



Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, LLP  
511 Union Street, Suite 2700  
P.O. Box 198966  
Nashville, TN 37219-8966

615.244.6380 main  
615.244.6804 fax  
wallerlaw.com

Paul S. Davidson  
615.850.8942 direct  
paul.davidson@wallerlaw.com

June 8, 2020

**Via U.S. Mail and Email**

Executive Director Earl Taylor  
c/o Ectory Lawless  
Tennessee Public Utility Commission  
502 Deaderick Street, Fourth Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

**Re: Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.  
Petition for Approval of Negotiated Franchise Agreement with Franklin, Tennessee  
Docket No.: 20-00078**

Dear Mr. Taylor:

On June 2, 2020, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. ("Piedmont" or the "Company") filed a Petition for Approval of Negotiated Franchise Agreement with Franklin, Tennessee pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 65-4-107 in the above referenced docket. In that filing, Piedmont inadvertently omitted supporting testimony of Company Witness Eddie Davidson, Director, Government Affairs for the Tennessee Region. Accordingly, Piedmont hereby submits for filing the Testimony of Eddie Davidson.

This material is also being filed today by way of email to the Tennessee Public Utility Commission docket manager, Ectory Lawless. Please file the original and provide us a "filed" stamped copy either by email, or return copy via U.S. Mail. I have enclosed a self-addressed, postage prepaid envelope should you choose the mail option.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul S. Davidson". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "P" and "D".

Paul S. Davidson

PSD:cdg  
Enclosure

cc: David Foster  
Michelle Mairs  
Bruce Barkley  
Pia Powers  
James Jeffries  
Melinda McGrath

**Before the  
Tennessee Public Utility Commission**

**Docket No. 20-00078**

**Petition of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. for  
Approval of Negotiated Franchise Agreement with  
Franklin, Tennessee Pursuant to Tennessee Code  
Annotated § 65-4-107**

**Testimony of Eddie Davidson**

**On Behalf of**

**Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.**



**June 8, 2020**

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 A. My name is Eddie Davidson. My business address is 83 Century  
3 Boulevard, Nashville, Tennessee.

4 **Q. By whom and in what capacity are you employed?**

5 A. I am employed by Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (“Piedmont” or  
6 the “Company”) as Director, Government Affairs for the Tennessee  
7 Region.

8 **Q. Please describe your educational and professional background.**

9 A. I have a B.S. in Political Science from Middle Tennessee State University.  
10 I have worked in various capacities for the Tennessee House of  
11 Representatives, and served six years as the Assistant Chief Clerk of the  
12 House from 1996 until 2002. In 2002, I joined the administration of  
13 Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell as an Associate Director of the Metro  
14 Nashville Public Works Department. I then served as a legislative liaison  
15 to the Tennessee General Assembly on behalf of Metro Nashville,  
16 eventually becoming the Director of Legislative Affairs for the City. In  
17 this role I managed all government affairs at the local, state, and federal  
18 level. I stayed on with Metro Nashville in the administration of Mayor  
19 Karl Dean as a Senior Advisor for Infrastructure and Intergovernmental  
20 Affairs prior to joining Piedmont in 2009.

21 **Q. Have you previously testified before the Tennessee Public Utility  
22 Commission (“TPUC”) or any other regulatory authority?**

23 A. I previously testified before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (“TRA”),

1 the Commission's predecessor, regarding Piedmont's flood recovery  
2 efforts and also regarding Piedmont's franchise agreements with the Town  
3 of Nolensville, the City of LaVergne, the City of Fairview, the Town of  
4 White House, the City of Ashland City, the City of Greenbrier, and the  
5 City of Mt. Juliet. In addition, I have testified before numerous legislative  
6 committees at the state and local level.

7 **Q. Do you hold any positions in any professional or trade associates?**

8 A. I am a member of board of directors of the Tennessee Gas Association and  
9 previously served as chair of the 2010-2011 and 2012-2013 Legislative  
10 Committee. I am also currently a board member of the Tennessee  
11 Lobbyists Association and the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and  
12 Industry.

