Person employed by the Acquirer; or
 3. Hire a Person who has applied for employment with Respondents, as long as such application was not solicited or induced in violation of Section V.
- D. Respondent Global shall not enforce any noncompete provision or noncompete agreement against any Person seeking employment from or otherwise doing business with any of the Divestiture Locations.

VI. Asset Maintenance

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that until Respondents fully transfer each of the Divestiture Locations and related Retail Fuel Assets to the Acquirer, Respondents shall, subject to their obligations under the Order to Maintain Assets, ensure that each of the Divestiture Locations and related Retail Fuel Assets are operated and maintained in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practices, and shall:

- A. Operate the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practices and take all actions necessary to maintain the full economic viability, marketability, and competitiveness of such Retail Fuel Business;

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- B. Prevent the destruction, removal, wasting, deterioration, closing, or impairment (other than as a result of ordinary wear and tear) of the Retail Fuel Assets, including:
 - 1. Maintaining, repairing, and replacing any Equipment to the extent and in a manner consistent with past practices;
 - 2. Maintaining inventory levels in a manner consistent with past practices;
 - 3. Not terminating, canceling, renewing, or amending any Contract, except as consistent with past practices; and
 - 4. Not entering any Contract that would restrain or restrict the ability of the Acquirer to compete against Respondents;
- C. Make any payment required to be paid under any contract or lease when due, and otherwise satisfy all liabilities and obligations associated with the Retail Fuel Assets;
- D. Provide the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets with sufficient funds to operate at least at current rates of operation, to meet all capital calls, to perform routine or necessary maintenance, to repair or replace facilities and equipment, and to carry on at least at their scheduled pace all capital projects, business plans, development projects, promotional activities, and marketing activities;
- E. Provide resources as may be necessary to respond to competition against the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets, prevent diminution in sales of such Retail Fuel Business, and maintain the competitive strength of such Retail Fuel Business;
- F. Not reduce operating hours;
- G. Not reduce, change, or modify in any material respect, the level of marketing, promotional, pricing, or advertising practices, programs, and policies for the Retail Fuel Business related to the Retail Fuel Assets, other than changes in the ordinary course of business consistent with changes made at Respondents' other businesses that Respondents will not divest;
- H. Not target, encourage, or convert customers of the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets to become customers of Respondents' other businesses that will not be divested; provided, however, that nothing in this subparagraph shall prevent Respondents from engaging in advertising, marketing, and promotion activities: (i) generally applicable to all of Respondent businesses, or (ii) in the ordinary course of business and in accordance with past practice;
- I. Provide support services at levels customarily provided by Respondents;

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- J. Maintain all licenses, permits, approvals, authorizations, or certifications related to or necessary for the operation of the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets, and otherwise operate such Retail Fuel Business in accordance and compliance with all regulatory obligations and requirements;
- K. Not sell, transfer, encumber, or otherwise impair the Retail Fuel Assets (other than in the manner prescribed in the Orders);
- L. Not take any action that lessens the full economic viability, marketability, or competitiveness of the Retail Fuel Assets;
- M. Not terminate the operations of the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets;
- N. Preserve the existing relationships with suppliers, customers, employees, governmental authorities, vendors, landlords, site operators, and others having business relationships with the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets;
- O. Maintain the working conditions, staffing levels, and a work force of equivalent size, training, and expertise associated with the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets, including:
 - 1. When vacancies occur, replacing the employees in the regular and ordinary course of business, in accordance with past practice; and
 - 2. Not transferring any employees from the Retail Fuel Business relating to the Retail Fuel Assets to any of Respondents' assets or businesses that Respondents will not divest.

Provided, however, that Respondents may take actions that the Acquirer has requested or agreed to in writing and that has been approved in advance by Commission staff, in all cases to facilitate the Acquirer's acquisition of the Divestiture Locations and related Retail Fuel Assets and consistent with the purposes of this Order and the Order to Maintain Assets.

VII. Confidential Information

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

- A. Respondents shall not (x) disclose (including to Respondents' employees) or (y) use for any reason or purpose, any Confidential Information received or maintained by Respondents; *provided, however,* that Respondents may disclose or use such Confidential Information in the course of:

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1. Performing its obligations or as permitted under this Order, the Order to Maintain Assets, or any Divestiture Agreement; or
 2. Complying with financial reporting requirements, obtaining legal advice, prosecuting or defending legal claims, responding to investigations, or enforcing actions threatened or brought against the Retail Fuel Assets or any Divestiture Locations, or as required by law or regulation, including any applicable securities exchange rules or regulations.
- B. If disclosure or use of any Confidential Information is permitted to Respondents' employees or to any other Person under Section VII, Respondents shall limit such disclosure or use (1) only to the extent such information is required, (2) only to those employees or Persons who require such information for the purposes permitted under Paragraph VII.A, and (3) only after such employees or Persons have signed an agreement to maintain the confidentiality of such information.
- C. Respondents shall enforce the terms of Section VII and take necessary actions to ensure that their employees and other Persons comply with the terms of Section VII, including implementing access and data controls, training its employees, and other actions that Respondents would take to protect their own trade secrets and proprietary information.

VIII. Monitor**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

- A. At any time after Respondents sign the Consent Agreement, the Commission may appoint a Person to serve as Monitor to observe and report on Respondents' compliance with their obligations as set forth in the Orders.
- B. If the Commission determines to appoint a Monitor, the Commission shall select the Monitor subject to the consent of Respondents, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. Respondents shall be deemed to have consented to the selection of the proposed Monitor if, within 10 days of notice by staff of the Commission of the identity of the proposed Monitor, Respondents have not opposed in writing, including the reasons for opposing, the selection of the proposed Monitor.
- C. Respondents and the Monitor may enter into an agreement relating to the Monitor's services. Any such agreement:
1. Shall be subject to the approval of the Commission;
 2. Shall not limit, and the signatories shall not construe it to limit, the terms of Section VIII or the Section relating to the Monitor in the Order to Maintain Assets ("Monitor Sections"), and to the extent any provision in the agreement varies from or conflicts with any provision in the Monitor

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Sections, Respondents and the Monitor shall comply with the Monitor Sections; and

3. Shall include a provision stating that the agreement does not limit, and the signatories shall not construe it to limit, the terms of the Orders in this matter, and to the extent any provision in the agreement varies from or conflicts with any provision in the Orders, Respondents and the Monitor shall comply with the Orders.

D. The Monitor shall:

1. Have the authority to monitor Respondents' compliance with the obligations set forth in the Orders;
2. Act in consultation with the Commission or its staff;
3. Serve as an independent third party and not as an employee or agent of Respondents or of the Commission;
4. Serve without bond or other security;
5. At the Monitor's option, employ such consultants, accountants, attorneys, and other representatives and assistants as are reasonably necessary to carry out the Monitor's duties and responsibilities;
6. Enter into a non-disclosure or other confidentiality agreement with the Commission related to Commission materials and information received in connection with the performance of the Monitor's duties and require that each of the Monitor's consultants, accountants, attorneys, and other representatives and assistants shall also enter into a non-disclosure or other confidentiality agreement with the Commission;
7. Notify staff of the Commission, in writing, no later than 5 days in advance of entering into any arrangement that creates a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest, including a financial, professional or personal conflict. If the Monitor becomes aware of such a conflict only after it has arisen, the Monitor shall notify the Commission as soon as the Monitor becomes aware of the conflict;
8. Report in writing to the Commission concerning Respondents' compliance with this Order on a schedule as determined by Commission staff, and at any other time requested by the staff of the Commission; and
9. Unless the Commission or its staff determine otherwise, the Monitor shall serve until Commission staff determines that Respondents have satisfied all

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obligations under the designated Sections of this Order, and files a final report.

E. Respondents shall:

1. Cooperate with and assist the Monitor in performing his or her duties for the purpose of reviewing Respondents' compliance with their obligations under the Orders, including as requested by the Monitor, (a) providing the Monitor full and complete access to personnel, information and facilities; and (b) making such arrangements with third parties to facilitate access by the Monitor;
2. Not interfere with the ability of the Monitor to perform his or her duties pursuant to the Orders;
3. Pay the Monitor's fees and expenses as set forth in an agreement approved by the Commission, or if such agreement has not been approved, pay the Monitor's customary fees, as well as expenses the Monitor incurs performing his or her duties under the Order, including expenses of any consultants, accountants, attorneys, and other representatives and assistants that are reasonably necessary to assist the Monitor in carrying out his or her duties and responsibilities;
4. Not require the Monitor to disclose to Respondents the substance of the Monitor's communications with the Commission or any other Person or the substance of written reports submitted to the Commission pursuant to the Orders; and
5. Indemnify and hold the Monitor harmless against any loss, claim, damage, liability, and expense (including attorneys' fees and out of pocket costs) that arises out of, or is connected with, a claim concerning the performance of the Monitor's duties under the Orders, unless the loss, claim, damage, liability, or expense results from gross negligence or willful misconduct by the Monitor.

F. Respondents may require the Monitor and each of the Monitor's consultants, accountants, attorneys, and other representatives and assistants to enter into a customary confidentiality agreement, so long as the agreement does not restrict the Monitor's ability to access personnel, information, and facilities or provide information to the Commission, or otherwise observe and report on the Respondents' compliance with the Orders.

G. If the Monitor resigns or the Commission determines that the Monitor has ceased to act, has failed to act diligently, or is otherwise unable to continue serving as a Monitor due to the existence of a conflict or other reasons, the Commission may appoint a substitute Monitor. The substitute Monitor shall be afforded all rights,

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powers, and authorities and shall be subject to all obligations of the Monitor Sections of the Orders. The Commission shall select the substitute Monitor, subject to the consent of the Respondents. Respondents:

1. Shall not unreasonably withhold consent to the appointment of the selected substitute Monitor;
 2. Shall be deemed to have consented to the selection of the proposed substitute Monitor if, within 10 days of notice by staff of the Commission of the identity of the proposed substitute Monitor, Respondents have not opposed in writing, including the reasons for opposing, the selection of the proposed substitute Monitor; and
 3. May enter into an agreement with the substitute Monitor relating to the substitute Monitor's services that either (a) contains substantially the same terms as the Commission-approved agreement referenced in Paragraph VIII.C; or (b) receives Commission approval.
- H. The Commission may on its own initiative or at the request of the Monitor issue such additional orders or directions as may be necessary or appropriate to assure compliance with the requirements of this Order.

IX. Divestiture Trustee**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

- A. If Respondents have not fully complied with the obligations to assign, grant, license, divest, transfer, deliver, or otherwise convey the Retail Fuel Assets as required by this Order, the Commission may appoint a trustee ("Divestiture Trustee") to assign, grant, license, divest, transfer, deliver, or otherwise convey these assets in a manner that satisfies the requirements of this Order. In the event that the Commission or the Attorney General brings an action pursuant to § 5(l) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(l), or any other statute enforced by the Commission, Respondents shall consent to the appointment of a Divestiture Trustee in such action to assign, grant, license, divest, transfer, deliver, or otherwise convey these assets. Neither the appointment of a Divestiture Trustee nor a decision not to appoint a Divestiture Trustee under Section IX shall preclude the Commission or the Attorney General from seeking civil penalties or any other relief available to it, including a court-appointed Divestiture Trustee, pursuant to § 5(l) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, or any other statute enforced by the Commission, for any failure by the Respondents to comply with this Order.
- B. The Commission shall select the Divestiture Trustee, subject to the consent of Respondents which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. The Divestiture Trustee shall be a Person with experience and expertise in acquisitions and divestitures. If Respondents have not opposed, in writing, including the reasons for

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opposing, the selection of any proposed Divestiture Trustee within 10 days after notice by the staff of the Commission to Respondents of the identity of any proposed Divestiture Trustee, Respondents shall be deemed to have consented to the selection of the proposed Divestiture Trustee.

