

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

January 13, 2021

IN RE:

**PETITION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY,
INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN ADJUSTMENT OF
RATES, CHARGES, AND TARIFFS APPLICABLE TO
SERVICE IN TENNESSEE**

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**DOCKET NO.
20-00086**

PRE-HEARING ORDER

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-306(d) and Commission Rule 1220-1-2-.12, this matter came before the Hearing Officer of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (“Commission” or “TPUC”) at a Pre-Hearing Conference held via teleconference on January 6, 2021 and continued on January 8, 2021. The Pre-Hearing Conference was held to establish the orderly conduct of the Hearing on the *Piedmont Natural Gas Company Inc. Petition for an Adjustment of Rates, Charges, and Tariffs Applicable to Service in Tennessee* (“Petition”) scheduled to begin via WebEx at 9:00 a.m. (CST) on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 and continue on subsequent days, as needed. Piedmont Natural Gas Company (“Piedmont” or the “Company”) and the Consumer Advocate Unit in the Financial Division of the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General (“Consumer Advocate”), the parties in this matter, participated in the Pre-Hearing Conference.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The following order of the Hearing has been established and agreed upon:

A. NOTICE OF HEARING & PUBLIC COMMENT

On January 8, 2021, a *Notice of Hearing* was issued notifying the public that a Hearing on the *Petition* filed on July 2, 2020, will be held electronically via WebEx beginning at **9:00 a.m. CST on Tuesday, January 19, 2021** and continuing on subsequent days, as needed. As was included in the notice, members of the public are encouraged to participate by filing written comments in the docket file by 4:00 p.m. (CST) Thursday, January 14, 2021, and/or presenting verbal comments during the Hearing.

B. OPENING STATEMENTS

After an initial public comment period is offered, each party is permitted ten (10) minutes to present an opening statement. Piedmont will present its opening statement first, followed by the Consumer Advocate.

C. EXHIBITS & DOCUMENTS

The parties should exchange any demonstrative exhibits related to a witness's pre-filed testimony by Wednesday, January 12, 2021. Each party should have its own copy of all exhibits, including those appended to pre-filed testimony, available for reference during the Hearing. The parties should upload any documents to be used as exhibits during the Hearing onto the cloud share established for the Hearing if they would like assistance sharing documents electronically during the Hearing. If the parties choose to present their own exhibits electronically during the Hearing, it is not necessary for those documents to be uploaded to the cloud share.

D. TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES

Since the Hearing is being conducted completely via WebEx video, there are special considerations the parties should observe to make sure the Hearing flows smoothly:

- Parties should log into the Hearing at **8:30 a.m.** (CST) on January 19, 2021, to make sure everyone is connected to the Hearing;
- Everyone should place their microphones on mute when not speaking; and
- Identify yourself prior to speaking.

E. WITNESSES

During direct examination, a time limit has been established for each witness to summarize the pre-filed testimony. In addition, each witness should be advised that he or she remains subject to recall for rebuttal purposes and should remain available throughout the length of the proceedings. The witnesses and time limits are set forth below.

- **The Petitioner will present the following witness:**

1. Sasha Weintraub- Sr. VP Natural Gas Business Unit, Duke Energy (10 minutes)
2. Brian Weisker- Sr. VP Natural Gas Business Unit & COO, Duke Energy (10 minutes)
3. Dylan W. D'Ascendis- Director of ScottMadden, Inc. (10 minutes)
4. Kally Couzens- Manager Rates & Regulatory Strategy, Piedmont (10 minutes)
5. Quynh Pham Bowman- Director Gas Rates/Regulatory Strategy, Piedmont (10 minutes)
6. Pia Powers- Managing Director, Gas Rates & Regulatory, Piedmont (10 minutes)

- **The following witnesses will not be presented but will be available for questions:**

- John Sullivan-Director Corporate Finance, Asst. Treasurer, Duke Energy & Asst. Treasurer, Piedmont (available for questions)

- Dane Watson-Partner, Alliance Consulting Group (available for questions)
- Paul Normand-Management Consultant and Pres. of Management Applications Consulting, Inc. (available for questions)
- **The Consumer Advocate will present the following witnesses:**
 1. William H. Novak- WHN Consulting (15 minutes)
 2. Alex Bradley- Accounting & Tariff Specialist, Consumer Advocate (10 minutes)
 3. David Dittmore- Financial Analyst, Consumer Advocate (15 minutes)
- **The following witness will not be presented but will be available for questions:**
 - Dr. Christopher C. Klein- Retired Professor in the Economics & Finance Dept., MTSU (available for questions)

F. Examination of Witnesses and Questions by the Commission

While re-direct examination of a witness is allowed, the parties are reminded that it is to be limited to matters elicited during cross-examination that require clarification. It is not appropriate to raise new issues during re-direct examination. Re-cross examination is not permitted except in the event that a new issue is raised during the immediately preceding re-direct examination. The Commission's Advisory Staff has the opportunity to ask questions following cross-examination, before re-direct examination. The parties should be aware that the Commissioners might ask questions at any time during a witness's testimony and after cross-examination.