13 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

14 A. The purpose of my testimony is to present information to the Commission  
15 relating to the franchise agreement entered into between Piedmont and the  
16 City of Franklin, Tennessee, as authorized by Ordinance 2019-54.

17 **Q. Could you please explain the circumstances that caused a need for a  
18 franchise agreement between Piedmont and the City of Franklin?**

19 A. Yes. Under Section 65-26-101 of the Tennessee Code Annotated,  
20 Piedmont is required to have the consent of the City of Franklin, in the  
21 form of a municipal ordinance, in order to enter onto the streets and alleys  
22 of Franklin for the purpose of placing, maintaining, or expanding its  
23 natural gas distribution and transmission facilities.

1 Piedmont has been providing natural gas service to the City of Franklin for  
2 the previous twenty-five (25) years pursuant to such a consent  
3 incorporated into City Ordinance 94-37. Pursuant to the terms of that  
4 Ordinance, the existing authorization to enter onto the property of the City  
5 of Franklin and to provide natural gas service expired December 13, 2019.  
6 As such, under Tennessee law, a new franchise agreement is necessary in  
7 order for Piedmont to continue its provision of service to the City of  
8 Franklin after that date.

9 **Q. When and how did Piedmont begin pursuing a new franchise**  
10 **arrangement with the City of Franklin?**

11 A. Prior to the expiration of the pre-existing franchise agreement authorizing  
12 service within the City of Franklin, and in the ordinary course of the  
13 Company's business, Piedmont started discussions with the City in late  
14 2019 for the purpose of initiating negotiations for a new franchise  
15 arrangement.

16 **Q. What was the result of those negotiations?**

17 A. The negotiations were successful and ultimately resulted in a franchise  
18 agreement acceptable to both the Company and the City. The franchise  
19 agreement was incorporated into City Ordinance No. 2019-54 and  
20 addressed by the City's Board of Commissioners on May 12, 2020.

21 **Q. Was the ordinance approved by the City?**

22 A. Yes. On May 12, 2020, City Ordinance 2019-54 was presented to the City  
23 of Franklin's Board of Commissioners for approval. That Ordinance, a

1 copy of which is attached as Exhibit A to the Petition filed in this docket,  
2 and incorporated herein by reference, was subsequently approved by the  
3 City's Council and signed by the Mayor of the City of Franklin. This  
4 ordinance renews Piedmont's franchise arrangement with the City of  
5 Franklin for a period of twenty (20) years.

6 **Q. What are the primary provisions of the new franchise ordinance?**

7 A. The new franchise ordinance grants Piedmont the right to provide service  
8 to customers within the municipal limits of the City of Franklin and access  
9 to the streets and public rights-of-way within the City. In exchange for  
10 these rights and accesses, Piedmont pays an annual franchise fee  
11 equivalent to five percent (5%) of the annual gross revenues it collects  
12 from customers who are located and provided service within the Franklin  
13 city limits during the twenty year term of the agreement. In addition,  
14 Piedmont must comply with certain procedures with respect to the conduct  
15 of its business within the City's corporate limits.

16 **Q. Is Piedmont satisfied with the negotiated resolution of these issues?**

17 A. Yes. Both parties were ultimately able to agree with the negotiated result  
18 and that result is reflected in Ordinance No. 2019-54 which was approved  
19 by the City's Board of Commissioners on May 12, 2020, and subsequently  
20 accepted by Piedmont.

21 **Q. In your opinion, are the franchise terms set forth in Ordinance 2019-54**  
22 **necessary and proper for the public convenience and in the public**  
23 **interest?**

1 A. Yes.

2 **Q. Do you know of any facts that would indicate that the new franchise**  
3 **arrangement reflected in Ordinance No. 2019-54 is not in the public**  
4 **interest?**

5 A. No.

6 **Q. What are you asking the Commission to do in this proceeding?**

7 A. Based on the facts discussed above, we are asking the Commission to  
8 approve the new franchise agreement between Piedmont and the City of  
9 Franklin as reflected in Ordinance No. 2019-54 to be effective April 1,  
10 2020.

11 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

12 A. Yes.