

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
PENNSYLVANIA

Stewart Abramson, individually and on behalf of a class of all persons
and entities similarly situated v. Line 5, LLC, et al.

Abramson · No. 2:25-cv-288 · Decided January 22, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania adopted a magistrate judge’s Report and Recommendation recommending dismissal-related relief in a putative class action involving Headstart Warranty Group, LLC and Line 5, LLC. The court granted the motion insofar as it directed transfer of the matter to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and ordered the case closed upon transfer.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Robert J. Colville
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
DECIDED	January 22, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-288
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation recommending disposition of a motion to dismiss filed by Headstart Warranty Group, LLC and joined by Line 5, LLC. No objections were filed. The district court adopted the Report and Recommendation and ordered transfer of the action to the Middle District of Pennsylvania.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	For dispositive matters referred to a magistrate judge, the district court must make a de novo determination of portions of the Report and Recommendation to which objections are made. Even absent objections, the court must afford dispositive legal issues some level of review, described by the Third Circuit as reasoned consideration. For non-dispositive matters, review is for clear error or whether the order is contrary to law.

PRECEDENTIAL VALUE

Unpublished district court order; precedential status not established in the source metadata.

TOPICS

motions to dismiss

venue

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PRACTICE AREAS

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. What level of review should the district court apply to a magistrate judge's dispositive Report and Recommendation when no objections are filed?
2. Whether to adopt the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation and transfer the action to the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

HOLDINGS

1. When no objections are filed to a magistrate judge's dispositive Report and Recommendation, the district court must nevertheless afford the dispositive legal issues some level of review, characterized by the Third Circuit as reasoned consideration.
2. After reasoned consideration, the district court accepted and adopted the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation in its entirety and granted the motion insofar as the action was transferred to the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has explained that, “even absent objections to the report and recommendation, a district court should ‘afford some level of review to dispositive legal issues raised by the report,’” and has “described this level of review as ‘reasoned consideration.’”

“The Court agrees with the thorough and well-reasoned analysis set forth in Judge Dodge’s Report and Recommendation, and the Court accepts and adopts Judge Dodge’s Report and Recommendation in its entirety as the opinion of the Court with respect to Headstart’s Motion to Dismiss.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Stewart Abramson brought the action individually and on behalf of a putative class against Line 5, LLC and other defendants, including Headstart Warranty Group, LLC. Headstart filed a motion to dismiss, and Line 5 joined that motion. The magistrate judge recommended disposition of the motion and transfer of the matter to the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Magistrate Judge Patricia L. Dodge issued a September 19, 2025 Report and Recommendation recommending that the court grant Headstart's motion to dismiss, joined by Line 5. After the objection deadline passed without objections, District Judge Robert J. Colville gave the dispositive issues reasoned consideration, adopted the Report and Recommendation in its entirety, granted the motion insofar as the action would be transferred, and directed the Clerk to transfer and close the case.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Alarmax Distributors, Inc. v. Honeywell Int'l Inc., No. 2:14-cv-1527, 2015 WL 12756857, at *1 (W.D. Pa. Nov. 24, 2015)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Comm'n v. City of Long Branch, 866 F.3d 93, 99 (3d Cir. 2017)
- Haines v. Liggett Grp. Inc., 975 F.2d 81, 91 (3d Cir. 1992)
- Pennsylvania, Dep't of Env'tl. Prot. v. Allegheny Energy, Inc., No. 2:05-cv-885, 2007 WL 2253554, at *1 (W.D. Pa. Aug. 3, 2007)
- Anderson v. City of Bessemer, 470 U.S. 564, 573 (1985)
- Brandon v. Burkhardt, No. 1:16-cv-177, 2020 WL 85494, at *2 (W.D. Pa. Jan. 7, 2020)
- Doe v. Hartford Life & Accident Ins. Co., 237 F.R.D. 545, 548 (D.N.J. 2006)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Comm'n v. City of Long Branch, 866 F.3d 93, 100 (3d Cir. 2017)
- Henderson v. Carlson, 812 F.2d 874, 878 (3d Cir. 1987)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA STEWART ABRAMSON, individually and) on behalf of a class of all persons and entities) similarly situated,) No. 2:25-cv-288)) Plaintiff,) District Judge Robert J. Colville) v.) Magistrate Judge Patricia L. Dodge LINE 5, LLC, et al.,)) Defendants. ORDER OF COURT Currently pending before the Court is the Report and Recommendation (ECF No. 31) filed by the Honorable Patricia L. Dodge in the above-captioned matter.