- C. Not later than 10 days after the appointment of a Divestiture Trustee, Respondents shall execute a trust agreement that, subject to the prior approval of the Commission, transfers to the Divestiture Trustee all rights and powers necessary to permit the Divestiture Trustee to effect the relevant divestitures required by this Order. Any failure by Respondents to comply with a trust agreement approved by the Commission shall be a violation of this Order.
- D. If a Divestiture Trustee is appointed by the Commission or a court pursuant to Section IX, Respondents shall consent to the following terms and conditions regarding the Divestiture Trustee's powers, duties, authority, and responsibilities:
1. Subject to the prior approval of the Commission, the Divestiture Trustee shall have the exclusive power and authority to assign, grant, license, divest, transfer, deliver, or otherwise convey the assets that are required by this Order to be assigned, granted, licensed, divested, transferred, delivered, or otherwise conveyed;
 2. The Divestiture Trustee shall have one year from the date the Commission approves the trustee agreement described herein to accomplish the divestitures, which shall be subject to the prior approval of the Commission. If, however, at the end of the one year period, the Divestiture Trustee has submitted a plan of divestiture or the Commission believes that the divestitures can be achieved within a reasonable time, the divestiture period may be extended by the Commission,

Provided, however, the Commission may extend the divestiture period only 2 times;
 3. Subject to any demonstrated legally recognized privilege, the Divestiture Trustee shall have full and complete access to the personnel, books, records, and facilities related to the relevant assets that are required to be assigned, granted, licensed, divested, delivered, or otherwise conveyed by this Order and to any other relevant information, as the Divestiture Trustee may request. Respondents shall develop such financial or other information as the Divestiture Trustee may request and shall cooperate with the Divestiture Trustee. Respondents shall take no action to interfere with or impede the Divestiture Trustee's accomplishment of the divestitures. Any delays in divestitures caused by Respondents shall extend the time for divestitures under Section IX in an amount equal to the delay, as determined by the Commission or, for a court-appointed Divestiture Trustee, by the court;

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4. The Divestiture Trustee shall use commercially reasonable best efforts to negotiate the most favorable price and terms available in each contract that is submitted to the Commission, subject to Respondents' absolute and unconditional obligation to divest expeditiously and at no minimum price. The divestitures shall be made in the manner and to Acquirers that receive the prior approval of the Commission as required by this Order,

Provided, however, if the Divestiture Trustee receives bona fide offers from more than one acquiring person for a divestiture, and if the Commission determines to approve more than one such acquiring person for the divestiture, the Divestiture Trustee shall divest to the acquiring person selected by Respondents from among those approved by the Commission,

Provided further, however, that Respondents shall select such person within 5 days of receiving notification of the Commission's approval;

5. The Divestiture Trustee shall serve, without bond or other security, at the cost and expense of Respondents, on such reasonable and customary terms and conditions as the Commission or a court may set. The Divestiture Trustee shall have the authority to employ, at the cost and expense of Respondents, such consultants, accountants, attorneys, investment bankers, business brokers, appraisers, and other representatives and assistants as are necessary to carry out the Divestiture Trustee's duties and responsibilities. The Divestiture Trustee shall account for all monies derived from the divestiture and all expenses incurred. After approval by the Commission of the account of the Divestiture Trustee, including fees for the Divestiture Trustee's services, all remaining monies shall be paid at the direction of the Respondents, and the Divestiture Trustee's power shall be terminated. The compensation of the Divestiture Trustee shall be based at least in significant part on a commission arrangement contingent on the divestiture of all of the relevant assets that are required to be divested by this Order;
6. Respondents shall indemnify the Divestiture Trustee and hold the Divestiture Trustee harmless against any losses, claims, damages, liabilities, or expenses arising out of, or in connection with, the performance of the Divestiture Trustee's duties, including all reasonable fees of counsel and other expenses incurred in connection with the preparation for, or defense of, any claim, whether or not resulting in any liability, except to the extent that such losses, claims, damages, liabilities, or expenses result from gross negligence or willful misconduct by the Divestiture Trustee;
7. The Divestiture Trustee shall have no obligation or authority to operate or maintain the Retail Fuel Assets required to be divested by this Order;

