

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

September 29, 2010

IN RE:)	
)	
APPLICATION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS)	DOCKET NO.:
COMPANY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF)	10-00142
NEGOTIATED GAS REDELIVERY AGREEMENT)	
WITH E.I. DUPONT DE NEMOURS COMPANY)	

ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO INTERVENE

This matter is before the Hearing Officer upon the filing of a *Petition to Intervene* filed by the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General (“Consumer Advocate”) on July 21, 2010.

BACKGROUND

On July 13, 2010, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (“Piedmont” or “Company”) filed with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (“TRA” or the “Authority”) an application for approval of the Gas Redelivery Agreement negotiated between Piedmont and E.I. du Pont de Nemours Company (“DuPont”). Thereafter, on July 21, 2010, the Consumer Advocate filed a *Petition to Intervene*. On September 1, 2010, the Authority issued an *Order Convening a Contested Case and Appointing a Hearing Officer*. On September 9, 2010, a *Statement of the Consumer Advocate’s Intent Not to Contest the Negotiated Gas Redelivery Agreement* (“*Statement of Intent*”) was filed in the docket file. In its *Statement of Intent*, the Consumer Advocate, while reasserting its request to intervene in the proceedings to monitor and evaluate

any additional issues that may arise, notifies the Authority and parties that it does not intend to contest the terms and conditions of the Gas Redelivery Agreement.

CONSUMER ADVOCATE'S PETITION TO INTERVENE

In its *Petition to Intervene*, the Consumer Advocate seeks intervention pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118, which authorizes the Consumer Advocate to intervene in proceedings to represent the interests of Tennessee consumers. The Consumer Advocate asserts that additional investigation and discovery may be needed to determine whether the contract is reasonable and in the best interest of Tennessee consumers. The Consumer Advocate further asserts that it can protect the public interest only by participating in this proceeding. Piedmont did not file an objection in the docket file or oppose the Consumer Advocate's intervention request.

Therefore, the Hearing Officer finds that the legal rights and interests of Tennessee consumers may be determined in this proceeding, the Consumer Advocate's petition is timely, and its intervention will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of these proceedings. For the foregoing reasons, the Hearing Officer hereby grants the Consumer Advocate's *Petition to Intervene*. At this time, no other petitions to intervene have been filed in the docket.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Kelly Cashman-Grams, Hearing Officer