

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

January 12, 2012

IN RE:

**PETITION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS
COMPANY, INC. FOR AN ADJUSTMENT TO
ITS RATES, APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO
ITS RATE DESIGN, AMORTIZATION OF
CERTAIN DEFERRED ASSETS, APPROVAL
OF NEW DEPRECIATION RATES,
APPROVAL OF REVISED TARIFFS AND
SERVICE REGULATIONS, AND APPROVAL
OF A NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY
PROGRAM AND GTI FUNDING**

**DOCKET NO.
11-00144**

ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION

This matter is before the Hearing Officer upon the *Joint Motion of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., and the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division for Modification of Rate Case Evidentiary Hearing Procedures and Purpose* ("Joint Motion") filed on January 4, 2012.

On September 2, 2011, Piedmont Natural Gas Company ("Piedmont") filed a Petition for a rate increase in annual revenues of \$16,712,711 or 8.9%. The Consumer Advocate and Protection Division ("CAPD") filed a Petition to Intervene, which was granted by Order dated September 29, 2011. On December 22, 2011, Piedmont and the CAPD (collectively, the "Parties") filed a Stipulation and Settlement Agreement ("Settlement Agreement") resolving all issues between them in this proceeding.


In the *Joint Motion*, Piedmont advises the Authority that it intends to file supplemental pre-hearing testimony of Mr. David Carpenter on or before January 13, 2012, providing an explanation of the Settlement Agreement and supporting the justness and reasonableness thereof. The Parties request that the Authority redesignate the January 23, 2012 hearing in this matter to be for the purpose of considering whether the Settlement Agreement is just and reasonable and should be approved. Piedmont and the CAPD further request that to the extent not necessary to respond to Authority or Staff questions, their respective witnesses (other than Mr. Carpenter) be excused from appearing and that their testimonies and exhibits be entered into the record by stipulation.

The Hearing Officer finds that the requests contained in the *Joint Motion* are reasonable and should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Hearing scheduled for January 23, 2012 shall be a public hearing, in which members of the public are encouraged to attend and make comments. However, the Hearing will otherwise be for the purpose of considering the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement filed by the Parties.

2. The evidentiary witnesses (other than Mr. David Carpenter) are excused from appearing in person at the Hearing and their testimonies and exhibits will be entered into the record by stipulation.


Chairman Kenneth C. Hill
Hearing Officer