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8. The Divestiture Trustee shall report in writing to Respondents and to the Commission every 30 days concerning the Divestiture Trustee's efforts to accomplish the divestiture; and
9. Respondents may require the Divestiture Trustee and each of the Divestiture Trustee's consultants, accountants, attorneys, and other representatives and assistants to sign a customary confidentiality agreement,

Provided, however, that such agreement shall not restrict the Divestiture Trustee from providing any information to the Commission.

- E. The Commission may, among other things, require the Divestiture Trustee and each of the Divestiture Trustee's consultants, accountants, attorneys, and other representatives and assistants to sign an appropriate confidentiality agreement related to Commission materials and information received in connection with the performance of the Divestiture Trustee's duties.
- F. If the Commission determines that a Divestiture Trustee has ceased to act or failed to act diligently, the Commission may appoint a substitute Divestiture Trustee in the same manner as provided in Section IX.
- G. The Commission or, in the case of a court-appointed Divestiture Trustee, the court, may on its own initiative or at the request of the Divestiture Trustee issue such additional orders or directions as may be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the divestitures and other obligations or action required by this Order.

X. Prior Approval

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent Global shall not, without prior approval of the Commission, acquire directly or indirectly, through subsidiaries or otherwise, any leasehold, ownership interest, commission franchise interest, or any other interest, in whole or in part, in any Retail Fuel Business in any Prior Approval Location.

XI. Acquirer

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

- A. For a period of 3 years after the Divestiture Date, PMG or any other Acquirer shall not sell, or otherwise convey, through subsidiaries or otherwise, without the prior approval of the Commission, any of the Divestiture Locations that were divested pursuant to Section II, to any Person; and
- B. For a period of 7 years after the term of Paragraph XI.A. ends, PMG or any other Acquirer shall not sell, or convey, through subsidiaries or otherwise, without the prior approval of the Commission, any of the Divestiture Locations that were divested pursuant to Section II, to any Person who owns, directly or indirectly,

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through subsidiaries or otherwise, leasehold, ownership interest, or any other interest, in whole or in part, any Retail Fuel Business in a Prior Approval Location.

Provided, however, PMG is not required to obtain prior approval of the Commission under this Section XI for:

1. a change of control, merger, reorganization, or sale of
 - a. all or substantially all of PMG's business, or
 - b. the PMG business entities that contain all or substantially all of PMG's Retail Fuel Business, or
2. any sale of a Divestiture Location to an existing dealer of a Divestiture Location that has exercised a right of first refusal under any statute or other law.

XII. Compliance Reports

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

- A. Respondent Global shall:
 1. Notify Commission staff via email at bccompliance@ftc.gov of the Acquisition Date no later than 5 days after the Acquisition Date; and
 2. Submit each complete Divestiture Agreement to the Commission at ElectronicFilings@ftc.gov and bccompliance@ftc.gov no later than 30 days after the Divestiture Date.
- B. Respondent Global shall submit verified written reports ("compliance reports") in accordance with the following:
 1. Respondent Global shall submit interim compliance reports 30 days after this Order is issued, and every 30 days thereafter until Respondent Global has fully complied with the provisions of Sections II and VI of this Order; annual compliance reports one year after the date this Order is issued, and annually thereafter for the next nine years on the anniversary of that date; and additional compliance reports as the Commission or its staff may request;
 2. Each compliance report shall contain sufficient information and documentation to enable the Commission to determine independently whether Respondent Global is in compliance with the Order. Conclusory statements that Respondent Global has complied with its obligations under this Order are insufficient. Respondent Global shall include in its reports, among other information or documentation that may be necessary to

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demonstrate compliance, a full description of the measures Respondent Global has implemented or plans to implement to ensure that it has complied or will comply with each section of the Order.

3. For a period of 5 years after filing a compliance report, Respondent Global shall retain all material written communications with each party identified in each compliance report and all non-privileged internal memoranda, reports, and recommendations concerning fulfilling its obligations under this Order during the period covered by such compliance report. Respondent Global shall provide copies of these documents to Commission staff upon request.
4. Respondent Global shall verify each compliance report in the manner set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1746 by the Chief Executive Officer or another officer or employee specifically authorized to perform this function. Respondent Global shall file its compliance reports with the Secretary of the Commission at ElectronicFilings@ftc.gov and to the Compliance Division at bccompliance@ftc.gov, as required by Commission Rule 2.41(a), 16 C.F.R. § 2.41(a). In addition, Respondent Global shall provide a copy of each compliance report to the Monitor if the Commission has appointed one in this matter.

XIII. Change in Respondents

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent Global shall notify the Commission at least 30 days prior to:

- A. Any proposed dissolution of Global Partners LP;
- B. Any proposed acquisition, merger or consolidation of Global Partners LP; or
- C. Any other change in Respondent Global, including assignment and the creation, sale, or dissolution of subsidiaries, if such change may affect compliance obligations arising out of this Order.

XIV. Access

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for the purpose of determining or securing compliance with this Order, and subject to any legally recognized privilege, upon written request and 5 days' notice to the relevant Respondent, made to its principal place of business as identified in this Order, registered office of its United States subsidiary, or its headquarters office, the notified Respondent shall, without restraint or interference, permit any duly authorized representative of the Commission:

- A. Access, during business office hours of the Respondent and in the presence of counsel, to all facilities and access to inspect and copy all business and other records

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and all documentary material and electronically stored information as defined in Commission Rules 2.71(a)(1) and (2), 16 C.F.R. § 2.71(a)(1) and (2), in the possession or under the control of the Respondent related to compliance with this Order, which copying services shall be provided by the Respondent at the request of the authorized representative of the Commission and at the expense of the Respondent; or

- B. To interview officers, directors, or employees of the Respondent, who may have counsel present, regarding such matters.

XV. Purpose

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the purpose of this Order is to remedy the harm to competition the Commission alleged in its Complaint and ensure the Acquirer can operate the Retail Fuel Assets at least equivalent in all material respects to the manner in which the Retail Fuel Assets were operated prior to the Acquisition.

XVI. Term

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall terminate on March 1, 2032.

By the Commission.

Nonpublic Appendix A**Divestiture Agreement**

[Redacted From the Public Record Version, But Incorporated By Reference]

Analysis to Aid Public Comment

ANALYSIS OF CONSENT ORDER TO AID PUBLIC COMMENT**I. Introduction**

The Federal Trade Commission (“Commission”) has accepted for public comment, subject to final approval, an Agreement Containing Consent Orders (“Consent Agreement”) from Global Partners LP (“Global”) and Richard Wiehl (“Wheels”) (collectively, the “Respondents”). The Consent Agreement is designed to remedy the anticompetitive effects that likely would result from Global’s proposed acquisition of retail fuel assets from Wheels.

Under the terms of the proposed Decision and Order (“Order”) contained in the Consent Agreement, Respondents must divest certain retail fuel assets in five local markets in Connecticut to a Commission-approved buyer. Respondents must complete the divestiture within 20 days after the closing of the acquisition. The Commission has issued, and Respondents have agreed to comply with, an Order to Maintain Assets that requires Respondents to operate and maintain each divestiture outlet in the normal course of business through the date the approved buyer acquires the divested assets.

The Commission has placed the Consent Agreement on the public record for 30 days to solicit comments from interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After 30 days, the Commission will review the comments received and decide whether it should withdraw, modify, or make the proposed Order final.

II. The Respondents

Respondent Global, a publicly traded independent owner, supplier, and operator of gasoline stations and convenience stores, is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts. Global operates approximately 1,550 retail fuel outlets, primarily in the Northeastern United States. Global also operates petroleum products terminals, through which it distributes gasoline, distillates, residual oil, and renewable fuels to wholesalers, retailers, and commercial customers.

