

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY  
Reemployment Assistance Appeals  
PO BOX 5250  
TALLAHASSEE FL 32399-5250**

**PETITIONER:**

Employer Account No. -3087764  
ADMON LLC  
ATTN: MOHEB GUIRGUIS  
2829 US HIGHWAY 301 S  
RIVERVIEW FL 33578-3511

**RESPONDENT:**

State of Florida  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITY  
c/o Department of Revenue

**PROTEST OF LIABILITY  
DOCKET NO. 0019 4684 55-02**

**ORDER**

This matter comes before me for final Department Order.

Having fully considered the Special Deputy's Recommended Order and the record of the case and in the absence of any exceptions to the Recommended Order, I adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as set forth therein. A copy of the Recommended Order is attached and incorporated in this Final Order.

In consideration thereof, it is ORDERED that the determination dated October 8, 2013, is AFFIRMED.

### JUDICIAL REVIEW

Any request for judicial review must be initiated within 30 days of the date the Order was filed. Judicial review is commenced by filing one copy of a *Notice of Appeal* with the DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY at the address shown at the top of this Order and a second copy, with filing fees prescribed by law, with the appropriate District Court of Appeal. It is the responsibility of the party appealing to the Court to prepare a transcript of the record. If no court reporter was at the hearing, the transcript must be prepared from a copy of the Special Deputy's hearing recording, which may be requested from the Office of Appeals.

Cualquier solicitud para revisión judicial debe ser iniciada dentro de los 30 días a partir de la fecha en que la Orden fue registrada. La revisión judicial se comienza al registrar una copia de un *Aviso de Apelación* con la Agencia para la Innovación de la Fuerza Laboral [*DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY*] en la dirección que aparece en la parte superior de este *Orden* y una segunda copia, con los honorarios de registro prescritos por la ley, con el Tribunal Distrital de Apelaciones pertinente. Es la responsabilidad de la parte apelando al tribunal la de preparar una transcripción del registro. Si en la audiencia no se encontraba ningún estenógrafo registrado en los tribunales, la transcripción debe ser preparada de una copia de la grabación de la audiencia del Delegado Especial [*Special Deputy*], la cual puede ser solicitada de la Oficina de Apelaciones.

Nenpòt demann pou yon revizyon jiridik fèt pou l kòmanse lan yon peryòd 30 jou apati de dat ke Lòd la te depoze a. Revizyon jiridik la kòmanse avèk depo yon kopi yon *Avi Dapèl* ki voye bay DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY lan nan adrès ki parèt pi wo a, lan tèt Lòd sa a e yon dezyèm kopi, avèk frè depo ki preskri pa lalwa, bay Kou Dapèl Distrik apwopriye a. Se responsabilite pati k ap prezante apèl la bay Tribinal la pou l prepare yon kopi dosye a. Si pa te gen yon stenograf lan seyans lan, kopi a fèt pou l prepare apati de kopi anrejistreman seyans lan ke Adjwen Spesyal la te fè a, e ke w ka mande Biwo Dapèl la voye pou ou.

DONE and ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, this 12 day of **May**, 2014.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Magnus Hines".

Magnus Hines,  
RA Appeals Manager,  
Reemployment Assistance Program  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

FILED ON THIS DATE PURSUANT TO § 120.52,  
FLORIDA STATUTES, WITH THE DESIGNATED  
DEPARTMENT CLERK, RECEIPT OF WHICH IS  
HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGED.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shanedra Y. Barnes".

DEPUTY CLERK

5.16.14  
DATE

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that true and correct copies of the foregoing Final Order have been furnished to the persons listed below in the manner described, on the 12th day of **May**, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shanedra Y. Barnes".

SHANEDRA Y. BARNES, Special Deputy Clerk  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITY  
Reemployment Assistance Appeals  
PO BOX 5250  
TALLAHASSEE FL 32399-5250

By U.S. Mail:

ADMON LLC  
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RIVERVIEW FL 33578-3511

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
WILLA DENNARD  
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2450 SHUMARD OAK BLVD  
TALLAHASSEE FL 32399

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ACCOUNTING AND MORE  
ATTN: BASSAM J ALSAEH,  
ACCOUNTANT  
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TAMPA FL 33688-1533

State of Florida  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY  
c/o Department of Revenue

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**RESPONDENT:**

State of Florida  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITY  
c/o Department of Revenue

**RECOMMENDED ORDER OF SPECIAL DEPUTY**

TO: Magnus Hines  
RA Appeals Manager,  
Reemployment Assistance Program  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

This matter comes before the undersigned Special Deputy pursuant to the Petitioner's protest of the Respondent's determination dated October 8, 2013.

