

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

October 18, 2012

IN RE:

**PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC.
PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PLAN REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH
JUNE 30, 2012**

**DOCKET NO.
12-00103**

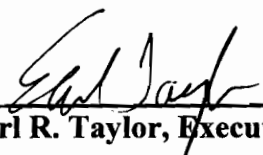
**ORDER CONVENING A CONTESTED CASE
AND APPOINTING A HEARING OFFICER**

This matter came before Chairman Kenneth C. Hill, Director Sara Kyle and Director Herbert H. Hilliard of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority" or "TRA"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on October 15, 2012 for consideration of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.'s incentive plan report for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 which was filed on August 29, 2012. During the Authority Conference, the Directors voted unanimously to convene a contested case proceeding and to appoint the Authority's General Counsel or her designee to act as Hearing Officer to handle any preliminary matters, including entering a protective order.¹

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Chairman Kenneth C. Hill, Director Sara Kyle and Director Herbert H. Hilliard concur.

ATTEST:



Earl R. Taylor, Executive Director

¹ Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. was directed to submit a proposed protective order no later than 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 25, 2012.