

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 811

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	JOINT MOTION
Application of Piedmont Natural Gas)	TO EXCUSE APPEARANCE
Company, Inc., for Annual Review of)	OF WITNESSES AND ACCEPT
Gas Costs Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §)	TESTIMONY
62-133.4(c) and Commission Rule)	
R1-17(k)(6))	

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont), 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 expert witness portion of the hearing scheduled in this proceeding for October 4, 2022, 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, Piedmont and the Public Staff respectfully show unto the Commission as follows:

1. This proceeding is Piedmont’s annual gas costs review proceeding in which the Commission receives testimony and rules on the prudence of gas costs Piedmont incurred during the 12 months ended May 31, 2022, and the propriety of its accounting for such costs during such period.

2. On August 1, 2022, Piedmont prefiled the testimony and exhibits of Todd Breece, Jeffrey Patton, and MaryBeth Tomlinson. These witnesses attested

to the prudence of Piedmont's gas costs during the review period and the propriety of its accounting for such costs.

3. On September 19, 2022, the Public Staff filed the testimony and exhibits of Sonja R. Johnson, Dustin R. Metz, and Jordan A. Nader.

4. 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 and exhibits of Ms. Tomlinson.

5. On September 29, 2022, Piedmont filed the rebuttal testimony of its witnesses Patton and Breece.

5. There are no other parties to this proceeding.

6. Based upon a review of the testimony, it does not appear that there are any matters in dispute between Piedmont and the Public Staff as to the prudence of or accounting for Piedmont's gas costs or gas purchasing practices during the review period for this proceeding. In the Public Staff's testimony they recommended that certain information regarding supply and capacity planning and design day calculations be provided in Piedmont's next annual prudence review. In its Rebuttal Testimony, Piedmont addressed these issues in order to provide the Commission with additional information about these subjects on a contemporaneous basis. These matters do not, in the opinion of undersigned counsel, represent disputes between the parties requiring resolution by the Commission in this proceeding.

7. Counsel for Piedmont and the Public Staff have conferred with respect to the lack of contested issues in this proceeding as described above and have agreed (a) to waive cross-examination of each other's witnesses, (b) to consent to the introduction of the other's party's 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 expert witness portion of the hearing of this matter.

WHEREFORE, Piedmont and the Public Staff respectfully request that the Commission enter an order (1) excusing the appearance of all witnesses at the expert witness portion of the hearing scheduled in this docket for October 4, 2022, and (2) accepting the prefiled testimony and exhibits of all witnesses into the record of this proceeding without requiring the appearance of such witnesses.

Respectfully submitted, this the 30th day of September, 2022.

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

Electronically submitted

/s/ James H. Jeffries IV

James H. Jeffries IV

McGuireWoods LLP

201 North Tryon Street, Suite 3000

Charlotte, North Carolina 28202-2146

Telephone: 704-343-2348

jjeffries@mcguirewoods.com

Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission

Electronically submitted

/s/ Elizabeth D. Culpepper

Staff Attorney

elizabeth.culpepper@psncuc.nc.gov

/s/ Megan Jost

Staff Attorney

megan.jost@psncuc.nc.gov

4326 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300

Telephone: (919) 733-6110

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this day served a copy of the foregoing on each of the parties of record in this proceeding or the attorney of record of such party in accordance with Commission Rule R1-39, by United States mail, first class or better; by hand delivery; or by means of facsimile or electronic delivery upon agreement of the receiving party.

This the 30th day of September, 2022.

Electronically submitted

/s/ Elizabeth D. Culpepper