Respondent Wheels is a family-owned chain of retail service stations and convenience stores headquartered in Milford, Connecticut. It has approximately 27 retail locations in its network, all in Connecticut, which operate under the Wheels convenience store brand. All of Wheels’ retail outlets offer either Sunoco or Citgo branded fuel. Wheels also operates a small wholesale fuel distribution business, serving 24 locations in Connecticut and New York under the Consumers Petroleum brand.

III. The Proposed Acquisition

On December 9, 2020, Global entered into an agreement to acquire the retail and wholesale fuel assets of Wheels and related entities (the “Acquisition”). The Commission’s Complaint alleges that the Acquisition, if consummated, would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and that the Acquisition agreement constitutes a violation of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45, by substantially lessening competition for the retail sale of gasoline in five local markets in Connecticut, and additionally by

Analysis to Aid Public Comment

substantially lessening competition for the retail sale of diesel fuel in four of those same local markets.

IV. The Retail Sale of Gasoline

The Commission's Complaint alleges that the relevant product markets in which to analyze the Acquisition are the retail sale of gasoline and the retail sale of diesel fuel. Consumers require gasoline for their gasoline-powered vehicles and can purchase gasoline only at retail fuel outlets. Likewise, consumers require diesel fuel for their diesel-powered vehicles and can purchase diesel fuel only at retail fuel outlets. The retail sale of gasoline and the retail sale of diesel fuel constitute separate relevant markets because the two are not interchangeable. Vehicles that run on gasoline cannot run on diesel fuel, and vehicles that run on diesel fuel cannot run on gasoline.

The Commission's Complaint alleges that the relevant geographic markets in which to assess the competitive effects of the Acquisition with respect to the retail sale of gasoline are five local markets in and around the following cities: Fairfield, Connecticut; Bethel, Connecticut; Milford, Connecticut; Wilton, Connecticut; and Shelton, Connecticut. The relevant geographic markets in which to assess the competitive effects of the Acquisition with respect to the retail sale of diesel fuel are the local markets in and around Fairfield, Bethel, Milford, and Shelton.

The geographic markets for retail gasoline and retail diesel fuel are highly localized, depending on the unique circumstances of each area. Each relevant market is distinct and fact-dependent, reflecting many considerations, including commuting patterns, traffic flows, and outlet characteristics. Consumers typically choose between nearby retail fuel outlets with similar characteristics along their planned routes. The geographic markets for the retail sale of diesel fuel are similar to the corresponding geographic markets for retail gasoline, as many diesel fuel consumers exhibit preferences and behaviors similar to those of gasoline consumers.

The Acquisition would substantially lessen competition in each of these local markets, resulting in five highly concentrated markets for the retail sale of gasoline and four highly concentrated markets for the retail sale of diesel fuel. Retail fuel outlets compete on price, store format, product offerings, and location, and pay close attention to competitors in close proximity, on similar traffic flows, and with similar store characteristics.

In each of the local gasoline and diesel fuel retail markets where the Commission alleges harm, the Acquisition would reduce the number of competitively constraining independent market participants to three or fewer. Absent the Acquisition, Global and Wheels would continue to compete head to head in these local markets. Post-Acquisition, the combined entity would be able to raise prices unilaterally in markets where Global and Wheels are close competitors.

Moreover, the Acquisition would enhance the incentives for interdependent behavior in local markets where only two or three competitively constraining independent market participants would remain. Two aspects of the retail fuel industry make it vulnerable to such coordination. First, retail fuel outlets post their fuel prices on price signs that are visible from the street, allowing competitors to easily observe each other's fuel prices. Second, retail fuel outlets regularly track their competitors' fuel prices and change their own prices in response. These repeated interactions

Analysis to Aid Public Comment

give retail fuel outlets familiarity with how their competitors price and how changing prices affect fuel sales.

