

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**January 31, 2017**

**IN RE:**

**PETITION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS  
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTEGRITY  
MANAGEMENT RIDER TO ITS APPROVED RATE  
SCHEDULES AND SERVICE REGULATIONS**

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**DOCKET NO.  
16-00140**

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**ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF THROUGH MARCH 13, 2017**

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This matter is before the Hearing Officer appointed by the voting panel of Directors of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (“Authority” or “TRA”) 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 November 30, 2016, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-103 *et seq.*, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (“Piedmont” or the “Company”) filed its Integrity Management Rider mechanism annual filing and proposed annual rate adjustment for January 1, 2017, and a revised rate sheet was filed on December 13, 2016, with an effective date of February 1, 2017.

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 exceed three months from the proposed effective date of such increase, change, or alteration.<sup>1</sup> Because the Authority’s investigation, hearing, and final determination on the Company’s proposed tariff cannot be completed prior to the February 1, 2017 effective date, the Hearing

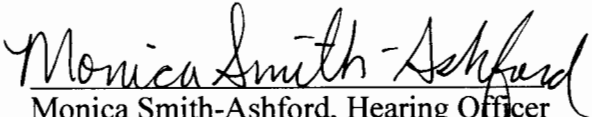
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<sup>1</sup> Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-103(a) (2015).

Officer hereby suspends the effectiveness of the tariff through March 13, 2017.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

The effective date of the proposed Fifty-Fourth Revised Sheet No. 1 filed by Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. on December 13, 2016, is hereby suspended **through March 13, 2017**, or until further order of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, whichever occurs sooner.

  
Monica Smith-Ashford, Hearing Officer