STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. G-41, SUB 56

)

)

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Application of Toccoa Natural Gas for Annual Review of Gas Costs Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.4(c) and Commission Rule R1-17(k)(6)

ORDER CHANGING EXPERT WITNESS HEARING TO BE REMOTELY HELD AND SETTING PROCEDURES

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On September 3, 2021, the Commission issued a Scheduling Order in the above-captioned docket that, among other things, scheduled a public hearing in the Toccoa Natural Gas (Toccoa), annual cost of gas review for an in-person hearing on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Based on recent COVID pandemic developments and the record in this docket, the Presiding Commissioner is of the opinion that good cause exists to change the expert witness portion of the hearing from an in-person hearing to a remote hearing to be held on Webex. The date of the expert witness hearing shall remain as Wednesday, November 3, 2021, with the starting time being changed to 10:30 a.m. In addition, the parties shall be subject to and shall adhere to the conditions set forth in the Ordering Paragraphs below.

Finally, based on completion of the publication of the public notice of the public witness hearing in this proceeding, and the impracticality of effectively republishing such notice prior to Wednesday, November 3, 2021, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to maintain the public witness hearing as an in-person hearing on the same schedule as initially established by the Commission's Scheduling Order and the public notice published by Toccoa.

Information on the remote hearing process including how to participate, how to submit an attorney appearance sheet, and how to request a technical check, can be found on the Commission's website under "Remote Expert Witness Process."

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That the expert witness hearing in this docket shall be, and is hereby, changed from an in-person hearing to a remote hearing to be held on Webex;

2. That the expert witness hearing shall be held on Webex on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, starting at 10:30 a.m.;

3. That the public witness hearing scheduled in this docket shall be held in-person at the same location and on the same schedule as initially established by the Commission's Scheduling Order and the public notice published by Toccoa. Due to the change in the schedule of the expert witness hearing, the attorneys for the parties are not required to attend the public witness hearing;

4. That the parties participating in the expert witness remote hearing will be subject to the following conditions.

- (1) On or before Tuesday, October 26, 2021, all parties shall file a statement consenting to hold the hearing by remote means, or a statement objecting to the same;
- (2) On or before Thursday, October 28, 2021, each party shall send the name, phone number, and email address of each attorney and witness that will participate in the hearing on the party's behalf directly to the Commission via email at ncucwebex@ncuc.net;
- (3) On or before Thursday, October 28, 2021, parties shall file a list of potential cross-examination exhibits on direct testimony, and provide copies of the exhibits, labeled with the party's name and numbered sequentially, to the other parties and to the Commission via email at ncucexhibits@ncuc.net;
- (4) On or before Friday, October 29, 2021, parties shall file a list of potential redirect examination exhibits on direct testimony, and provide copies of the exhibits, labeled with the party's name and numbered sequentially, to the other parties and the Commission via email at ncucexhibits@ncuc.net;
- (5) On or before Friday, October 29, 2021, the parties shall provide a copy of each witness's testimony summary to the other parties and the Commission via email at ncucexhibits@ncuc.net;
- (6) On or before 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, parties shall file a list of potential cross-examination exhibits on rebuttal testimony, and provide copies of the exhibits, labeled with the party's name and numbered sequentially, to the other parties and the Commission via email at ncucexhibits@ncuc.net;
- (7) Within two business days after the hearing, parties shall file their crossexamination and redirect exhibits used in the hearing marked as indicated during the hearing; and
- (8) Parties and witnesses are encouraged to do their best to avoid using confidential information during the hearing. If a party deems it necessary to discuss confidential information the party shall inform the Presiding Commissioner of this need, and the hearing will transfer to a secure

telephone line so that the confidential information is disclosed only to the Commission, Public Staff, and the parties who have signed a confidentiality agreement.

5. That Toccoa shall arrange for a secure telephone line that can be used by the Commission and the parties during the hearing to present and receive expert witness testimony that involves information asserted to be confidential that has been filed under seal. As soon as practicable, Toccoa shall provide the phone number to other parties and to the Commission via email at ncucexhibits@ncuc.net.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 14th day of October, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Mun RSmyder

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk