

**IN THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

<b>IN RE:</b>	)	
	)	
<b>PETITION OF PIEDMONT</b>	)	
<b>NATURAL GAS, INC. FOR</b>	)	<b>DOCKET NO. 17-00138</b>
<b>APPROVAL OF AN INTEGRITY</b>	)	
<b>MANAGEMENT RIDER TO ITS</b>	)	
<b>APPROVED RATE SCHEDULES</b>	)	
<b>AND SERVICE REGULATIONS</b>	)	

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**PETITION TO INTERVENE**

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Herbert H. Slatery III, Attorney General and Reporter for the State of Tennessee, by and through the Consumer Protection and Advocate Division of the Office of the Attorney General (Consumer Advocate), pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118, respectfully petitions the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (TPUC) to grant the Consumer Advocate's intervention into this proceeding because consumers' interests, rights, duties or privileges may be determined or affected by the *Petition of Piedmont Natural Gas, Inc. for Approval of an Integrity Management Rider to its Approved Rate Schedules and Service Regulations (Petition)* filed in this TPUC Docket by Piedmont Natural Gas, Inc. (Piedmont). For cause, the Consumer Advocate would show as follows:

1. The Consumer Advocate is authorized by Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118 to represent the interests of Tennessee consumers of public utilities services by initiating and intervening as a party in any matter or proceeding before the TPUC in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-101 *et seq.*, and TPUC rules.

2. Piedmont is a public utility regulated by the TPUC and provides natural gas to approximately 196,346<sup>1</sup> customers in Tennessee. Piedmont's principal office is located at 4720 Piedmont Row Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210.

3. On August 30, 2013, Piedmont filed a Petition in TPUC Docket No. 13-00118, seeking approval of an Integrity Management Rider (IMR) pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-103. The IMR, as approved by the TPUC, allows Piedmont to recover from consumers certain costs associated with capital expenditures incurred to comply with pipeline safety regulations governing Piedmont's natural gas transmission and distribution facilities.<sup>2</sup> The Consumer Advocate intervened in that docket and, after extensive negotiation and discovery, entered into a stipulation with Piedmont on November 27, 2013, which formed part of the basis of the approval of the IMR by the TPUC.

4. Subsequent to the approval of the IMR in Docket No. 13-00118, Piedmont filed TPUC Docket Nos. 14-00147, 15-00116, and 16-00140, which were the annual filings required by the Stipulation in Docket No. 13-00118 to adjust rates for each following year. Piedmont's current filing in TPUC Docket No. 17-00138 is in the same vein as Docket Nos. 14-00147, 15-00116, and 16-00140.

5. The interests of consumers, including without limitation the proposed increase in rates to be paid by Piedmont's consumers under this filing, may be affected by determinations and orders made by the TPUC with respect to (a) the interpretation, application, and implementation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-103 and other relevant statutory and regulatory provisions and (b) the review and analysis of the documentation, financial spreadsheets, and materials provided by Piedmont.

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<sup>1</sup> This customer count comes from TPUC Docket No. 11-00144, the last rate case filed by Piedmont.

<sup>2</sup> Order Granting Petition, TPUC Docket No. 13-00118, at Page 2.

6. The TPUC granted the Consumer Advocate's intervention in Docket No. 16-00140. This marked the first occasion since the IMR's inception that the Consumer Advocate intervened in an IMR docket.

7. Only by participating as a party in this proceeding can the Consumer Advocate adequately carry out its statutory duty to represent the interests of Tennessee consumers.

WHEREFORE, the Consumer Advocate respectfully asks the TPUC to grant this Petition to Intervene.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



HERBERT H. SLATTERY III (BPR #09077)  
Attorney General and Reporter  
State of Tennessee



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served via U.S. Mail or electronic mail upon:

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This the 13 day of December, 2017.

  
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Daniel P. Whitaker III  
Assistant Attorney General