After due notice to the parties, a telephone hearing was held on February 20, 2014. The Petitioner, represented by its accountant, appeared and testified. The Petitioner's managing member testified as a witness. The Respondent, represented by a Department of Revenue Tax Auditor III, appeared and testified.

The record of the case, including the recording of the hearing and any exhibits submitted in evidence, is herewith transmitted. Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law were not received.

**ISSUE:** Whether the Petitioner's tax rates were properly computed, pursuant to §443.131, Florida Statutes; Rules 73B-10.026; 10.031, Florida Administrative Code.

**ISSUE:** Whether the Petitioner's liability for unemployment compensation contributions was properly determined pursuant to Sections 443.1215, 1216, 1217; 443.131, Florida Statutes.

**Findings of Fact:**

1. Tristar Energy Group, LLC was a limited liability company which operated a Radiant gas station/convenience store. The owners/managers of Tristar Energy Group, LLC were Moheb Guirguis and Hani Banoub. Tristar Energy Group, LLC established liability for payment of unemployment tax during the third quarter 2008.

2. Hani Banoub left Tristar Energy Group, LLC and, as a result, Moheb Guirguis formed a new limited liability company, Admon, LLC, the Petitioner in this case. Moheb Guirguis is the sole owner and managing member of the Petitioner.
3. Effective January 1, 2012, the Petitioner took over the operation of the business from Tristar Energy Group, LLC and acquired the physical inventory and the employees of Tristar Energy Group, LLC.
4. The accountant for the Petitioner went to a local service center of the Department of Revenue to register the Petitioner for payment of sales tax and unemployment tax, now known as reemployment assistance tax. The accountant completed an application and attempted to show that the business had been acquired from Tristar Energy Group, LLC. However, the account number entered on the application for Tristar Energy Group, LLC was not accurate and the Department of Revenue was not able to identify Tristar Energy Group, LLC by the inaccurate account number. As a result, the Petitioner was treated as a new employer. The Petitioner was assigned a tax rate of .0270, the initial tax rate that is assigned to all new employers who have not acquired an existing business.
5. The Department of Revenue has a computer program that identifies employees who are transferred from one employer to another employer. The computer program identified that substantially all of the employees of Tristar Energy Group, LLC were transferred to the Petitioner effective January 1, 2012. Further investigation revealed that Moheb Guirguis was the managing member of both companies.
6. By determination dated October 8, 2013, the Department of Revenue notified the Petitioner that since it appeared that the Petitioner had acquired the workforce of Tristar Energy Group, LLC effective January 1, 2012, and since it appeared that there was common ownership, management, or control of the two companies, the unemployment experience of Tristar Energy Group, LLC was transferred to the Petitioner resulting in an increased tax rate. For the period January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012, the tax rate increased to .0462. For the period beginning January 1, 2013, the tax rate increased to .0540. The Petitioner filed a timely protest on October 10, 2013.

#### **Conclusions of Law:**

7. Section 443.131(3), Florida Statutes, provides:
  - (g) Transfer of unemployment experience upon transfer or acquisition of a business.-- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon transfer or acquisition of a business, the following conditions apply to the assignment of rates and to transfers of unemployment experience:
    - 1.a. If an employer transfers its trade or business, or a portion thereof, to another employer and, at the time of the transfer, there is any common ownership, management, or control of the two employers, the unemployment experience attributable to the transferred trade or business shall be transferred to the employer to whom the business is so transferred. The rates of both employers shall be recalculated and made effective as of the beginning of the calendar quarter immediately following the date of the transfer of the trade or business unless the transfer occurred on the first day of a calendar quarter, in which case the rate shall be recalculated as of that date.

