

**STATE OF NORTH
CAROLINA UTILITIES
COMMISSION RALEIGH**

STAFF CONFERENCE AGENDA – October 24, 2022

Link to view staff conference will be posted on the commission website, ncuc.net

NATURAL GAS

FUEL PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

1. Docket No. G-9, Sub 809 – Petition for approval of a compressed natural gas fuel purchase agreement (*Patel/Johnson/Jost*)

MODIFICATION OF NORTH CAROLINA SERVICE REGULATIONS

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

2. Docket No. G-9, Sub 815 – Application to modify Appendix D to its North Carolina Service Regulations (*Patel/Johnson/Culpepper*)

WATER AND WASTEWATER

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISION

Christmount Christian Assembly, Inc.

3. Docket No. W-1079, Sub 20 – Application for Authority to Amend Its Tariff to Increase Rates for Sewer Utility Service for the Increased Cost of Purchased Sewer Service from the Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County (*Houser/Feasel/Grantmyre*)

The Public Staff recommends approval of the preceding agenda items as described above and reflected in proposed orders provided to the Commission Staff.

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 809

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Petition of Piedmont Natural Gas Company,)		ORDER APPROVING
Inc., for Approval of a Compressed Natural Gas)		AGREEMENT
Fuel Purchase Agreement)		

BY THE COMMISSION: On July 14, 2022, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont), filed a petition requesting approval of a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fuel Purchase Agreement (Agreement) between Piedmont and Amazon Logistics, Inc. (Customer). Piedmont submitted the Agreement under seal on the grounds that it is confidential and proprietary and has been designated as such pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1.2.

The Agreement provides the Customer with CNG fuel service pursuant to Piedmont's Rate Schedule 142. Piedmont stated that the agreement with Amazon is based on the approved tiered matrix of usage set out in Piedmont's standard CNG rebate matrix. The tiered matrix, which is based on a customer's anticipated usage, is provided in Exhibit A to the Agreement. Piedmont confirmed that no other customers will be impacted by the Agreement, and that the Agreement is in the public interest.

The Public Staff presented this matter at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on October 24, 2022. The Public Staff stated it had reviewed the Agreement and other information provided by Piedmont in response to Public Staff data requests. Based on its investigation, the Public Staff determined that the terms of the Agreement are within the parameters set forth in N.C.G.S. § 62-140. The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue an order: (1) concluding that the Agreement is not unlawful and does not violate the rules and regulations of the Commission; (2) allowing Piedmont to provide service to the Customer pursuant to the Agreement; and (3) stating that the Commission's acceptance of the Agreement neither constitutes approval of the amount of any compensation paid thereunder nor prejudices the right of any party to take issue with any provision of the Agreement in a future proceeding.

The Commission, having carefully reviewed the Agreement between Piedmont and the Customer, concludes that the Agreement is not unlawful and does not violate the rules and regulations of the Commission. Accordingly, the Commission finds good cause to allow the Agreement to become effective and to authorize Piedmont to provide service to the Customer under the Agreement as recommended by the Public Staff.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That the Agreement between Piedmont and the Customer is hereby allowed to become effective as filed;

2. That Piedmont is hereby authorized to provide CNG service to the Customer pursuant to the Agreement; and

3. That authorizing Piedmont to provide CNG service to the Customer pursuant to the Agreement filed in this docket neither constitutes approval of the amount of any compensation paid thereunder nor prejudices the right of any party to take issue with any provision of the Agreement in a future proceeding.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the _____ day of _____ 2022.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 815

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Application of Piedmont Natural Gas Company,) ORDER APPROVING
Inc., to Modify Appendix D to its North Carolina) MODIFICATION TO APPENDIX D
Service Regulations) EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2022

BY THE COMMISSION: On September 30, 2022, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont or the Company), filed a petition pursuant to Commission Rules R1-5 and R6-5.1 and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-138 requesting Commission approval to modify Appendix D of its North Carolina Service Regulations (Appendix D), the Company's Equal Payment Plan (EPP or Plan).

