

TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Mary W. Freeman
Director



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Fax (615) 532-4698
Mary.W.Freeman@state.tn.us

Memorandum to Docket File 09-00104

FROM: Director Mary W. Freeman *msf*

DATE: January 22, 2010

SUBJECT: Docket 09-00104, *Petition of Piedmont Natural Gas, Inc. to Implement a Margin Decoupling Tracker (MDT) Rider and Related Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs.*

On January 22, 2010, Mr. Henry Huddleston of Nashville, Tennessee contacted my office to express his concern in regards to the above mentioned petition. Mr. Huddleston stated that he has limited income and it is unfair that Piedmont Natural Gas, Inc. can charge customers for services not used.

Mr. Huddleston further stated that he is concerned that the legislature recently rejected Piedmont's call for decoupling; yet, they came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority.

/msa

c: Chariman Sara Kyle
Director Eddie Roberson
Director Kenneth C. Hill

RECEIVED
2010 JAN 22 PM 3:48
T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

From: "ktb615@netzero.net" <ktb615@netzero.net>
To: <mary.w.freeman@tn.gov>, <sara.kyle@tn.gov>, <eddie.roberson@tn.gov>, <k...
Date: 1/21/2010 9:42 AM
Subject: Piedmont Gas "decoupling"

The plan to "decouple" Piedmont Gas's prices from usage and work on a sliding scale to charge more for those of us that conserve energy is ludicrous. To hear that the TRA is considering this in any way outrages me. If this were to pass, it would finally give me a reason to move away from my home state which has been getting more and more backwards every year. The message of energy conservation has always been: "Save the plant, and save money doing it". Now those who choose to conserve energy will be penalized? Ridiculous. If Piedmont Natural Gas cannot deal with the realities of a free market economy, they should simply shut down in favor of competition who can, or move to a country where it doesn't matter. Instead, this plan calls for them to be bailed out like every other company that can't figure out how to adapt to a changing marketplace. Perhaps the TRA should put their time to better use, such as regulating that there must be a second (and even a third) option for people who need to get gas service or electric service or water service at their home. Then we can finally have competition that will (hopefully) create better prices, but also progress these archaic industries so that they can find ways to be profitable in the New American Landscape.

Kevin Bishop

From: <clcjones@gmail.com>
To: <mary.w.freeman@tn.gov>
Date: 1/21/2010 11:10 AM
Subject: Piedmont Gas

Dear Ms. Freeman:

I am not well versed in the structure of the TRA, but I hope my concern will be communicated to the proper individual or committee. As a customer of Piedmont Gas, I am alarmed that the company is proposing "decoupling" in it's rate structure. It sounds like they are disguising a punitive rate increase for customers that conserve energy and reduce gas usage, by calling it a "green initiative". Give me a break. It makes NO sense. Many of us have lost income due to lack of demand for the goods or services we provide, but we do not have the monopoly of supply to demand a higher price to the remaining customers. So, in our efforts to control our expenses we conserve costs such as utilities, and then the utility company raises rates to negate that effort? That is not fair. Conservation of energy should be the goal of our county and should, if anything, be rewarded by a rate REDUCTION for conservative consumers. That would be a "green initiative".

Sincerely,
Cindy Jones

Mary.W Freeman - Decoupling

From: "Martin, Robert A" <robert.a.martin@Vanderbilt.Edu>
To: "eddie.roberson@tn.gov" <eddie.roberson@tn.gov>, "mary.w.freeman@tn.gov" <mary.w.freeman@tn.gov>, "sara.kyle@tn.gov" <sara.kyle@tn.gov>, "kenneth.c.hill@tn.gov" <kenneth.c.hill@tn.gov>
Date: 1/21/2010 11:58 AM
Subject: Decoupling

I oppose this tactic of raising our rates for the benefit of guaranteeing a company a certain level of profits and I hope you do not approve this either.

Please do the right thing and tell Piedmont NO, that the people of TN do not support their "decoupling" efforts.

Thank you,

Robert Martin

Mary.W Freeman - Piedmont Gas Decoupling

From: "Tom Elmlinger" <Tom@banktitle.com>
To: <mary.w.freeman@tn.gov>
Date: 1/21/2010 12:01 PM
Subject: Piedmont Gas Decoupling

Dear Ms. Freeman,

I am opposed to Piedmont's decoupling proposal. It is simply unfair and makes no sense. It is the end consumer that determines energy consumption. If the consumer is charged more for using less, then what is the incentive to save? We set our thermostats at 65 when we are home during the day and 62 at night and when we are gone. We limit use of hot water. We do these things to conserve energy and save money. Now, Piedmont wants to punish us for being environmentally responsible and frugal?

