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October 13, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Antonia Dunston
Interim Chief Clerk
North Carolina Utilities Commission
430 N. Salisbury Street, Dobbs Building
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

**Re: Docket No. G-9, Sub 781
Docket No. G-9, Sub 786
Docket No. G-9, Sub 722**

Dear Ms. Dunston:

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. ("Piedmont") respectfully submits for filing with the Commission the enclosed Proposed Order in the above-referenced dockets. Piedmont will also email a Word-formatted copy of the Joint Proposed Order to briefs@ncuc.net.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. If you have any questions regarding this filing, you may reach me at the number shown above.

Sincerely,

/s/ James H. Jeffries IV
James H. Jeffries IV

JHJ/rkg

Enclosure

cc: Elizabeth Culpepper
Bruce Barkley
Pia Powers
Parties of Record

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the attached is being served this date upon all of the parties to this docket electronically or by depositing a copy of the same in the United States Mail, First Class Postage Prepaid, at the addresses contained in the official service list in this proceeding.

This the 13th day of October, 2021.

/s/ Richard K. Goley
Richard K. Goley

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 722
DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 781
DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 786

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of

Docket No. G-9, Sub 722)
)
 Consolidated Natural Gas Construction and)
 Redelivery Services Agreement Between)
 Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., and)
 Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC)
)
 Docket No. G-9, Sub 781)
)
 Application of Piedmont Natural Gas)
 Company, Inc. for an Adjustment of Rates,)
 Charges, and Tariffs Applicable to Service)
 in North Carolina)
)
 Docket No. G-9, Sub 786)
)
 Application of Piedmont Natural Gas)
 Company, Inc. for Modifications to Existing)
 Energy Efficiency Programs and Approval)
 of New Energy Efficiency Programs)
)

PROPOSED ORDER
APPROVING PUBLIC
NOTICE OF INTERIM RATES
SUBJECT TO REFUND AND
FINANCIAL UNDERTAKING

BY THE COMMISSION: On March 22, 2021, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont), filed an application for a general rate case in Docket No. G-9, Sub 781 (Sub 781). On April 13, 2021, the Commission issued its Order Establishing General Rate Case and Suspending Rates, which declared this proceeding to be a general rate case and suspended the proposed rates for up to 270 days.

On September 9, 2021, this matter came on for the expert witness hearing. Piedmont presented the testimony of witnesses Weintraub, Couzens, Barkley, Bowman, D'Ascendis, Long, Menhorn, Newlin, Powers, Sosnick, and Weisker. Carolina Utility Customers Association, Inc. (CUCA) presented the testimony of witness O'Donnell. Carolina Industrial Group for Fair Utility Rates IV (CIGFUR) presented the testimony of witness Phillips. Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC presented the testimony of witness Mitchell.

The Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) presented the testimony of witnesses Coleman, Feasel, Floyd, Hinton, Patel, Perry, Metz, Singer, and Williamson. The prefiled testimony of each of these witnesses was copied into the record as if given orally from the stand and their exhibits were entered into evidence.

On October 12, 2021, Piedmont filed a Motion for Expedited Approval of Notice and Undertaking Required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-135(c) to Implement Temporary Rates, Subject to Refund (Temporary Rates Motion). In summary, the motion stated that Piedmont intends to exercise its statutory right under N.C.G.S. § 62-135 to place into effect temporary rates pending a final order by the Commission approving permanent rates. Piedmont further stated that the temporary rates sought to be recovered, subject to refund, are based on and consistent with the Stipulation of Partial Settlement (Stipulation) with the Public Staff, CUCA, and CIGFUR, filed on September 7, 2021. In order to implement temporary rates on November 1, 2021, notice must be provided to the Commission and customers by October 21, 2021, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-135(a). To ensure compliance with the statute, Piedmont stated that it was providing notice to the Commission of its intent to place its increased rates and charges into effect on a temporary basis on or after November 1, 2021. Further, Piedmont stated that it will notify customers by publishing a Public Notice of Interim Rates (Public Notice) in newspapers of general circulation in its service territory ten days prior to the effective date of the temporary rates.

Along with the Temporary Rates Motion, Piedmont also filed an Undertaking of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. In summary, Piedmont stated that the financial undertaking attached to its Temporary Rates Motion is intended to secure the obligation of Piedmont to refund to its customers any amount of temporary rates that may be finally determined by the Commission to be excessive, plus interest at the rate of 10% per annum. In addition, Piedmont stated that the financial undertaking also secures the obligation of Piedmont to make refunds in a manner consistent with any terms and conditions imposed by the Commission.

Piedmont requested approval of its proposed Public Notice and Undertaking on or before October 14, 2021, in order for Piedmont to allow time for Piedmont to secure timely publication of the Public Notice.

Based on the record in these dockets and Piedmont's motion, Public Notice, and financial undertaking, the Commission finds good cause to approve Piedmont's Public Notice and Piedmont's financial undertaking.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That the financial undertaking filed by Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., on October 12, 2020, shall be, and is hereby, approved;
2. That Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., shall be, and is hereby, obligated to

refund to its customers any amount of temporary rates made effective on or after the date of this Order that are finally determined by the Commission to be excessive, plus 10% interest per annum, and to make any refunds in a manner consistent with any additional terms and conditions imposed by the Commission in subsequent orders; and

3. That the Public Notice of Temporary Rates shall be, and is hereby, approved in the form attached hereto as Attachment A.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 14th day of October, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Antonio Dunston, Interim Chief Clerk