The EPP allows Piedmont's customers who are in good standing and who are receiving service under Rate Schedules 101, 102, and 152 to have the option of participating in the Plan. Piedmont states that, in the current version of Appendix D, customers are considered to be in good standing if they have not had service terminated or been removed from the Plan for non-payment within the immediately preceding 12-month period. Piedmont further states that the EPP is designed to help a customer mitigate the seasonal fluctuation of their gas bills over the course of any 12-month period. Seasonal fluctuations in customers' gas bills commonly result from the largely heat-sensitive nature of residential and commercial customer utilization gas. Typical customers served under Rate Schedule 101, 102, or 152 use significantly more gas in the winter months than in the summer months because of the kind of gas equipment they operate at their residences or businesses.

Piedmont states that it believes its EPP continues to be an effective optional tool for customers to elect to help mitigate the timing-related impacts of higher winter season gas bills. In order to provide even more customers the opportunity to spread the relatively higher costs of winter gas service over the rest of the year, Piedmont requests Commission approval to broaden the eligibility criteria for customer participation in the Plan by modifying Appendix D, effective November 1, 2022, to state that customers shall be considered in good standing for the purposes of EPP if they have not had their service terminated or been removed from the EPP within the immediately preceding 6-month period. The current language in Appendix D uses the customer's immediately preceding 12-month history for a determination of good standing. Piedmont states that most of its customers on Rate Schedules 101, 102, and 152 are currently eligible to elect participation in the Plan. Nevertheless, the proposed modification to Appendix D would make approximately 3,500 additional existing Piedmont customers eligible to

participate in the EPP. Piedmont submits that the proposed modification to Appendix D is in the public interest.

The Public Staff presented this matter at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on October 24, 2022. The Public Staff stated that it has reviewed Piedmont's proposed modification to Appendix D and recommends that the Commission issue an order allowing Piedmont to implement the proposed modification.

The Commission, having reviewed the petition and the Public Staff's recommendation, finds good cause to authorize Piedmont to modify Appendix D as proposed.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That Piedmont be authorized to implement the proposed modification to Appendix D of its North Carolina Service Regulations effective November 1, 2022.
2. That Piedmont file a revised Appendix D incorporating the modification approved by this Order.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of _____ 2022.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1079, SUB 20

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Application by Christmount Christian Assembly,) Inc., 222 Fern Way, Black Mountain, North) Carolina 28711, for Authority to Amend Its Tariff) to Increase Rates for Providing Sewer Utility) Service in Christmount Christian Assembly and) Christmount Subdivision in Buncombe County,) North Carolina)	ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISION AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE
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BY THE COMMISSION: On July 29, 2022, Christmount Christian Assembly, Inc. (CCA) filed a petition with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to its customers in Christmount Christian Assembly and Christmount Subdivision in Buncombe County an increase in the cost of purchasing sewer service from Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County (MSD). On September 7, 2022, CCA filed the verification pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11(a) which provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

CCA stated that, effective July 1, 2022, MSD increased its monthly sewer rates by 3%, and requested to amend its tariff to include the increased cost of purchased sewer service. MSD increased its rates by \$0.18 per 1,000 gallons, from \$6.32 to \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons for sewer usage, and increased the monthly base charge by \$6.80, from \$312.36 to \$319.16 per month for sewer service.

CCA's current rates became effective October 11, 2021, upon issuance of the Commission's Order Approving Tariff Revision and Requiring Customer Notice issued in Docket No. W-1079, Sub 19.

The Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) presented this matter at the Commission's Staff Conference on October 24, 2022. The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed CCA's request and recommended for service rendered on and after the date of this order that CCA be allowed to increase its rates as shown below:

<u>Monthly Metered Sewer Rates:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
Base Charge, zero usage	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00
Usage Charge, per 1,000 gallons	\$ 7.97	\$ 8.19

The above rates take into account the effect of the 0.14% regulatory fee. The rates also include the increased monthly base charge in the usage charge increase. Under the new rates, the average residential customer's monthly sewer bill will increase by \$0.99, from \$44.87 to \$45.86, based upon 4,500 gallons of usage. The Public Staff stated that CCA has agreed with the Public Staff's recommendation.

