

**Before the
North Carolina Utilities Commission**

Docket No. G-9, Sub 743

General Rate Case

**Settlement Testimony and Exhibit
of
Pia K. Powers**

**On Behalf Of
Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.**



August 12, 2019

1 **Q. Ms. Powers, please state your name and business address.**

2 A. My name is Pia K. Powers. My business address is 4720 Piedmont Row
3 Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina.

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

5 A. I am the Director – Gas Rates & Regulatory Affairs for Piedmont Natural
6 Gas Company, Inc. (“Piedmont” or “the Company”). In this capacity, I am
7 responsible for a variety matters including the development and execution
8 of all rate requests and financial report filings by Piedmont.

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

10 A. I graduated from Fairfield University in 1995 a Bachelor of Arts degree in
11 economics and subsequently earned a Master of Science degree in
12 environmental and resource economics from the University College
13 London. From 1999 through 2003, I was employed as an Economist with
14 the Energy Information Administration, the statistical agency of the U.S.
15 Department of Energy, where I focused on international energy forecasting
16 and environmental issues. I was hired by Piedmont as a Regulatory Analyst
17 in 2003, promoted to Supervisor – Federal Regulatory in 2005, and
18 promoted to Manager of Regulatory Affairs in 2006. In 2013, I was
19 promoted to my current position as a Director.

20 **Q. Have you previously testified in this proceeding?**

21 A. Yes. I prefled Direct Testimony in this docket on April 1, 2019 in support
22 of Piedmont’s Application. I also filed Supplemental Testimony in this
23 docket on July 29, 2019 in support of the Company’s updated cost of service

1 calculation as of June 30, 2010 which was performed and filed pursuant to
2 N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133(c) and Commission Rule R1-17(c) ("Update
3 Filing").

4 **Q. What is the purpose of your Settlement Testimony in this proceeding?**

5 A. My Settlement Testimony explains the economic adjustments to Piedmont's
6 filed case (as updated through June 30, 2019) reflected in the Stipulation
7 between Piedmont, the Public Staff -- North Carolina Utilities Commission
8 ("Public Staff"), the Carolina Utility Customers Association, Inc.
9 ("CUCA"), and the Carolina Industrial Group for Fair Utility Rates IV
10 ("CIGFUR IV") (together, the "Stipulating Parties") and also addresses
11 certain non-economic stipulations such as the continuation of the Integrity
12 Management Rider ("IMR") mechanism and consolidation of Common Gas
13 Areas, among others.

14 **Q. Do you have any exhibits supporting your testimony?**

15 A. Yes. I have attached, as Settlement Exhibit__(PKP-1), a reconciliation
16 chart identifying the adjustments to Piedmont's filed/updated rate increase
17 request reflected in the Stipulation.

18 **Q. Was this exhibit prepared by you or under your direction and
19 supervision?**

20 A. Yes.

21 **Q. Can you explain how the Public Staff pursued its investigation in this
22 matter?**

1 A. Following the filing of our Application and supporting testimony, the Public
2 Staff engaged in substantial discovery regarding our filing. This included
3 two on-site audits totaling five days at Piedmont's corporate headquarters
4 and more than 600 discrete questions (not including parts and subparts) in
5 95 sets of discovery requests to the Company. When Piedmont filed its
6 Update Filing, the Public Staff also engaged in an additional due diligence
7 review of that true-up filing.

8 **Q. How did the Public Staff and Piedmont go about pursuing settlement**
9 **discussions in this case?**

10 A. We met with the Public Staff for several days to explore settlement. Our
11 initial discussions were aimed at making sure we had a common
12 understanding of our respective litigation positions and filed testimony.
13 After we completed these discussions we moved on to substantive
14 settlement negotiations and over the course of two additional days we were
15 able to reach agreement on all issues in this case between Piedmont and the
16 Public Staff.¹ This agreement is reflected in the Stipulation filed
17 concurrently with this testimony.

18 **Q. How did the Public Staff and Piedmont go about pursuing settlement**
19 **discussions with CUCA and CIGFUR IV in this case ?**

20 A. We held discussions with CUCA and CIGFUR IV in an effort to obtain their
21 consent to join in the settlement, and we able to do so after reaching a

¹ A representative of the Attorney General was also present at the substantive settlement discussions between Piedmont and the Public Staff.