I hope the TRA will stand up for the consumers in this matter and not side with big business interests.

Thomas J. Elmlinger
Attorney at Law
5107 Maryland Way, Suite 115
Brentwood, TN 37027
phone: (615) 292-5986
fax: (615) 661-7701

Mary.W Freeman - Decoupling Plan

From: <sandkbartlett@comcast.net>
To: <eddie.roberson@tn.gov>, <mary.w.freeman@tn.gov>, <sara.kyle@tn.gov>, <kenneth.c.hill@tn.gov>
Date: 1/21/2010 12:45 PM
Subject: Decoupling Plan

To whom it may concern:

For years I have been told that I need to make my home more energy efficient. One of the benefits of doing this was to lower my utility bills. Now I learn that my gas company plans to charge me MORE for using LESS.

This is absurd and will NOT provide incentive to be efficient. Quite the contrary, if I can get more gas for a cheaper price, I have no incentive to NOT set my thermostat to 85 degrees during the winter.

Since this is basically a monopoly (I can't get gas service anywhere else), please tell Piedmont Gas that this idea is unacceptable. I implore you to disapprove this plan. If Piedmont feels they need to increase revenue, they should increase the rate that everyone pays. Do not unfairly penalize the people that conserve.

Sincerely,

Steve Bartlett

Mary.W Freeman - Piedmont

From: Donald Dozier <dozierdp@gmail.com>
To: <mary.w.freeman@tn.gov>
Date: 1/21/2010 1:15 PM
Subject: Piedmont

Under no circumstances should this underhanded request be granted.

Mary.W Freeman - Piedmont Natural Gas Petition

From: Jerrod Brown <Jerrod.Brown@pmgsonymusic.com>
To: "sara.kyle@tn.gov" <sara.kyle@tn.gov>, "eddie.roberson@tn.gov" <eddie.roberson@tn.gov>, "mary.w.freeman@tn.gov" <mary.w.freeman@tn.gov>
Date: 1/21/2010 4:33 PM
Subject: Piedmont Natural Gas Petition

TRA Directors,

Please consider this email as my voice of objection to the Piedmont Natural Gas petition to "Decouple".

I would go so far as to say that I was outraged that a company could even consider doing this. This is a slap in the face to every person that uses their service, especially those of us who try to conserve and even more so to those on a budget. If I were able to, I would discontinue my service with them immediately.

Please have the sense to follow out State Legislature's lead from last year and DENY this petition.

I will not be able to take off work and attend the hearing but I sure hope that plenty of people are able to.

Thank you for you time and service. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Jerrod Brown

Jerrod G. Brown
Director/Sales & Marketing Operations
Provident-Integrity Distribution
Sony Music Entertainment
615.261.6325

Please Note My New Email Address:
jerrod.brown@pmgsonymusic.com

Mary.W Freeman - piedmont gas proposal (for rate hikes).

From: <brttsan@aol.com>
To: <mary.w.freeman@tn.gov>
Date: 1/21/2010 9:22 PM
Subject: piedmont gas proposal (for rate hikes).

hello Mary

My name is Brett Sandberg, I live in metro Nashville. I was glancing through the paper today, and noticed the story regarding Piedmont Gas wanting to raise rates for using less natural gas. I would just like to go on record stating I and every other Piedmont customer is dead set against any rate hike. Charging for using less gas is a rate hike no matter how it is looked at. In this economy the absolute worst thing to do is raise rates, people in this country and state are actually going hungry including children. But yet the gas company has the nerve to ask for an increase. It is time the people who work for the people actually start working for the people and not business. So once again I would like to state that I and all other people of the state of TN. or those customers of Piedmont Gas demand that any and all rate increases be put on hold at least until the economy recovers, preferably no increases in the for seeable future. Piedmont Gas is just being greedy, they do not need or deserve any rate increases.

Thank You
Brett Sandberg

Mary.W Freeman - Piedmont Gas Rate Request

From: "bettyfsmith tds.net" <bettyfsmith@tds.net>
To: <mary.w.freeman@tn.gov>
Date: 1/22/2010 12:34 PM
Subject: Piedmont Gas Rate Request

Please do not allow Piedmont Gas to charge customers more when they use less gas. We conserve as much as possible, and it is appalling to think that because we do, we will pay more than those who do not conserve.

Thank you.

Betty Smith
235 Battalion Way
Mount Juliet, TN 37122