

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

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

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Application of Duke Energy Corporation)	ORDER REGARDING
and Piedmont Natural Gas, Inc., to Engage)	PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC
in a Business Combination Transaction)	HEARING
and Address Regulatory Conditions and)	
Code of Conduct)	

BY THE CHAIRMAN: On January 15, 2016, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) and Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont) (collectively, Applicants) filed an application in the above-captioned dockets for authorization to engage in a business combination transaction, and to revise and apply Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC's and Duke Energy Progress, LLC's Regulatory Conditions and Code of Conduct to Piedmont.

On March 2, 2016, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearing, Establishing Procedural Deadlines and Requiring Public Notice (Scheduling Order). The Scheduling Order, among other things, scheduled a public hearing in this docket for Monday, July 18, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of hearing from the parties' witnesses and to provide for testimony from public (non-party) witnesses. In addition, the Scheduling Order included a Public Notice to be published by the Applicants in newspapers of general circulation in the Applicants' service territories.

The Public Notice references Commission Rule R1-21(g) regarding the Commission's procedures for receiving public witness testimony. The Commission has no way of knowing the number of public (non-party) witnesses that will attend the public hearing in this docket. The Commission wants to ensure that everyone who desires to speak has an opportunity to do so. Therefore, the Commission will apply the following procedural guidelines during the public witness hearing.

1. Witnesses must register on the witness sheet maintained by the Public Staff and verify that they are non-party witnesses.
2. In order to allow each person an equal amount of time, there will be a limit of five minutes on the amount of time for each witness to speak. Therefore, witnesses should endeavor to avoid cumulative, repetitive and irrelevant testimony.

3. In lieu of oral testimony, witnesses who attend the hearing may be sworn in and then submit written testimony.
4. Persons who are customers of the Applicants will be called to testify first.
5. Witnesses should address their testimony to the Commission, focus on the issues presented by the proposed merger, and refrain from making personal criticisms of the parties and other hearing participants.
6. The parties' attorneys and the Commission will have the opportunity to ask questions of each witness.

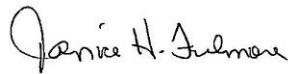
Based on the foregoing and the record, the Chairman finds good cause to issue this Order outlining the main procedural guidelines to be observed to facilitate a full and fair opportunity for all public witnesses to participate in the hearing.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 6th day of July, 2016.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



Janice H. Fulmore, Deputy Clerk