1 proposed rate design that is acceptable to all. Also, we indicated to the
2 Attorney General that we are willing to engage in settlement discussions.
3 Furthermore, we did not reach out to NUCOR or The Fayetteville Public
4 Works Commission for settlement purposes since these parties did not file
5 testimony in this proceeding.

6 **Q. Do you believe the settlement with the Stipulating Parties is in the**
7 **public interest and otherwise just and reasonable?**

8 A. Yes, I do. The settlement results in substantial economic benefits to our
9 customers through the cost reductions agreed to with the Stipulating Parties
10 and it provides for the continued operation of the Company's IMR
11 mechanism. It also avoids the expenditure of resources that would
12 otherwise be necessary to litigate each of the contested issues in this docket
13 and provides greater certainty of outcome to the Stipulating Parties.

14 **Q. Can you provide a brief overview of the revenue impact associated with**
15 **this settlement?**

16 A. Yes. There are two main elements of the settlement impacting revenues.
17 First, the settlement recommends revised base rates to customers based on
18 a cost of service in years one through three that are significantly less than
19 the amount sought by the Company in its Application and Update Filing.
20 Second, the settlement also provides for a more accelerated refund via rate
21 rider to customers of tax savings associated with the recent federal and state
22 tax reform as compared to that proposed by the Company in its Application
23 and Update Filing. The combined effect of these two elements – the

1 stipulated base rates plus the stipulated tax rider rates -- is that the settlement
2 achieves an overall 3.1% increase to the Company's revenues, which is an
3 approximate \$28.1 million increase in revenues in year one compared to the
4 Company's requested overall increase of approximately \$108.4 million per
5 the Update Filing. The stipulated revenue increase effectively rises after
6 year one as a result of the termination of the one-year amortization of the
7 federal tax savings accrued since January 1, 2018 (i.e., the overcollected
8 revenues accrued since January 1, 2018). Accordingly, starting in year two,
9 there is an additional stipulated 4.1% increase yielding a total annual
10 revenue increase of approximately \$64.8 million (\$28.1 million increase
11 starting year one + an additional \$36.7 million increase starting year two).
12 On a levelized basis, this will be an increase in rates of less than 1% per
13 year since the effective date of rates in Piedmont's last general rate case in
14 January 2014 -- a figure well below the rate of inflation over the same period
15 of time. The rate impacts relating to the termination of additional riders is
16 explained later in my testimony.

17 **Q. Please explain the adjustments to Piedmont's cost of service as agreed**
18 **to in this settlement, and the associated impact to the revenue**
19 **requirement.**

20 **A.** The individual cost of service adjustments are identified on Settlement
21 Exhibit__(PKP-1) attached hereto and represent a total downward
22 adjustment of approximately (\$34.8 million) from Piedmont's proposed
23 annual margin revenues in its Update Filing in this docket. This cumulative

1 impact to margin revenues of each of these cost of service adjustments is
2 shown on line 46 of Settlement Exhibit__(PKP-1). The individual
3 adjustment can be categorized as follows:

4 1. Capital Structure and Cost of Capital. Pursuant to Paragraph
5 6 of the Stipulation, the Stipulating Parties agreed that the appropriate
6 capital structure for use in this proceeding consists of 52.00% common
7 equity, 47.15% long-term debt, and 0.85% short-term debt. The agreed cost
8 of long-term debt is 4.41% and the agreed cost of short-term debt is 2.72%.
9 The agreed return on common equity appropriate for use in this proceeding
10 is 9.70%. These modifications resulted in a downward adjustment to
11 Piedmont's updated annual revenue requirement of approximately (\$20.5
12 million), which is represented on Settlement Exhibit__(PKP-1) as the sum of
13 the adjustments on lines 4 thru 7.

14 2. Customer Volumes and Margins. Under the settlement, the
15 Stipulating Parties agreed to adjust the Company's pro forma customer
16 volumes and associated revenues as of June 30, 2019. These modifications
17 resulted in a downward adjustment to Piedmont's updated annual revenue
18 requirement of approximately (\$0.1 million), which is represented on
19 Settlement Exhibit__(PKP-1) as the sum of the adjustments on lines 13 and
20 14.