G. Post-Hearing Briefs

The parties have decided to submit post-hearing briefs instead of give closing arguments. Expedited transcripts will need to be ordered from the court reporter. The Hearing Officer will

establish a date for filing the post-hearing briefs, such date will not exceed two weeks after receipt of the transcript.

Summary Outline of Hearing

For the convenience of the presiding panel and the parties, a *Procedural Outline of Hearing* has been provided as Attachment A to this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED THAT:

The Hearing scheduled to begin at **9:00 a.m. CST** on **January 19, 2021** and continuing on subsequent days, as necessary, shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements and deadlines set forth in this Pre-Hearing Order unless otherwise ordered by the Chairman or presiding Commissioner.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica Smith-Ashford". The script is cursive and fluid.

Monica Smith-Ashford, Hearing Officer

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IN RE:)	
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PETITION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY,)	DOCKET NO.
INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN ADJUSTMENT OF)	20-00086
RATES, CHARGES, AND TARIFFS APPLICABLE TO)	
SERVICE IN TENNESSEE)	

PROCEDURAL OUTLINE OF HEARING

Time/Date: **January 19, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. (CST)**

Electronically via WebEx

Hearing on the Merits

Hearing Convened by Presiding Commissioner and Introductions

A. Public Comment

B. Opening Statements (10 Minutes):

- 1) Piedmont
- 2) Consumer Advocate

ATTACHMENT A

C. Witness Summaries:

Piedmont Witness

Sasha Weintraub, Sr. VP Nat. Gas Unit, Duke Energy

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn –

Summary of pre-filed testimony	Ten (10) minutes
Cross-examination	Consumer Advocate
Questions	TPUC Commissioners and/or Advisory Staff
Re-direct examination	Piedmont
Re-cross examination	(if requested & determined appropriate)

Piedmont Witness

Brian Weisker, Sr. VP Nat. Gas Unit /COO, Duke Energy

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn –

Summary of pre-filed testimony	Ten (10) minutes
Cross-examination	Consumer Advocate
Questions	TPUC Commissioners and/or Advisory Staff
Re-direct examination	Piedmont
Re-cross examination	(if requested & determined appropriate)

Piedmont Witness

Dylan D'Ascendis, Director of ScottMadden, Inc.

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn –

Summary of pre-filed testimony	Ten (10) minutes
Cross-examination	Consumer Advocate
Questions	TPUC Commissioners and/or Advisory Staff
Re-direct examination	Piedmont
Re-cross examination	(if requested & determined appropriate)

Piedmont Witness

Kally Couzens, Mgr. Rates/Regulatory Strategy, Piedmont

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn –

Summary of pre-filed testimony	Ten (10) minutes
Cross-examination	Consumer Advocate
Questions	TPUC Commissioners and/or Advisory Staff
Re-direct examination	Piedmont
Re-cross examination	(if requested & determined appropriate)

Piedmont Witness

Quynh Pham Bowman, Dir. Gas Rates/Regulatory Strategy, Piedmont

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn –

Summary of pre-filed testimony	Ten (10) minutes
Cross-examination	Consumer Advocate
Questions	TPUC Commissioners and/or Advisory Staff
Re-direct examination	Piedmont
Re-cross examination	(if requested & determined appropriate)

Piedmont Witness

Pia Powers, Managing Dir., Gas Rates/Regulatory, Piedmont

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn –

Summary of pre-filed testimony	Ten (10) minutes
Cross-examination	Consumer Advocate
Questions	TPUC Commissioners and/or Advisory Staff
Re-direct examination	Piedmont
Re-cross examination	(if requested & determined appropriate)

Consumer Advocate Witness

William H. Novak, WHN Consulting

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn -

Summary of pre-filed testimony	Fifteen (15) minutes
Cross-examination	Piedmont
Questions	TPUC Commissioners and/or Advisory Staff
Re-direct examination	Consumer Advocate
Re-cross examination	(if requested & determined appropriate)

Consumer Advocate Witness

Alex Bradley, Accounting and Tariff Specialist

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn -

Summary of pre-filed testimony	Ten (10) minutes
Cross-examination	Piedmont
Questions	TPUC Commissioners and/or Advisory Staff
Re-direct examination	Consumer Advocate
Re-cross examination	(if requested & determined appropriate)

Consumer Advocate Witness

David Dittmore, Financial Analyst

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn -

Summary of pre-filed testimony	Fifteen (15) minutes
Cross-examination	Piedmont
Questions	TPUC Commissioners and/or Advisory Staff
Re-direct examination	Consumer Advocate
Re-cross examination	(if requested & determined appropriate)

D. Public Comment

E. Hearing Adjourned