

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

October 29, 2021

IN RE:

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

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DOCKET NO.
20-00130

ORDER GRANTING ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN HEARING

This matter is before the Hearing Officer upon the *Motion to Allow Witness to Participate at Hearing Telephonically* (“*Motion*”) filed by Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (“Piedmont” or “Petitioner”) on October 29, 2021. In its *Motion*, Piedmont seeks permission for its witness, Pia K. Powers, to participate by telephone in the hearing in the above-captioned matter to be held during the regularly scheduled Commission Conference beginning at 9:00 a.m. (CDT) on November 1, 2021. Piedmont requests that its witness be allowed to testify by phone because Ms. Powers resides in Charlotte, North Carolina and “currently experiences travel impediments due to a recent acute illness.”¹ Under the Tennessee Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, decisions involving telephone participation in a hearing are within the hearing officer’s discretion:

(c) In the discretion of the administrative judge or hearing officer and agency members and by agreement of the parties, all or part of the hearing may be conducted by telephone, television or other electronic means, if each participant in the hearing has an opportunity to participate in, to hear, and, if technically feasible, to see the entire proceedings while taking place.²

¹ *Motion*, p. 1 (October 29, 2021).

² Tenn. Code Ann § 4-5-312(c).

In accordance with the above-referenced statute and considering that the request was timely filed and that personal appearance by the witness would be burdensome, the Hearing Officer grants Piedmont's *Motion*, subject to compliance with the following conditions³:

1. Petitioner's attorney shall appear personally at the hearing to present and facilitate questioning of the Petitioner's witness.

2. Petitioner is solely responsible for and shall be required to secure a properly licensed Notary Public, in good standing, in the State or jurisdiction where the witness is giving testimony. During the hearing, the Notary Public shall be in the same physical location and remain with the testifying witness.

3. The Notary Public secured by the Petitioner shall be duly authorized to administer the testimonial oath and shall do so during the hearing. The Notary Public is required to remain in the presence of the witness at all times during the witness's testimony until the witness is excused from examination by the presiding Commissioner.

4. After the hearing, the Notary Public shall prepare and sign an affidavit, which bears the official seal of the Notary Public, affirming: (1) the proven identity of the witness, (2) the fact that the Notary Public properly administered the testimonial oath to such person, and (3) that the testimony given by the sworn witness was in accordance with the highest ethical standards, as observed by the Notary Public. In addition, the testifying witness shall sign a conforming *Witness Certification*. (As a courtesy, Exhibit A contains sample forms of the *Witness Certification and Notary Public Affidavit*.)

5. The original *Witness Certification* and *Notary Public Affidavit* must be post-marked within five (5) days of the hearing and received by the Commission's Docket Manager via postage-paid U.S. Mail. Should the required affirming documents not be received by the Docket Manager

³ In its *Motion*, Piedmont states it will comply with these conditions if its *Motion* is granted.

as required above, the testimony of the witness may be struck from the record and constitute sufficient cause for denial of the *Petition*.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Subject to the conditions set forth in this Order, Piedmont Natural Gas Company's witness may appear and participate by telephone in the hearing to be held on November 1, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. (CDT).

2. To avoid disruption of other matters scheduled for the consideration of the Commission, persons authorized to participate by telephone shall call 800-689-9374 and enter Guest Passcode: 233602# at least **five (5) minutes before the start time set for the Commission Conference**. The Commission Conference will begin promptly.

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

Monica Smith-Ashford, Hearing Officer

cc: Interested Parties
Original in Docket File

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY
COMMISSION**

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:

(Case Style)

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Docket No. 00-00000

WITNESS CERTIFICATION

Affiant, duly sworn according to law, states as follows:

I, _____, attest and certify that on the
_____ day of

_____, 20__, I gave sworn testimony by telephonic means at a hearing in
the above-styled docket before the Tennessee Public Utility Commission. I have read the
Affidavit of the Notary Public, executed by Mr./Mrs. _____,
who administered the testimonial oath to me and witnessed my testimony, and I further
acknowledge and affirm that the testimony I provided during the hearing complied
with the highest ethical and legal standards.

FURTHER WITNESS SAITH NOT.

WITNESS my hand, at office, this _____ day of _____, 20__.

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

NAME OF WITNESS (Printed)

EXHIBIT A

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY
COMMISSION**

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:

(Case Style)

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Docket No. 00-00000

NOTARY PUBLIC AFFIDAVIT

Affiant, duly sworn according to law, states as follows:

1. I, _____, am a duly licensed Notary Public in
good

standing in the State of _____, County of _____. This
Affidavit is

made of my own personal knowledge.

2. My business address and telephone phone where I may be contacted is:

3. To provide sworn testimony by telephone before the Tennessee Public Utility
Commission, _____ (“Witness”) appeared personally before me and
provided _____ (type of identification), which I verified, on the _____
day of _____, 20____.

4. During the hearing, I properly administered the testimonial oath to the
Witness before he/she testified by telephone before the Tennessee Public Utility
Commission.

EXHIBIT A

5. I remained in the presence of the Witness at all times during his/her testimony until such Witness was excused from examination by the Commission panel or Hearing Officer.

6. To the extent observable, the testimony given by the Witness was in accordance with the highest ethical and legal standards.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

WITNESS my hand, at office, this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

NOTARY PUBLIC

NOTARY PUBLIC (Printed)

My Commission Expires:

EXHIBIT A