21 3. Employee Compensation Adjustments. Under the
22 settlement, the Stipulating Parties agreed to remove certain employee

1 compensation costs for ratemaking, including a portion of executive
2 payroll, and certain incentive pay. Adjustments were also agreed upon
3 regarding the going-level cost of the remaining straight time and overtime
4 payroll, pension and other employee benefits. These modifications resulted
5 in a downward adjustment to Piedmont's updated annual revenue
6 requirement of approximately (\$4.8 million), which is represented on
7 Settlement Exhibit_(PKP-1) as the sum of the adjustments on lines 17 thru
8 19, 21, 22 and 28.

9 4. Amortization of Certain Regulatory Assets/Liabilities and
10 Rate Case Expense. Under the settlement, the Stipulating Parties agreed to
11 amortize all previously authorized regulatory asset and liability end of
12 period balances (comprised of Pipeline Integrity Management -
13 Transmission deferred O&M expenses, EasternNC deferred O&M
14 expenses, Environmental Compliance Assessment and Clean-Up deferred
15 O&M expense, and a newly determined under-collection of regulatory fee
16 expense) over a period of four years in each case. The Company had sought
17 in its Application to amortize the recovery of these amounts over a period
18 of 3 years, while the Public Staff recommended a 5-year amortization
19 period. On these matters, the settlement resulted in a downward adjustment
20 to Piedmont's updated annual revenue requirement of approximately (\$6.3
21 million), which is represented on Settlement Exhibit_(PKP-1) as the sum of
22 the adjustments on lines 29, 30, 32 and 33. Under the settlement, the

1 Stipulating Parties have agreed to recovery of a lower amount of rate case
2 expense than originally proposed by the Company, and to amortize recovery
3 of that cost over 4 years instead of 3 years. On rate case expense, the
4 settlement resulted in a downward adjustment to Piedmont's updated annual
5 revenue requirement of approximately (\$0.3 million), which is represented
6 on Settlement Exhibit_(PKP-1) as the adjustment on line 23.

7 5. Operations and Maintenance ("O&M") Expenses. Under the
8 settlement, the Stipulating Parties agreed to a variety of adjustments to other
9 O&M expenses for ratemaking that encompass the following categories of
10 expense: Board of Directors expenses, sponsorships and donations,
11 inflation, lobbying, uncollectibles, regulatory fee, rents, line locates
12 expense, aviation, advertising, and miscellaneous general expense. These
13 modifications taken together resulted in a downward adjustment to
14 Piedmont's updated annual revenue requirement of approximately (\$4.0
15 million), which is represented on Settlement Exhibit_(PKP-1) as the sum of
16 the adjustments on lines 20, 24 thru 26, 34 thru 38, 40, 42, 43 and 45.

17 6. Additional Conservation Program Funding. Under the
18 settlement, the Stipulating Parties agreed that the Company's proposal to
19 increase its recoverable expenditures on Conservation Programs for
20 customers as contained in Piedmont's Application in this docket should not
21 be approved. Accordingly, the settlement resulted in a downward
22 adjustment to Piedmont's updated annual revenue requirement of

1 approximately (\$1.2 million), which is represented on Settlement
2 Exhibit_(PKP-1) on line 15.

3 7. GTI Funding. Under the settlement, the Stipulating Parties
4 agreed that the proposed annual funding increase for its GTI Operations
5 Technology Development program participation should be included in
6 Piedmont's annual revenue requirement but that the total proposed annual
7 funding for its GTI Utilization Technology Development program
8 participation should not be included in Piedmont's annual revenue
9 requirement. Accordingly, the settlement resulted in a downward
10 adjustment to Piedmont's updated annual revenue requirement of
11 approximately (\$0.4 million), which is represented on Settlement
12 Exhibit_(PKP-1) on line 39.

13 8. Non-Utility Adjustment. Under the settlement, the
14 Stipulating Parties agreed to include a non-utility adjustment for ratemaking
15 that was greater than the Company's proposed non-utility adjustment in its
16 Application. Accordingly, the settlement resulted in a downward
17 adjustment to Piedmont's updated annual revenue requirement of
18 approximately (\$1.4 million), which is represented on Settlement
19 Exhibit_(PKP-1) on line 27.