Judge Dodge's September 19, 2025 Report and Recommendation recommends that the Court grant the Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 24) filed by Defendant Headstart Warranty Group, LLC and joined by Defendant Line 5, LLC (ECF No 27). Objections to the Report and Recommendation were due by October 3, 2025. No objections were filed, and the Court considers this matter to be ripe for disposition. "The Federal Magistrates Act provides two separate standards of judicial review of orders on matters referred to magistrate judges." Alarmax Distributors, Inc. v. Honeywell Int'l Inc., No. 2:14-cv-1527, 2015 WL 12756857, at *1 (W.D.

Pa. Nov. 24, 2015) (citing 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)). A district court reviews objections to a magistrate judge's decision on non-dispositive matters to determine whether any part of the order is clearly erroneous or contrary to law. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(a). "This standard requires the District Court to review findings of fact for clear error and to review matters of law de novo." *Equal Employment Opportunity Comm'n v. City of Long Branch*, 866 F.3d 93, 99 (3d Cir.

2017) (citing *Haines v. Liggett Grp. Inc.*, 975 F.2d 81, 91 (3d Cir. 1992)). A district court may only modify or set aside those parts of the order on non-dispositive matters that it finds to be clearly erroneous or contrary to law. *Id.* "A finding is 'clearly erroneous' when, 'although there is evidence to support it, the reviewing court on the entire evidence is left with the definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been committed.'" *Pennsylvania, Dep't of Envtl.*

Prot. v. Allegheny Energy, Inc., No. 2:05-cv-885, 2007 WL 2253554, at *1 (W.D. Pa. Aug. 3, 2007) (quoting *Anderson v. City of Bessemer*, 470 U.S. 564, 573 (1985)). "A magistrate judge's order is contrary to law 'when the magistrate judge has misinterpreted or misapplied the applicable law.'" *Brandon v. Burkhardt*, No. 1:16-cv-177, 2020 WL 85494, at *2 (W.D. Pa. Jan.

7, 2020) (quoting *Doe v. Hartford Life & Accident Ins. Co.*, 237 F.R.D. 545, 548 (D.N.J. 2006)). Objections to a magistrate judge's disposition of a dispositive matter are subject to de novo review before the district judge. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B)-(C); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(3).

The reviewing district court must make a de novo determination of those portions of the magistrate judge's report and recommendation to which objections are made. *Id.* Following de novo review, "[t]he district judge may accept, reject, or modify the recommended disposition; receive further evidence; or return the matter to the magistrate judge with instructions." Fed.

R. Civ. P. 72(b)(3). The United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has explained that, "even absent objections to the report and recommendation, a district court should 'afford some level of review to dispositive legal issues raised by the report,'" and has "described this level of review as 'reasoned consideration.'" *Equal Employment Opportunity Comm'n v. City of Long Branch*, 866 F.3d 93, 100 (3d Cir.

2017) (quoting *Henderson v. Carlson*, 812 F.2d 874, 878 (3d Cir. 1987)). Upon reasoned consideration of Judge Dodge's Report and Recommendation, the pending Motion, and following review of all relevant docket entries, it is hereby ORDERED as follows: The Court agrees with the thorough and well-reasoned analysis set forth in Judge Dodge's Report and Recommendation, and the Court accepts and adopts Judge Dodge's Report and Recommendation in its entirety as the opinion of the Court with respect to Headstart's Motion to Dismiss.

Headstart's Motion is granted insofar as this Court will transfer this matter to the Middle District of Pennsylvania. The Clerk of Court is hereby directed to transfer this matter to the United States

District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania forthwith. Upon transfer, the Clerk of Court shall mark this case as CLOSED. BY THE COURT: /s/Robert J. Colville Robert J. Colville United States District Judge DATED: January 22, 2026 cc: All counsel of record

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