

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

September 10, 2013

IN RE:)	
)	DOCKET NO.
PETITION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY,)	13-00118
INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTEGRITY)	
MANAGEMENT RIDER TO ITS APPROVED RATE)	
SCHEDULES AND SERVICE REGULATIONS)	

ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF THROUGH DECEMBER 30, 2013

This matter is before the Hearing Officer, duly appointed by the voting panel of Directors of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA" or "Authority") and designated by General Counsel, to administer certain preliminary issues that may arise during the preparation of this matter for hearing before the Authority. On August 30, 2013, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-103(d)¹ and TRA Rule 1220-4-1-.04, Piedmont Natural Gas Company ("Piedmont" or the "Company") filed a petition for approval of a tariff rider that will allow it to recover certain costs that it has incurred in complying with federal and state pipeline safety requirements.² As Exhibit A to its petition, Piedmont filed a proposed Service Schedule 317 *Integrity Management Rider* that reflects an effective date of October 1, 2013.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-103(a) permits the Authority, pending a hearing and determination, to suspend any rate increase, change, or alteration for an initial period not to


¹ The Authority is authorized to implement alternative regulatory methods to allow public utility rate reviews and cost recovery in lieu of a general rate case proceeding, and is required to make a final determination on any such alternative regulatory method no later than one hundred twenty (120) days from the initial filing by the public utility. Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-103(d)(1)(A) (2013).

² *Petition of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. for Approval of an Integrity Management Rider to Its Approved Rate Schedules and Service Regulations* (August 30, 2013).

exceed three months from the proposed effective date of such increase, change, or alteration.³ Because the Authority's investigation, hearing, and final determination on the Company's proposed tariff rider mechanism cannot be completed prior to its October 1, 2013 effective date, the Hearing Officer hereby suspends the effectiveness of the tariff through December 30, 2013.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The effective date of the proposed Service Schedule 317 *Integrity Management Rider* filed by Piedmont Natural Gas Company on August 30, 2013, is hereby suspended **through December 30, 2013**, or until further order of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, whichever occurs sooner.


Kelly Cashman Grams, Hearing Officer

³ Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-103(a) (2004).