20 9. Plant, Accumulated Depreciation, Accumulated Deferred
21 Income Taxes, and other Rate Base-Related Adjustments. Under the
22 settlement, the Stipulating Parties agreed to several changes to Piedmont's

1 rate base in the Stipulation, including an adjustment to increase
2 accumulated depreciation (which is a deduction to rate base) that aligns with
3 the stipulated going-level depreciation expense associated with plant in
4 service as of June 30, 2019, adjustments to working capital that align to the
5 settled amortization of the regulatory assets and liabilities, adjustments to
6 exclude state and federal Excess Deferred Income Taxes ("EDIT") from the
7 accumulated deferred income tax ("ADIT") rate base deduction, and the
8 amortization of protected EDIT. Other rate base-related adjustments
9 include changes to depreciation expense to adopt the revised depreciation
10 rates and reallocations of book reserves reflected in the depreciation study
11 while also reflecting the cost of service impacts of the reallocation of the
12 reserve accounts related to the NC direct and corporate allocated general
13 plant accounts, as well as property tax that align with the settled changes to
14 rate base net of non-utility adjustments. In total, these modifications
15 resulted in an upward adjustment to Piedmont's updated annual revenue
16 requirement of approximately \$4.0 million, which is represented on
17 Settlement Exhibit_(PKP-1) as the sum of the adjustments on lines 8 thru
18 12, 16, 31, 41 and 44.

19 **Q. Please explain the adjustments in this settlement for the flow-through**
20 **to customers of savings related to recent federal and state tax reform,**
21 **and the associated impact to the overall revenue requirement for**
22 **Piedmont.**

1 A. As mentioned earlier in my Settlement Testimony, the settlement also
2 provides for a more accelerated refund to customers of the tax savings
3 associated with the recent federal and state tax reform as compared to that
4 proposed by the Company in its Application and Update Filing.
5 Specifically, the Stipulating Parties agreed to a number of amortizations of
6 regulatory liabilities associated with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts ("TCJA")
7 of 2017 as well as previous North Carolina legislation lowering the state
8 corporate income tax rate for Piedmont. These include a one-year
9 amortization for deferred tax savings accrued since January 1, 2018 (i.e.,
10 the overcollected revenues accrued since January 1, 2018) associated with
11 the TCJA's reduction in federal corporate income tax rates from 35% to
12 21%, a three-year amortization of state EDIT resulting from prior
13 reductions in the North Carolina corporate income tax rates, and a five-year
14 amortization of federal Unprotected EDIT resulting from the TCJA. The
15 Stipulating Parties agree that each of these three categories of tax savings
16 be flowed to customers via a rider, and the cumulative impact of these riders
17 substantially mitigates the impact of Piedmont's proposed margin revenue
18 increase. In year one, that cumulative impact of the riders is a downward
19 adjustment to the revenue requirement of (\$80.7 million), which is shown
20 on line 51 of Settlement Exhibit_(PKP-1) and represents the aggregate
21 effect of the individual riders shown on lines 48 thru 50 of Settlement
22 Exhibit_(PKP-1). The impact of the settled increase in the margin revenues

1 net of the tax rider adjustments is a total revenue requirement increase in
2 year one of approximately \$28.1 million. This amount is shown on line 52
3 of Settlement Exhibit_(PKP-1). Starting in year two, the impact of the
4 settled increase in the margin revenues net of the tax rider adjustments is a
5 total revenue requirement increase of approximately \$64.8 million, which
6 is shown on line 53 of Settlement Exhibit_(PKP-1).

7 **Q. Please explain the impact of the stipulated cap to the revenue increase**
8 **starting in year four.**

9 A. Lines 54 and 55 of Settlement Exhibit_(PKP-1) show the revenue
10 requirement increase without consideration of the revenue increase cap
11 articulated in Paragraph 6G of the Stipulation. Starting in year four (when
12 two of the three tax riders have been fully amortized), the impact of the
13 settled increase in the margin revenues net of the tax rider adjustments
14 would be a total revenue requirement increase of approximately \$85.5
15 million. And starting in year six (when all three riders have been fully
16 amortized), the impact of the settled increase in the margin revenues net of
17 the tax rider adjustments would be a total revenue requirement increase of
18 approximately \$108.8 million. This overall increase of approximately
19 \$108.8 million starting in year six, is also shown in column (e) of Exhibit A
20 of the settlement.

