## STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 811

## BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Application of Piedmont Natural Gas Company,	)	ORDER ACCEPTING
Inc., for Annual Review of Gas Costs Pursuant	)	SUBSTITUTION OF WITNESS,
to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.4(c) and Commission	)	EXCUSING WITNESSES,
Rule R1-17(k)(6)	)	<b>CANCELING EXPERT WITNESS</b>
· / · /	)	HEARING, AND SETTING DATE
	)	FOR BRIEFS AND PROPOSED
	)	ORDERS

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On August 4, 2022, the Commission issued an Order scheduling the above-captioned docket for a hearing on October 4, 2022. Prefiled direct testimony and exhibits (testimony) were filed herein for Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont), by witnesses MaryBeth Tomlinson, Todd Breece, and Jeffrey Patton; and for the Public Staff by witnesses Sonja R. Johnson, Dustin R. Metz, and Jordan A. Nader.

On September 26, 2022, Piedmont filed a Motion for Substitution of Witness and Adoption of Testimony requesting that Bryan Manges be substituted as the sponsor of the testimony of witness Tomlinson. Piedmont explained that due to a family medical issue Ms. Tomlinson was caring for a family member and would be unavailable to testify as a witness at the hearing. Further, Piedmont stated that Mr. Manges is Ms. Tomlinson's direct supervisor, that Ms. Tomlinson's prefiled testimony was prepared under Mr. Manges' supervision, that Mr. Manges is familiar with and agrees with the analysis and conclusions set forth therein, and that Mr. Manges has agreed to adopt Ms. Tomlinson's prefiled testimony for purposes of the hearing.

On September 29, 2022, Piedmont filed the rebuttal testimony of witnesses Patton and Breece. No other person intervened or filed testimony in this docket.

On September 30, 2022, Piedmont and the Public Staff (Movants), filed a joint motion requesting that the Commission excuse their witnesses from attending the hearing. Movants stated that it does not appear that there is a dispute between Piedmont and the Public Staff regarding the prudence of Piedmont's gas purchasing practices or accounting for gas costs during the review period. Movants further stated that in its testimony the Public Staff recommended that certain information regarding gas supply, capacity planning and design day calculations be provided in Piedmont's next annual prudence review, and that in Piedmont's rebuttal testimony Piedmont addressed these issues. Movants stated that these matters do not represent disputes between them that require resolution by the Commission in this proceeding. Moreover, Movants stated that they have agreed to waive cross-examination of each other's witnesses, and to offer no objection to the introduction of the testimony of the witnesses into evidence.

Based on the foregoing and the record, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to allow Mr. Manges to adopt Ms. Tomlinson's prefiled testimony as a Piedmont witness in this proceeding. In addition, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to excuse Movants' witnesses from testifying at the expert witness hearing on October 4, 2022, to receive the witnesses' testimony and exhibits into evidence, and to cancel the expert witness hearing.

The public witness hearing will be held as scheduled on October 4, 2022, and the record will remain open pending the public witness hearing.

Finally, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to require that Piedmont and the Public Staff file proposed orders, or a joint proposed order, on or before November 3, 2022.

## IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

- 1. That Bryan Manges shall be, and is hereby, allowed to adopt MaryBeth Tomlinson's prefiled testimony as a Piedmont witness in this proceeding;
- 2. That Piedmont's and the Public Staff's expert witnesses are excused from appearing and testifying at the hearing on October 4, 2022, their testimony and exhibits are hereby accepted into evidence, and the expert witness hearing is canceled;
- 3. That the public witness hearing will be held as scheduled on October 4, 2022, and the record will remain open pending the public witness hearing; and
- 4. That on or before November 3, 2022, Piedmont and the Public Staff shall file proposed orders, or a joint proposed order.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 3rd day of October, 2022.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Erica N. Green, Deputy Clerk

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