8. Section 443.131(3)(g)7.b., Florida Statutes, provides that "trade or business" shall include the employer's workforce.
9. Rule 73B-10.031(3), Florida Administrative Code, provides in pertinent part that for the purpose of implementing Section 443.131(3)(g), F.S.:
  - (a) The term "ownership" means any proprietary interest in a business, including, but not limited to, shares of stock in a corporation, partnership interest in a partnership or membership interest in a Limited Liability Company (LLC).
  - (b) "Common ownership" exists when a person has ownership in two or more businesses.
  - (c) A person in "management" includes any officer or director of a corporation, owner of a sole proprietorship, partner in a partnership, manager of an LLC, or person with the ability to direct the activities of an employing unit, either individually or in concert with others.
  - (d) "Common management" exists when a person concurrently occupies management positions in two or more businesses.
  - (e) A person in "control" of a business includes any officer or director of a corporation, owner of a sole proprietorship, partner in a partnership, manager of an LLC, or other person with the ability, directly or indirectly, individually or in concert with others, to influence or direct management, activities or policies of the business through ownership of stock, voting rights, contract, or other means. Control exists when an employee leasing company dictates or specifies the businesses with which a client company must contract.
  - (f) "Common control" exists when a person or group of persons has control of two or more businesses.
  - (g) The phrase "transfer or acquisition" encompasses any and all types of transfers and acquisitions including, but not limited to, assignments, changes in legal identity or form, consolidations, conveyances, mergers, name changes, purchase and sale agreements, reorganizations, stock transfers and successions.
  - (h) The phrase "trade or business or a portion thereof" includes but is not limited to assets, customers, management, organization and workforce.
  - (i) For the purpose of determining issues relating to the transfer of employment records upon transfer or acquisition of a business, the term "person" has the meaning set forth in Section 7701(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.
10. The Petitioner acquired the assets and workforce of Tristar Energy Group, LLC effective January 1, 2012. At the time of acquisition Moheb Guirguis was an owner and the managing member of both companies. Thus, there was common ownership, common management, and common control of both companies.
11. Since there was common ownership, management, or control of Tristar Energy Group, LLC and of Admon, LLC at the time that the Petitioner acquired the trade or business of Tristar Energy Group, LLC, the law requires that the unemployment experience of Tristar Energy Group, LLC be transferred to the Petitioner.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the determination dated October 8, 2013, be AFFIRMED.  
Respectfully submitted on March 18, 2014.




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R. O. Smith, Special Deputy  
Office of Appeals

A party aggrieved by the *Recommended Order* may file written exceptions to the Director at the address shown above within fifteen days of the mailing date of the *Recommended Order*. Any opposing party may file counter exceptions within ten days of the mailing of the original exceptions. A brief in opposition to counter exceptions may be filed within ten days of the mailing of the counter exceptions. Any party initiating such correspondence must send a copy of the correspondence to each party of record and indicate that copies were sent.

Una parte que se vea perjudicada por la *Orden Recomendada* puede registrar excepciones por escrito al Director Designado en la dirección que aparece arriba dentro de quince días a partir de la fecha del envío por correo de la *Orden Recomendada*. Cualquier contraparte puede registrar contra-excepciones dentro de los diez días a partir de la fecha de envío por correo de las excepciones originales. Un sumario en oposición a contra-excepciones puede ser registrado dentro de los diez días a partir de la fecha de envío por correo de las contra-excepciones. Cualquier parte que dé inicio a tal correspondencia debe enviarle una copia de tal correspondencia a cada parte contenida en el registro y señalar que copias fueron remitidas.

Yon pati ke Lòd Rekòmande a afekte ka prezante de eksklizyon alekri bay Direktè Adjwen an lan adrès ki parèt anlè a lan yon peryòd kenj jou apati de dat ke Lòd Rekòmande a te poste a. Nenpòt pati ki fè opozisyon ka prezante objeksyon a eksklizyon yo lan yon peryòd dis jou apati de lè ke objeksyon a eksklizyon orijinal yo te poste. Yon dosye ki prezante ann opozisyon a objeksyon a eksklizyon yo, ka prezante lan yon peryòd dis jou apati de dat ke objeksyon a eksklizyon yo te poste. Nenpòt pati ki angaje yon korespondans konsa dwe voye yon kopi kourye a bay chak pati ki enplike lan dosye a e endike ke yo te voye kopi yo.

---

SHANEDRA Y. BARNES, Special Deputy Clerk

*Date Mailed:*  
*March 18, 2014*



Copies mailed to:  
Petitioner  
Respondent

WILLA DENARD  
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