

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 743

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Application of Piedmont Natural Gas) ORDER GRANTING
Company, Inc., for Adjustment of Rates and) MOTION TO EXCUSE
Charges Applicable to Natural Gas Service in) WITNESSES
North Carolina)

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On August 14, 2019, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont), through counsel, filed a Motion to Excuse Witnesses, Proposed Order and Cross-Examination Estimates for Witnesses (Motion) in the above-captioned proceeding. In the Motion, Piedmont, among other things, informs the Commission that by Order issued on May 16, 2019, the Commission directed Piedmont to consult with all other parties and file, no later than August 13, 2019, a list of witnesses to be called at the expert witness hearing, the order of witnesses, and each party's estimated time for cross-examination of each witness. Piedmont also informs the Commission that on August 12, 2019, a Settlement Stipulation between Piedmont, the Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (the Public Staff), the Carolina Utility Customers Association (CUCA), and the Carolina Industrial Group for Fair Utility Rates, IV (CIGFUR IV), (collectively, the Stipulating Parties) was filed, which resolves all matters in this case as between the Stipulating Parties. In the Settlement, each Stipulating Party agrees to waive cross-examination of the other's witnesses. Piedmont further informs the Commission that the Stipulating Parties have no plans to conduct cross-examination of the specified witnesses and have waived the right to conduct such cross-examination as described in the settlement Stipulation filed on August 12, 2019. Piedmont recognizes that the witnesses will incur a cost to travel to the hearing and is of the opinion that the travel may be unnecessary at least for the parties' purposes in this docket. Piedmont, with the consent of each of the parties to this proceeding, requests that the following witnesses be excused from appearing at the expert hearing:

Piedmont witness Daniel P. Yardley (Rate Design)
Piedmont witness Paul M. Norman (Lead/Lag Study)
Piedmont witness Dane A. Watson (Depreciation)
CIGFUR IV witness Nicholas Phillips (Cost of Capital/Rate Design)

Finally, Piedmont informs the Commission that it has communicated with all parties to the proceeding, including the Stipulating Parties, and they consent to the entry of the pre-filed testimonies of these witnesses into the record as if given orally from the stand and to the admission of the pre-filed exhibits of these witnesses into evidence, all without the necessity for these witnesses to appear at the hearing in this matter. Therefore,

Piedmont requests that these witnesses be excused from appearing at the August 19, 2019 expert witness hearing.

The Presiding Commissioner has reviewed the record, including Piedmont's Motion, and finds good cause to excuse the above-identified witnesses from appearing at the evidentiary hearing.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that Piedmont witnesses Daniel P. Yardley, Paul M. Norman, and Dane A. Watson and CIGFUR IV witness Nicholas Phillips are hereby excused from appearing at the evidentiary hearing on August 19, 2019, and their testimony and exhibits will be received into evidence at the hearing.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 16th day of August, 2019.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Janice H. Fulmore", is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Janice H. Fulmore, Deputy Clerk