

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**May 2, 2014**

**IN RE:**

**PETITION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY,  
INC. FOR AUTHORIZATION TO AMORTIZE AND  
REFUND TO CUSTOMERS EXCESS ACCUMULATED  
DEFERRED INCOME TAXES**

)  
) **DOCKET NO.**  
) **14-00017**  
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**ORDER REQUIRING PARTIES TO FILE JOINT STATUS REPORT**

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This matter came before the Hearing Officer of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("Authority") during a Status Conference with the parties, Piedmont Natural Gas Company ("Piedmont") and the Consumer Advocate and Protection Davidson of the Office of Tennessee Attorney General ("Consumer Advocate"), held on April 24, 2014, to consider the issues to be addressed in the proceeding, to establish a procedural schedule, and the entry of a protective order, if needed.

The Status Conference, duly noticed on April 15, 2014, was convened in the Executive Conference Room in the Offices of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority located at 502 Deaderick Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Nashville, Tennessee. The parties were represented as follows:

**For Piedmont:**

**R. Dale Grimes, Esq.**, Bass Berry & Sims PLC, 150 Third Avenue South, Suite 2800, Nashville, Tennessee 37201, and, appearing by telephone, **James H. Jeffries IV, Esq.**, Moore & Van Allen PLLC, 100 North Tryon Street, Suite 4700, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202;

**For Consumer Advocate:**

**Wayne M. Irvin, Esq.**, Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General, P.O. Box 20207, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

During the Status Conference, the parties informed the Hearing Officer that they have been engaging in informal discovery, and have had opportunity to meet and discuss the requests made by Piedmont in this docket and hope to be able to reach an agreement. Because their informal exchanges are proceeding smoothly, the parties stated that they preferred to continue in this same manner for the next thirty days and then, if necessary, move to a more formal process. Alternatively, in the event that the Hearing Officer set a formal procedural schedule, the parties asked that the schedule include an initial period of time in which to conclude their informal discussions. As there discussions are on-going, the case is not yet ready for a determination as to any particular issues to be resolved.

Upon consideration of the parties' comments and proposal, the Hearing Officer, finding that the parties are satisfied and optimistic concerning the progress of their informal interactions and that there is no statutory or other legal deadline by which this matter must be resolved, agreed to allow the parties additional time in which to attempt to an reach agreement. The parties were further directed to file a joint status report as to their progress in thirty days.

In addition the parties informed the Hearing Officer that they are in agreement as to the language and terms to be included in a protective order and would promptly submit a proposed order to the Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer advised the parties that, upon review and approval, the proposed protective order would be entered in the docket file.<sup>1</sup>

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1) Informal discovery between the parties shall be conducted in accordance with TRA Rule 1220-1-2-.11. Copies of all discovery exchanged between the parties shall be filed with the Authority within 3 days of the exchange of information. All spreadsheets shall be filed in Excel

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<sup>1</sup> On April 25, 2014, the Hearing Officer entered a *Protective Order* in the docket file that was materially unchanged from that proposed by the parties.

format with working formulas.

2) The parties shall file in the docket file a joint status report concerning the progress of their informal discussions, and, in light of such progress, their preference for continuing to move this matter forward, **by May 27, 2014.**

  
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Kelly Cashman-Grams, Hearing Officer