

**ENTERED**

September 25, 2024

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION**

In re:

VERTEX ENERGY, INC., *et al.*,<sup>1</sup>

Debtors.

)  
) Chapter 11  
)  
) Case No. 24-90507 (CML)  
)  
) (Jointly Administered)  
)  
) **Re: Docket No. 10****ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF  
CERTAIN TAXES AND FEES AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF**

Upon the emergency motion (the “Motion”)<sup>2</sup> of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “Debtors”) for entry of an order (this “Order”), (a) authorizing the Debtors to (i) negotiate, remit, and pay (or use tax credits to offset) the Taxes and Fees in the ordinary course of business that are payable or become payable during these chapter 11 cases, including obligations arising on account of an Audit or Assessment, and (ii) undertake Tax Planning Activities, as necessary, and (b) granting related relief, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and upon the First Day Declaration; and this Court having jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 334; and this Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and this Court having found that it may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and this Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1408; and this Court having found that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors’ estates,

<sup>1</sup> A complete list of each of the Debtors in these chapter 11 cases may be obtained on the website of the Debtors’ proposed claims and noticing agent at <https://www.veritaglobal.net/vertex>. The location of Debtor Vertex Energy, Inc.’s corporate headquarters and the Debtors’ service address in these chapter 11 cases is 1331 Gemini Street, Suite 250, Houston, Texas 77058.

<sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.



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their creditors, and other parties in interest; and this Court having found that the Debtors' notice of the Motion and opportunity for a hearing on the Motion were appropriate under the circumstances and no other notice need be provided; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and having heard the statements in support of the relief requested therein at a hearing before this Court (the "Hearing"); and this Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and at the Hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon all of the proceedings had before this Court; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, on a final basis to: (a) negotiate, pay, and remit (or use tax credits to offset), or otherwise satisfy the Taxes and Fees (including corresponding Assessments) that arose or accrued prior to the Petition Date and that will become due and owing in the ordinary course of business during the pendency of these chapter 11 cases at such time when the Taxes and Fees come due and payable; and (b) negotiate, pay, and remit (or use tax credits to offset) Taxes and Fees that arise or accrue in the ordinary course of business on a postpetition basis—including, for the avoidance of doubt, posting collateral or a letter of credit in connection with any dispute related to the Audits or Assessments or paying any Taxes and Fees arising as a result of the Audits or Assessments; *provided* that, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein or in the Motion, in the event the Debtors make a payment with respect to any Taxes and Fees for the prepetition portion of any "straddle" amount, and this Court subsequently determines such amount was not entitled to priority or administrative treatment under section 507(a)(8) or 503(b)(1)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors may (but shall not be required to), in consultation with the Consenting Term Loan Lenders, seek an order from the Court requiring a

return of such amounts, and the payment of such amounts shall, upon order of the Court, be refunded to the Debtors.

2. The Debtors are further authorized to settle some or all of the prepetition Taxes and Fees for less than their face amount without further notice or hearing.

3. The Debtors, in consultation with the Consenting Term Loan Lenders, are further authorized to undertake the Tax Planning Activities, as more fully described in the Motion.

4. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein or in the Motion, the Debtors are authorized to file amended tax returns, including for prepetition periods, and pay any Taxes and Fees in connection therewith.

5. Notwithstanding the relief granted herein or any actions taken hereunder, nothing contained in this Order shall create any rights in favor of, or enhance the status of any claim held by, any of the Authorities.

6. Nothing in this Order authorizes the Debtors to accelerate any payments not otherwise due and, for the avoidance of doubt, the Debtors shall not pay any Taxes and Fees before such Taxes and Fees are due to the applicable authority.

7. To the extent that the Debtors have overpaid any Taxes and Fees, the Debtors are authorized to seek a refund or credit.

8. The Debtors' rights to contest the validity or priority of any Taxes and Fees on any grounds they deem appropriate are reserved and extend to the payment of Taxes and Fees relating to Audits that have been completed, are in progress, or arise from prepetition periods.

9. The Debtors shall maintain a matrix/schedule of payments made pursuant to this Order, including the following information: (a) the names of the payee; (b) the nature of the payment; (c) the amount of the payment; (d) the category or type of payment; (e) the Debtor or

Debtors that made the payment; (f) the payment date; and (g) the purpose of such payment. The Debtors shall provide a copy of such matrix/schedule to the U.S. Trustee, counsel to the Consenting Term Loan Lenders, and any statutory committee appointed in these chapter 11 cases every thirty (30) days beginning upon entry of this Order.

10. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, any payment made hereunder, and any authorization contained herein, shall be subject to the requirements imposed under any interim or final orders authorizing the Debtors' use of cash collateral and/or postpetition debtor-in-possession financing (any such order, a "DIP Order") and any approved budget in connection therewith. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the terms of any DIP Order (including any approved budget in connection therewith) and any approval or action taken or proposed to be taken hereunder, the terms of the DIP Order shall control.

11. Notwithstanding the relief granted herein and any actions taken pursuant to such relief, nothing in this Order shall be deemed: (a) an admission as to the amount of, basis for, priority of, or validity of any claim against a Debtor entity under the Bankruptcy Code or other applicable nonbankruptcy law; (b) a waiver of the Debtors' or any other party in interest's right to dispute any claim on any grounds; (c) a promise or requirement to pay any particular claim; (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in the Motion or any order granting the relief requested by the Motion or a finding that any particular claim is an administrative expense claim or other priority claim; (e) a request or authorization to assume, adopt, or reject any agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code; (f) an admission as to the validity, priority, enforceability, or perfection of any lien on, security interest in, or other encumbrance on property of the Debtors' estates; (g) a waiver or limitation of the Debtors', or any other party in interest's, rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other

applicable law; or (h) a concession by the Debtors that any liens (contractual, common law, statutory, or otherwise) that may be satisfied pursuant to the relief requested in the Motion are valid, and the rights of all parties in interest are expressly reserved to contest the extent, validity, or perfection or seek avoidance of all such liens.

12. The banks and financial institutions on which checks were drawn or electronic payment requests made in payment of the prepetition obligations approved herein are authorized to receive, process, honor, and pay all such checks and electronic payment requests when presented for payment, and all such banks and financial institutions are authorized to rely on the Debtors' designation of any particular check or electronic payment request as approved by this Order.

13. The Debtors are authorized to issue postpetition checks, or to effect postpetition fund transfer requests, in replacement of any checks or fund transfer requests that are dishonored as a consequence of these chapter 11 cases with respect to prepetition amounts owed in connection with the relief granted herein.

14. The contents of the Motion satisfy the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6003(b).

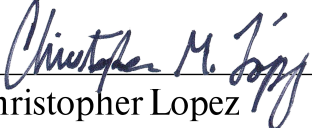
15. Notice of the Motion as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Motion and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the Bankruptcy Local Rules are satisfied by such notice.

16. Notwithstanding Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), the terms and conditions of this Order are immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

17. The Debtors are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Order in accordance with the Motion.

18. This Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.

Signed: September 25, 2024

  
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Christopher Lopez  
United States Bankruptcy Judge