

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

September 28, 2009

IN RE:

**PETITION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY,
INC. TO IMPLEMENT A MARGIN DECOUPLING
TRACKER (MDT) RIDER AND RELATED ENERGY
EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

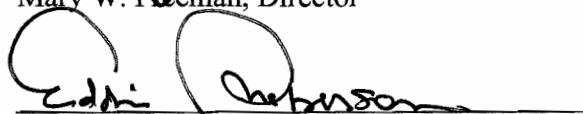
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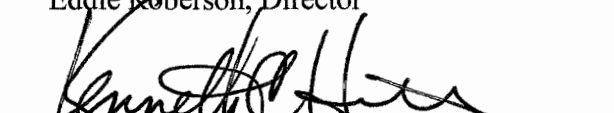
**ORDER CONVENING A CONTESTED CASE, SUSPENDING TARIFF FOR
NINETY DAYS AND APPOINTING A HEARING OFFICER**

This matter came before Director Mary W. Freeman, Director Eddie Roberson and Director Kenneth C. Hill of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on August 24, 2009 for consideration of the *Petition of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. for Approval of Service Schedule No. 317 and Related Energy Efficiency Programs* ("Petition") filed on July 16, 2009 requesting approval to implement energy efficiency and conservation programs and a Margin Decoupling Tracker ("MDT") mechanism. The MDT tariff rider accompanying the *Petition* has an effective date of September 1, 2009. A *Complaint and Petition to Intervene* was filed by the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General on July 31, 2009. During the Authority Conference, the panel voted unanimously to convene a contested case proceeding, suspend the proposed tariff for ninety days, from September 1, 2009 to November 29, 2009, and to appoint the Authority's General Counsel or his designee to serve as Hearing Officer for the purpose of hearing preliminary matters, including entering a protective order and ruling on petitions to intervene, setting a procedural schedule to completion and preparing the matter for a hearing before the panel.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Mary W. Freeman, Director


Eddie Roberson, Director


Kenneth C. Hill, Director