

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 771

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 N.C.G.S. § 62-133.4(c) )  
and Commission Rule R1-17(k)(6) )  
ORDER EXCUSING EXPERT  
WITNESSES, ACCEPTING  
TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS,  
AND CANCELING EXPERT  
WITNESS HEARING

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On July 31, 2020, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont), filed testimony and exhibits (testimony), of witnesses Todd Breece, Jeffrey Patton, and MaryBeth Tomlinson 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 August 24, 2020, the Commission issued an order scheduling an expert witness hearing to be held remotely by Webex on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, at 11:00 a.m.

On September 24, 2020, the Public Staff filed joint testimony of witnesses Geoffrey Gilbert and Julie Perry.

On October 1, 2020, Piedmont filed a motion requesting that the Commission excuse all witnesses from attending the expert witness hearing, and that the Commission receive the witnesses' testimony into the record. Piedmont stated that it consulted with the Public Staff and because there are no issues in dispute between Piedmont and the Public Staff both parties have agreed to waive cross-examination of all expert witnesses, and have no objection to the witnesses' prefiled testimony being received into evidence.

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

Further, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to require that the parties file proposed orders, or a joint proposed order, on or before November 6, 2020, and that the parties file briefs by the same date, if they desire to file briefs.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That Piedmont's and the Public Staff's witnesses are excused from testifying at the expert witness hearing on October 6, 2020, and the witnesses' prefiled testimony and exhibits are hereby admitted into evidence;

2. That the expert witness hearing scheduled on October 6, 2020, at 11:00 a.m., is hereby canceled; and

3. That on or before November 6, 2020, 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 2nd day of October, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice H. Fulmore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "F".

Janice H. Fulmore, Deputy Clerk