

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 710

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Application of Piedmont Natural Gas) Company, Inc., for Annual Review of) Gas Costs Pursuant to 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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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 hearing scheduled in this proceeding for October 3, 2017, 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 cost review proceeding in which the Commission receives testimony and rules on the prudence of Piedmont's incurrence of gas costs for the 12 months ended May 31, 2017, and the propriety of its accounting for such costs during such period.

2. On August 1, 2017, Piedmont prefiled the testimony and exhibits of Sarah E. Stabley, Michelle R. Mendoza, and MaryBeth Tomlinson in this proceeding in which these witnesses attested to the prudence of Piedmont's gas costs during the review period and the propriety of its accounting for such costs.

On September 14, 2017, Piedmont filed the Supplemental Testimony of MaryBeth Tomlinson.

3. On September 18, 2017, the Public Staff filed the joint testimony of Poornima Jayasheela, Jan A. Larsen, and Julie G. Perry. Carolina Utility Customers Association, Inc. (CUCA) – the only other party to this proceeding – did not file testimony.

4. Based upon a review of the filed testimony, there does not appear to be any matter in dispute between the parties who have filed testimony in this proceeding.

5. Counsel for Piedmont 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.

6. Counsel for Piedmont has also conferred with counsel for CUCA and is authorized to state that CUCA waives cross-examination of the witnesses for Piedmont and the Public Staff in this proceeding and does not otherwise object to the relief sought herein.

WHEREFORE, Piedmont 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 October 3, 2017, 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 21st day of September, 2017.

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

Electronically submitted

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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 21st day of September, 2017.

Electronically submitted

/s/ Richard K. Goley