Entry into each relevant market would not be timely, likely, or sufficient to deter or counteract the anticompetitive effects arising from the Acquisition. Significant entry barriers include the availability of attractive real estate, the time and cost associated with constructing a new retail fuel outlet, and the time and uncertainty associated with obtaining necessary permits and approvals.

V. The Consent Agreement

The proposed Order would remedy the Acquisition's likely anticompetitive effects by requiring Global to divest certain Global and Wheels retail fuel assets to Petroleum Marketing Investment Group, LLC ("PMG") in each local market. PMG is an experienced operator of retail fuel sites and will be a new entrant into the local markets.

The proposed Order requires that the divestiture be completed no later than 20 days after Global consummates the Acquisition. The proposed Order further requires Global and Wheels to maintain the economic viability, marketability, and competitiveness of each divestiture asset until the divestiture to PMG is complete.

In addition to requiring outlet divestitures, the proposed Order requires Respondents to obtain prior approval from the Commission before acquiring retail fuel assets within a 2-mile driving distance of any divested outlet for ten years. The prior approval provision is necessary because an acquisition in close proximity to the divested assets likely would raise the same competitive concerns as the Acquisition. The proposed Order further requires PMG to obtain prior approval from the Commission for a period of 3 years before transferring any of the divested stations to any buyer, and for a period of 7 years to any buyer with an interest in a retail fuel outlet within 2 miles of a divested station.

The Consent Agreement contains additional provisions designed to ensure the effectiveness of the relief. For example, Respondents have agreed to an Order to Maintain Assets that will issue at the time the proposed Consent Agreement is accepted for public comment. The Order to Maintain Assets requires Respondents to operate and maintain each divestiture outlet in the normal course of business through the date the Respondents complete the divestiture. The proposed Order also includes a provision that allows the Commission to appoint an independent third party as a Monitor if necessary to oversee the Respondents' compliance with the requirements of the Order.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the Consent Agreement, and the Commission does not intend this analysis to constitute an official interpretation of the proposed Order or to modify its terms in any way.

Complaint

IN THE MATTER OF

**LIFESPAN CORPORATION,
AND
CARE NEW ENGLAND HEALTH SYSTEM**

COMPLAINT, FINAL ORDER, ETC. IN REGARD TO ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF SECTION 5 OF THE
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION ACT AND SECTION 7 OF THE CLAYTON ACT

*Docket No. 9406; File No. 211 0031
Complaint, February 17, 2022 – Decision, March 2, 2022*

This case addresses the merger of Lifespan Corporation and Care New England Health System. The complaint alleges that the merger, if consummated, would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act and Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act by significantly reducing competition in the market for inpatient general acute care hospital services in Rhode Island. The order dismissed the Complaint without prejudice.

Participants

For the *Commission*: Nathan Brenner, Kennan Khatib, Amy Ritchie, Josh Smith, Anusha Sunkara, Albert Teng, Goldie Walker, and Kati Williams.

For the *Respondents*: Joseph Farside, Jr. and Steve Murphy, Locke Lord LLP; Nicole Castle and Stephen Wu, McDermott Will & Emery LLP.

COMPLAINT

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (“FTC Act”), and by virtue of the authority vested in it by the FTC Act, the Federal Trade Commission (“Commission”), having reason to believe that Respondents Lifespan Corporation (“Lifespan”) and Care New England Health System (“CNE”) have executed a definitive agreement in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, which if consummated would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 5 of the FTC Act, and it appearing to the Commission that a proceeding by it in respect thereof would be in the public interest, hereby issues its complaint pursuant to Section 5(b) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(b), and Section 11(b) of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 21(b), stating its charges as follows:

I.**NATURE OF THE CASE**

1. Lifespan and CNE, the first and second largest healthcare providers in the state of Rhode Island, seek to merge (the “Proposed Transaction”). Lifespan’s and CNE’s inpatient GAC hospitals overlap significantly in the medical, surgical, and diagnostic services they offer that require an overnight hospital stay. These overlapping services account for the majority of inpatients the Respondents treat. Further, Lifespan and CNE operate the only two standalone inpatient behavioral health facilities in Rhode Island.