

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1095D
DOCKET NO. E-7, SUB 1100D
DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 682D

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Third-Party Independent Audits of Affiliate)
Transactions Pursuant to Regulatory Condition)
No. 5.8)
	ORDER ALLOWING
	COMMENTS ON PROPOSED
	AUDITOR

BY THE CHAIR: On September 29, 2016, the Commission issued an Order Approving Merger Subject to Regulatory Conditions and Code of Conduct (Merger Order), in Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1095, E-7, Sub 1100, and G-9, Sub 682, approving the merger of Duke Energy Corporation and Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. Included among the Regulatory Conditions (RCs) approved in the Merger Order is RC No. 5.8. This RC requires, among other things, that a third-party independent audit be conducted regarding the affiliate transactions among Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, Duke Energy Progress, LLC, and Piedmont (collectively, Duke utilities) no less than every two years.

Subsection (b) of RC No. 5.8 requires that the Public Staff propose one or more independent auditors. The Duke utilities and other parties then have an opportunity to propose additional auditors.

On January 15, 2020, the Public Staff filed its auditor proposal. The Public Staff recommended that Schumaker & Company be chosen as the third-party independent auditor, and stated that the Duke utilities agree with the recommendation.

Based on the record, the Chair finds good cause to allow other parties to comment and/or propose additional auditors. Consistent with RC No. 5.8, any party proposing an independent auditor must file such auditor's audit proposal with the Commission. Finally, the Chair finds good cause to direct that the Chief Clerk serve a copy of this Order on all parties to Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1095, E-7, Sub 1100, and G-9, Sub 682.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That on or before February 10, 2020, interested parties may file comments and/or the names and audit proposals of additional independent auditors; and

2. That the Chief Clerk shall serve a copy of this Order on all parties to Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1095; E-7, Sub 1100; and G-9, Sub 682.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of January, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberley A. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'C'.

Kimberley A. Campbell, Chief Clerk