21 Paragraph 6G of the Stipulation articulates that the rates and charges
22 approved in this case yield a revenue increase subsequent to year three of

1 no greater than \$82,820,089, which is the exact amount of the revenue
2 increase requested in the Company's April 1, 2019 filed Application and
3 the revenue increase accordingly cited in the public Notice of Hearings in
4 this case. Accordingly, starting in year four (when two of the three tax
5 riders have been fully amortized), the impact of the settled increase in the
6 margin revenues net of the tax rider adjustments will be a total revenue
7 requirement increase of \$82.8 million (not \$85.5 million) due to the
8 stipulated cap. And starting in year six (when all three riders have been
9 fully amortized), the impact of the settled increase in the margin revenue
10 net of the tax rider adjustments will remain at \$82.2 million (not \$108.8
11 million) due to the stipulated cap.

12 **Q. Did Piedmont expressly agree with each of the component adjustments**
13 **in the settlement?**

14 A. No. In fact, Piedmont strongly disagreed with many of these adjustments
15 on an individual basis. I believe Public Staff, CUCA and CIGFUR IV each
16 likewise opposed many of these adjustments in isolation. In order to reach
17 settlement, however, each of the Stipulating Parties compromised on a large
18 number of individual issues in order to reach a comprehensive agreement in
19 this case. The settlement was arrived at as a whole and, as the Stipulation
20 indicates, each individual adjustment may not have been agreeable to all
21 parties participating in this settlement. However, when considered as a
22 whole, the totality of the adjustments was acceptable to each of the

1 Stipulating Parties. For this reason, the Stipulating Parties agree that no
2 precedent is intended to be established by the individual adjustments or
3 component provisions of the Stipulation but that each would support the
4 Stipulation as a whole before the Commission as a reasonable resolution of
5 Piedmont's rate case filing.

6 **Q. Do you believe that the overall settlement reached by the Stipulating**
7 **Parties and presented to the Commission is just and reasonable and**
8 **otherwise compliant with the requirements of North Carolina law?**

9 A. Yes, I do.

10 **Q. Does Piedmont support the 9.70% rate of return on common equity set**
11 **forth in the settlement?**

12 A. Yes. However, I would note that this is an example of an individual issue
13 that Piedmont would not have agreed to in isolation but has agreed to as part
14 of the overall settlement.

15 **Q. Do you believe the agreed rate of return on common equity is fair to**
16 **customers?**

17 A. Yes, I do. Piedmont witness Hevert is filing testimony supporting the
18 reasonableness of the agreed ROE as is Public Staff witness Hinton. In
19 addition to the testimony of these two experts, there are other extrinsic
20 indicators that the agreed return on equity ("ROE") is just and reasonable.
21 For example, the settled ROE is 90 basis points lower than the requested
22 ROE of 10.60%. It is also 30 basis points lower than the ROE of 10.00%

1 approved in Piedmont's last general rate proceeding in North Carolina,
2 which is Piedmont's current allowed ROE. It is also comparable to the rate
3 of return on common equity currently allowed for Public Service Company
4 of North Carolina, Inc., and is within 5 basis points of the most recently
5 litigated ROE for a North Carolina water utility. It is also well below the
6 current allowed ROE's for Piedmont's two sister electric utilities in North
7 Carolina -- Duke Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress. It is also
8 within 6 basis points of the national average ROE granted to local
9 distribution utilities in 2019. Finally, it is lower than Piedmont's approved
10 rates of return on common equity in South Carolina and Tennessee. These
11 are all indicators that the settled ROE of 9.70% is just and reasonable in this
12 case.

13 **Q. Does the Stipulation address any non-economic issues?**

14 **A.** Yes. There were several non-economic issues raised by our filing in this
15 docket and the agreements of the Stipulating Parties on these non-economic
16 issues are as described below.

