

**IN THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

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

Filed Electronically in
TRA Docket Room
09/21/11

PETITION TO INTERVENE

Robert E. Cooper, Jr., Attorney General and Reporter for the State of Tennessee, by and through the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General ("Consumer Advocate"), pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118, respectfully petitions the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA" or "Authority") to grant the Consumer Advocate's intervention into this proceeding on behalf of the public interest, because consumers may be adversely affected by Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.'s Petition 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. For cause, Petitioner would show as follows:

1. The Consumer Advocate is authorized by Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118 to represent the interests of Tennessee consumers of public utilities services by initiating and intervening as a party in proceedings before the Authority in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act and Authority rules.

2. Piedmont is a public utility regulated by the Authority and distributes natural gas to consumers located in Nashville and the remainder of Davidson County, as well as portions of the neighboring counties of Cheatham, Dickson, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, and Wilson and in certain incorporated towns and cities located therein.

3. On September 2, 2011, Piedmont filed in the Authority a Petition 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.

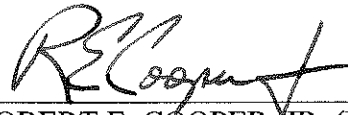
4. Piedmont is requesting a rate increase of \$16.7 million, an amount which may not be just and reasonable and requires further investigation.

5. Piedmont is proposing a rate design with increased fixed service charges, funding for natural gas technology research and development and an energy conservation program, all which affect the interests of the Tennessee consumers served by Piedmont.

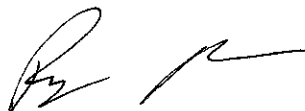
6. Only by participating in this proceeding can the Consumer Advocate work adequately to protect the interests of consumers.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully asks the Authority to grant the Petition to Intervene.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. E. Cooper, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

ROBERT E. COOPER, JR. (BPR #010934)
Attorney General and Reporter
State of Tennessee



RYAN L. MCGEHEE (BPR #25559)
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Advocate and Protection Division
P.O. Box 20207
Nashville, Tennessee 37202-0207
(615) 532-5512

Dated: September 21st, 2010.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

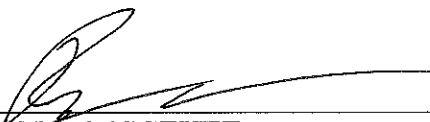
I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Petition to Intervene was served via U.S. Mail or electronic mail upon:

Jane Lewis-Raymond
Vice President & General Counsel
Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 33068
Charlotte, NC 28233

R. Dale Grimes
Bass, Berry & Sims PLC
150 Third Avenue South, Suite 2800
Nashville, TN 37201

James H. Jeffries IV
Moore & Van Allen PLLC
100 North Tryon Street, Suite 4700
Charlotte, NC 28202

This the 21st day of September, 2010.



RYAN L. MCGEHEE