

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

September 18, 2014

IN RE:

**PETITION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC.
FOR APPROVAL OF A CNG INFRASTRUCTURE RIDER TO
ITS APPROVED RATE SCHEDULES AND SERVICE
REGULATIONS**

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**DOCKET NO.
14-00086**

ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF THROUGH DECEMBER 1, 2014

This matter is before the Hearing Officer, duly appointed by the voting panel of Directors of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (“Authority”) and designated by General Counsel, to address the preliminary issues that may arise during the preparation of this matter for hearing before the Authority. On August 29, 2014, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-103(d)¹ and TRA Rule 1220-4-1-.04, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (“Piedmont” or “Company”) filed its *Petition*, along with an accompanying tariff, requesting approval of a proposed Compressed Natural Gas (“CNG”) Infrastructure Rider mechanism for the recovery of costs and expenses related to the expansion of its Compressed Natural Gas facilities.² The *Petition* requests, and the tariff reflects, an effective date of December 1, 2014.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-103(a) permits the Authority, pending a hearing and determination, to suspend any rate increase, change, or alteration for three months from the proposed effective date of such increase, change, or alteration, and to further extend the period of

¹ The Authority may 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 no later than one hundred twenty (120) days from the initial filing of such requests made 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 a CNG Infrastructure Rider to Its Approved Rate Schedules and Service Regulations* (“*Petition*”) (August 29, 2014).

suspension as will reasonably enable the Authority to complete its investigation.³ Because the Authority's investigation, hearing, and final determination on the Company's proposed tariff rider mechanism will not be completed within thirty (30) days, the Hearing Officer hereby suspends the effectiveness of the proposed tariff through and including December 1, 2014.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The effective date of the Compressed Natural Gas Infrastructure Rider filed Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. by on August 29, 2014, is hereby suspended **through and including December 1, 2014**, 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) (2013).