

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-41, SUB 59

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Application of Toccoa Natural Gas Company) for Annual Review of Gas Costs Pursuant to) N.C.G.S. § 62-133.4(c) and Commission) Rule R1-17(k)(6))	JOINT MOTION TO EXCUSE APPEARANCE OF WITNESSES AND ACCEPT TESTIMONY
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Toccoa Natural Gas (Toccoa) and the Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff), through counsel, hereby jointly move the Commission for an order (1) excusing the appearance of witnesses at the hearing scheduled in this proceeding for January 30, 2024; and (2) allowing the introduction of all prefiled testimony and exhibits into the record at such hearing without the appearance of witnesses. In support of this request, Toccoa and the Public Staff respectfully show unto the Commission as follows:

1. This proceeding is Toccoa’s annual gas cost review proceeding in which the Commission receives testimony and rules on the prudence of Toccoa’s incurrence of gas costs for the 12 months ended June 30, 2023, and the propriety of its accounting for such costs during such period.

2. On August 29, 2023, Toccoa prefiled the testimony and exhibits of Harry F. Scott, Jr., and Rai Trippe in this proceeding in which these witnesses attested to the prudence of Toccoa’s gas costs during the review period and the propriety of its accounting for such costs.

3. On October 5, 2023, the Commission issued an order granting Toccoa's motion for partial suspension of the hearing scheduling. The public witness hearing was held as scheduled on November 1, 2023. No witness testified at the hearing.

4. On November 2, 2023, the Commission issued an order setting dates for filing testimony and the expert witness hearing.

5. On January 16, 2024, the Public Staff filed the testimony of Charles A. Akpom and Andrew R. S. Puglisi confirming that all gas purchases were prudent and properly accounted for.

5. There are no other parties to this proceeding.

6. Based upon a review of the filed testimony, there does not appear to be any matter in dispute between the parties in this proceeding, including the calculation of the deferred account balance and new decrement amount.

7. Given the travel distance from Franklin, North Carolina and Kennesaw, Georgia to Raleigh, in-person attendance by Toccoa's witnesses at the hearing – even for a few minutes – would require them to be away from their respective offices and other obligations for two full days and to incur the expense of an overnight trip.

8. Counsel for Toccoa and the Public Staff have conferred with respect to the issues in this proceeding and have agreed (a) to waive cross-examination of each other's witnesses, (b) to consent to the introduction of the

prefiled testimony and exhibits into the record without the necessity for the appearance of such witnesses, and (c) to jointly seek the excusal of witnesses from appearance at the hearing of this matter.

WHEREFORE, Toccoa and the Public Staff respectfully request that the Commission enter an order (1) excusing the appearance of witnesses at the hearing scheduled in this docket for January 30, 2024; and (2) accepting the prefiled testimony and exhibits of all witnesses into the record of this proceeding without requiring the appearance of any such witnesses.

Respectfully submitted, this the 17th day of January, 2024.

Toccoa Natural Gas

Electronically submitted

/s/ M. Gray Styers, Jr.

M. Gray Styers, Jr.

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Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission

Electronically submitted

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of the foregoing upon each of the parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record by emailing them an electronic copy or by causing a paper copy of the same to be hand-delivered or deposited in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, properly addressed to each.

This the 17th day of January, 2024.

Electronically submitted
/s/ Elizabeth D. Culpepper