

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH**

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

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Third-Party Independent Audits of	)	ORDER GRANTING
Affiliate Transactions Pursuant to	)	ADDITIONAL EXTENSION
Regulatory Condition No. 5.8	)	OF TIME

BY THE CHAIR: On September 29, 2016, the Commission issued an Order Approving Merger Subject to Regulatory Conditions and Code of Conduct (Merger Order), in Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1095, E-7, Sub 1100, and G-9, Sub 682, approving the merger of Duke Energy Corporation and Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. Included among the Regulatory Conditions (RCs) approved in the Merger Order is RC No. 5.8. This RC requires, among other things, that a third-party independent audit be conducted regarding the affiliate transactions among Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, Duke Energy Progress, LLC, and Piedmont (collectively Duke utilities) no less than every two years, with the first audit to commence two years after the close of the merger. Beginning on October 4, 2018, the Commission has granted three extensions of time for the Public Staff and the Duke utilities to work toward filing a recommendation of an independent auditor. The last such extension, granted on August 1, 2019, extended the deadline to December 9, 2019.

On December 4, 2019, the Public Staff filed a motion requesting a further extension of time to February 7, 2020. In summary, the Public Staff stated that due to the press of other business the selection of an independent auditor is still ongoing. The Public Staff stated that it conducted a Request for Proposals and would like to give the Duke utilities an opportunity to review the submissions, and to conduct interviews of the applicants with the Public Staff, and that the Duke utilities do not oppose the extension of time.

Based on the foregoing and the record, the Chair finds good cause to extend to February 7, 2020, the date by which the Public Staff shall file with the Commission its recommendation of an independent auditor to conduct the audit required by RC No. 5.8.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



Janice H. Fulmore, Deputy Clerk