

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-40, SUB 158

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Application of Frontier Natural Gas) ORDER EXCUSING EXPERT
Company for Annual Review of Gas Costs) WITNESSES, ACCEPTING
Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.4(c) and) TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS,
Commission Rule R1-17(k)(6)) CANCELING HEARING, AND
) REQUIRING PROPOSED ORDERS

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On December 1, 2020, Frontier Natural Gas Company (Frontier), filed the testimony and exhibits (testimony), of Taylor B. Younger and Nathan Bell in the above-captioned docket relating to an annual review proceeding pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.4(c) and Commission Rule R1-17(k)(6).

On December 9, 2020, the Commission issued an Order that, among other things, scheduled this matter for a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, with the hearing to be held remotely via Webex.

On February 15, 2021, the Public Staff filed the testimony of Zarka H. Naba, R. Tyler Allison, and Julie G. Perry.

On February 16, 2021, Frontier and the Public Staff (Movants), filed a joint motion requesting that Frontier's and the Public Staff's expert witnesses be excused from attending the expert witness hearing on March 2, 2021. Movants stated that there are no other parties in this docket, that counsel for Movants have conferred with respect to the issues in this proceeding, have agreed to waive cross-examination of each other's witnesses, and have no objection to the introduction of the witnesses' prefiled testimony into evidence.

On February 23, 2021, the Public Staff filed a motion requesting that the Commission cancel the public witness portion of the hearing. In summary, the Public Staff stated that no member of the public had contacted the Public Staff by email or telephone requesting to testify at the public hearing, that no member of the public had submitted a written complaint or statement of position to the Commission's Chief Clerk, and that counsel for Frontier had indicated that Frontier supports canceling the public witness hearing. In addition, the Public Staff stated that if this motion and the Joint Motion to Excuse Expert Witnesses are both granted, there will be no need to conduct the hearing on March 2, 2021.

Based on the foregoing and the record, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to excuse all Frontier and Public Staff witnesses from testifying at the hearing, to receive the witnesses' prefiled testimony and exhibits into evidence, and to cancel the hearing.

Further, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to require that the parties file proposed orders, or a joint proposed order, on or before April 2, 2021, and that the parties file briefs by the same date, if they desire to file briefs.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That Frontier's and the Public Staff's witnesses are excused from testifying at the hearing on March 2, 2021, and the witnesses' prefiled testimony and exhibits are hereby admitted into evidence;

2. That the hearing scheduled on March 2, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., is hereby canceled; and

3. That on or before April 2, 2021, the parties shall file proposed orders, or a joint proposed order, and may file briefs if they so desire.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 26th day of February, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joann R. Snyder".

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk