

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**September 29, 2011**

<b>IN RE:</b>	)	
	)	
<b>PETITION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS</b>	)	
<b>COMPANY, INC. FOR AN ADJUSTMENT TO ITS</b>	)	
<b>RATES, APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO ITS RATE</b>	)	
<b>DESIGN, AMORTIZATION OF CERTAIN</b>	)	<b>DOCKET NO.</b>
<b>DEFERRED ASSETS, APPROVAL OF NEW</b>	)	<b>11-00144</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION RATES, APPROVAL OF REVISED</b>	)	
<b>TARIFFS AND SERVICE REGULATIONS, AND</b>	)	
<b>APPROVAL OF A NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY</b>	)	
<b>PROGRAM AND GTI FUNDING</b>	)	

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**ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO INTERVENE, APPROVAL OF PROCEDURAL  
SCHEDULE AND PROTECTIVE ORDER**

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At a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on September 12, 2011, Chairman Eddie Roberson, Director Sara Kyle, and Director Kenneth C. Hill<sup>1</sup>, of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA"), the panel assigned to this docket, voted unanimously to convene a contested case and to appoint Director Hill as Hearing Officer for the purpose of preparing this matter for hearing, including handling preliminary matters and establishing a procedural schedule to completion. This matter is before the Hearing Officer now to consider the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office's ("Consumer Advocate") *Petition to Intervene* and the parties' *Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule and Joint Proposed Protective Order*.

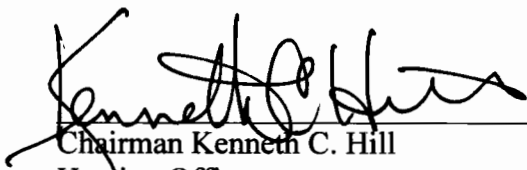
On September 21, 2011, the Consumer Advocate and Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. ("Piedmont" or the "Company") filed a *Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule and Joint*

*Proposed Protective Order*. In that filing, the parties stated that they have worked together to negotiate a satisfactory procedural schedule and protective order, and asked the Hearing Officer to formally memorialize these agreements.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, Piedmont stipulated that intervention by the Consumer Advocate was proper and necessary and stated that it had no objection to granting the Consumer Advocate's *Petition to Intervene*.<sup>3</sup>

After careful review of the *Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule and Joint Proposed Protective Order*, the Hearing Officer finds that both are reasonable and are, therefore, approved. Additionally, the Hearing Officer concludes that intervention by the Consumer Advocate is necessary and proper because the legal rights and interests of Tennessee consumers may be determined in this proceeding. Further, the Company does not oppose the intervention of the Consumer Advocate; therefore the *Petition to Intervene* is also approved.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Consumer Advocate is given leave to intervene and to receive copies of any notices, orders or other documents herein.
2. The *Joint Proposed Protective Order*, and the stipulations within, is hereby approved and is in full force and effect.
3. The *Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule*, attached to this Order as **Exhibit A**, is hereby adopted and is in full force and effect.

  
Chairman Kenneth C. Hill  
Hearing Officer

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<sup>1</sup> At the Authority Conference held on September 26, 2011, Director Hill was elected chairman of the TRA.

<sup>2</sup> *Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule and Joint Proposed Protective Order*, Cover Letter, p. 1 (September 21, 2011).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*, Cover Letter at 2.

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**Procedural Schedule  
(September 29, 2011)**

<b>September 23, 2011</b>	<b>First Round of data requests</b>
<b>September 30, 2011</b>	<b>Objections to First Round of data requests</b>
<b>October 7, 2011</b>	<b>Motions to compel</b>
<b>October 17, 2011</b>	<b>Status Conference (if necessary)</b>
<b>October 26, 2011</b>	<b>Responses to First Round of data requests</b>
<b>December 6, 2011</b>	<b>Intervenor pre-filed testimony</b>
<b>December 13, 2011</b>	<b>Second Round of data requests</b>
<b>December 19, 2011</b>	<b>Responses and Objections to Second Round of data requests</b>
<b>December 23, 2011</b>	<b>Motions to compel</b>
<b>January 3, 2011</b>	<b>Status Conference (if necessary)</b>
<b>January 13, 2012</b>	<b>Piedmont rebuttal testimony</b>
<b>January 17, 2012</b>	<b>Pre-hearing motions</b>
<b>January 19, 2012</b>	<b>Pre-hearing conference</b>
<b>Week of January 23-27, 2012</b>	<b>Hearing on the merits</b>
<b>February 6, 2012</b>	<b>Post-hearing briefs/proposed orders</b>