Based upon the foregoing, the Commission finds that CCA should be allowed to pass through the costs associated with the increased purchased sewer expense.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That Christmount Christian Assembly, Inc. is granted a tariff revision to Appendix A of its tariff for sewer utility service in Buncombe County in which it purchases and resells sewer service from the Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County, as set forth herein;
2. That the Schedule of Rates, attached hereto as Appendix A, is approved and deemed filed with the Commission pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-138. This Schedule of Rates shall become effective for service rendered on and after the date of this Order; and
3. That a copy of this Order, including Appendix A, shall be mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered by CCA to all its customers along with the next billing of customers; and that CCA shall submit to the Commission the attached Certificate of Service, properly signed and notarized, no later than ten days after the date of the next billing of customers.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of _____ 2022.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

SCHEDULE OF RATES

for

CHRISTMOUNT CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY, INC.

for providing water and sewer utility service in

CHRISTMOUNT CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY AND CHRISTMOUNT SUBDIVISION

Buncombe County, North Carolina

Monthly Water Service Rates:

Base (includes zero gallons usage)	\$28.00
Usage (per 1,000 gallons)	\$ 7.32

Monthly Sewer Service Rates:

Base (includes zero gallons usage)	\$ 9.00
Usage (per 1,000 gallons)	\$ 8.19

Tap-on Fees:

Water and sewer connection	Actual Cost ^{1/}
Optional second service location	Actual Cost ^{1/}

^{1/} Actual cost for new connections shall include installation of a main extension (if necessary), tap of the main, service line, road bore (if necessary), meter box, meter, backflow prevention (if necessary), and the Company's associated labor expense. The Company shall provide a written cost quote to the customer(s) applying for connection before actually beginning the installation / tap-on process.

Reconnection Charge:

If water and sewer service cut off by utility for good cause:	\$15.00
If water and sewer service cut off by utility at customer's request:	\$15.00 ^{2/}

^{2/} Customers who ask to be reconnected within 9 months of requested disconnection will be charged the water and sewer base charges for each month they are disconnected.

Returned Check Charge: \$25.00
Bills Due: On billing date
Bills Past Due: 15 days after billing date
Billing Frequency: Shall be monthly for service in arrears
Finance Charges for Late Payment: 1% per month will be applied to the unpaid balance of all bills still past due 25 days after the billing date

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

**NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS
DOCKET NO. W-1079, SUB 20
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Notice is given that the North Carolina Utilities Commission has granted Christmount Christian Assembly (CCA), an increase in its sewer usage charge for customers.

CCA filed a verified petition with the Commission pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to sewer customers an increase in the cost of purchasing sewage treatment from the Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County (MSD). Section 62-133.11(a) provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

The Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) reviewed CCA's petition and recommended that CCA be allowed to increase its sewer usage rate by \$0.22 per 1,000 gallons, increasing the rate from \$7.97 to \$8.19 per 1,000 gallons, effective for service rendered on and after the date of this Notice.

The new sewer usage rate will increase the average residential monthly bill by \$0.99, from \$44.87 to \$45.86 based on a usage of 4,500 gallons.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of _____ 2022.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, _____, mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered to all affected customers a copy of the Order issued by the North Carolina Utilities Commission in Docket No. W-1079, Sub 20, and such Order was mailed or hand delivered by the date specified in the Order.

This the ____ day of _____ 2022.

By: _____
Signature

Name of Utility Company

The above named Applicant, _____, personally appeared before me this day and, being first duly sworn, says that the required copy of the Commission Order was mailed or hand delivered to all affected customers, as required by the Commission Order dated _____ in Docket No. W-1079, Sub 20.

Witness my hand and notarial seal, this the ____ day of _____ 2022.

Notary Public

Printed Name

(SEAL) My Commission Expires: _____