17 1. Continuation of IMR. The Stipulating Parties agreed that
18 this safety related surcharge mechanism should be continued for the benefit
19 of the citizens of the State of North Carolina. The Stipulating Parties also
20 agree that the special contract credit mechanism currently reflected in
21 Appendix E to Piedmont's North Carolina Service Regulations, which
22 Piedmont had originally proposed to remove from its tariffs, should be

1 updated and continued and those revisions will be incorporated into the
2 revised IMR tariff set forth in the Exhibit F to the Stipulation.

3 2. Tariff and Service Regulation Changes. The Stipulating
4 Parties agreed that Piedmont's other proposed tariff changes, including
5 elimination of its Standby Sales Service for transportation customers but
6 not including Piedmont's proposed Appendix G – EDIT Rider to its North
7 Carolina Service Regulations, should be approved. The Stipulating Parties
8 agreed that Piedmont's proposed Appendix G to its North Carolina Service
9 Regulations should not be approved. Those changes are incorporated into
10 the revised rate schedules and service regulations attached to the Stipulation
11 as Exhibits G and H.

12 3. Depreciation Study. The Stipulating Parties agreed that
13 Piedmont should implement the revised depreciation rates and reallocations
14 of book reserves set forth in the testimony and depreciation study of
15 Piedmont witness Watson and further agreed that Piedmont's filings in this
16 case satisfy the requirements of Commission Rule R6-80.

17 4. DIMP O&M Deferral. The Stipulating Parties agreed that
18 Piedmont's proposed DIMP O&M deferral request should be approved.

19 5. Annual TIMP and DIMP O&M Deferral Reports. Piedmont
20 agreed to provide annual reports to the Public Staff with documentation on
21 its incremental expenses subject to the TIMP and DIMP O&M deferral
22 mechanisms to assist the Public Staff in its audit function with regard to
23 those deferred accounts.

1 6. Consolidation of Common Gas Areas (“CGAs”). The
2 Stipulating Parties agreed to the consolidation of Piedmont’s CGAs from
3 eleven to two such areas.

4 7. Line 434 Revenue Rider. The Stipulating Parties agreed that
5 Piedmont shall establish a new rider, called the Line 434 Revenue Rider, to
6 flow through to tariff customers any specific demand charge revenue from
7 Special Contract Customers that may begin to be recovered by Piedmont
8 subsequent to the effective date of the rates approved in this case related to
9 Piedmont’s Line 434 project (which became used and useful in the
10 provision of gas service to the benefit of Piedmont’s customers in
11 November 2018, and is accordingly included in rate base in this
12 proceeding), but before the first general rate case proceeding after the
13 beginning of the Company’s receipt of such demand charge revenue.

14 8. Rates for Special Contracts (including Contracts Rates for
15 Electric Generation Customers). Piedmont and the Public Staff have also
16 agreed to work together toward a rate mechanism whereby in future special
17 contracts, including electric generation service contract arrangements,
18 Piedmont will incorporate a volumetric rate component to those customers
19 to support Piedmont’s existing system infrastructure to the extent that
20 infrastructure is relied upon to provide service to those customers.

21 **Q. Are the rates proposed by the Stipulation fair, just and reasonable?**

22 A. Yes. The rates agreed to as part of the Stipulation and reflected in Exhibit
23 C thereto were the product of give and take negotiations between the

1 Stipulating Parties. Each party analyzed the settlement rates and concluded
2 they were reasonable for purposes of settling this proceeding. The
3 settlement rates are also very beneficial to customers compared to
4 Piedmont's proposed rates in this docket.

5 **Q. Please explain the stipulated rate design.**

6 A. The rate design portion of the settlement reflects considerable compromise
7 between the Stipulating Parties. The rate designs recommended by
8 Piedmont witness Yardley, Public Staff witness Patel, CUCA witness
9 O'Donnell and CIGFUR IV witness Phillips expressed varying viewpoints.
10 As stated by witness Patel in her prefiled direct testimony, rate design
11 considers many factors including value and type of service, quantity of use,
12 time of use, manner of service, competitive conditions relating to the
13 acquisition of new customers, historical rate design, the Company's revenue
14 stability, economic policy, administrative ease and an allocated cost of
15 service study. Whereas the overall revenue requirement increase in year
16 one is 3.1% (as explained earlier in my testimony), the stipulated rate design
17 does not yield an across-the-board 3.1% increase for all customer classes.
18 The impact by customer class (rate schedule) of the stipulated revenue
19 requirement increase is shown on Exhibit J to the settlement agreement.

20 **Q. Do you believe that the stipulated rate increase, including the stipulated**
21 **ROE is consistent with the statutory factors identified in G.S. 62-133**
22 **and is otherwise fair and reasonable to Piedmont and its customers**
23 **considering changing economic conditions?**

1 A. Yes, I do, for all of the reasons I mentioned above.

2 **Q. What are you requesting the Commission do in this case?**

3 A. I am requesting that the Commission, on the basis of its own independent
4 evaluation of all the evidence presented in this case, approve the terms of
5 the settlement reached with the Public Staff as just and reasonable and the
6 appropriate resolution of this case.

7 **Q. Does this conclude your Settlement Testimony?**

8 A. Yes.
9

EXHIBIT_(PKP-1)

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.
Docket No. G-9, Sub 743
SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENT ADJUSTMENTS
For The Test Year Ended December 31, 2018

| Line No. | Item | Settlement |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Original Application - Increase in Revenue Requirement filed by the Company | \$118,116,597 |
| 2 | Additional Increase in Revenue Requirement due to June 2019 update | 25,519,289 |
| 3 | Increase In Margin Revenue Requested due to Company Update | \$143,635,886 |
| | Settlement Adjustments: | |
| 4 | Change in Equity ratio from 52% to 52% | (16,459) |
| 5 | Change in cost of long-term debt from 4.40% to 4.41% | 159,698 |
| 6 | Change in cost of short-term debt from 2.78% to 2.72% | (17,274) |
| 7 | Change in return on equity from 10.60% to 9.70% | (20,579,402) |
| 8 | Plant in Service Updates and Related Items at June 30, 2019 | (865,491) |
| 9 | ADIT - updated to June 30, 2019 | (137,715) |
| 10 | Adjustment to exclude Federal Tax EDIT | 6,638,773 |
| 11 | Adjustment to exclude State Tax EDIT | 3,769,738 |
| 12 | Adjust working capital for lead lag to reflect reclassifying lead lag adjustment from Proposed to Pro Forma | (1,189,797) |
| 13 | Adjustment to end of period revenue - weather, growth, and commodity costs | 5,818 |
| 14 | Adjustment to other operating revenues | (143,469) |
| 15 | Customer Conservation Program | (1,233,358) |
| 16 | Special Contract - remove PIS associated with facilities | (112,358) |
| 17 | Payroll and Related Expenses | (169,581) |
| 18 | Overtime | (234,480) |
| 19 | Employee Benefits | (836,922) |
| 20 | Board Expenses | (422,000) |
| 21 | Executive Compensation | (1,484,492) |
| 22 | Incentives | (1,185,815) |
| 23 | Rate Case Expenses - updated, 4 year amortization, no rate base | (268,917) |
| 24 | Sponsorships & Donations | (119,152) |
| 25 | Uncollectibles | (45,603) |
| 26 | Inflation Adjustment - removed certain expenses and updated rate | (635,832) |
| 27 | Nonutility Adjustment - O&M and plant | (1,364,212) |
| 28 | Pension Expense | (844,683) |
| 29 | Deferral: PIM Transmission Costs - update actual expenses @ June 30, 2019, 4 year amortization | (5,450,230) |
| 30 | Deferral: Environmental Costs - update actual expenses @ June 30, 2019, 4 year amortization | (11,359) |
| 31 | Deferral: NCNG OPEB Liability, remove balance | (829) |
| 32 | Deferral EasternNC, 4 year amortization | (846,566) |
| 33 | Undercollection of Regulatory Fee, 4 year amortization | (22,368) |
| 34 | Line Locates Expense | (465,162) |
| 35 | Regulatory Fee Expense - change to 0.13% per Commission Order | 2,242 |
| 36 | Advertising - remove promotional, image, competitive, & non-recurring | (297,937) |
| 37 | Miscellaneous General Expenses | (358,102) |
| 38 | Aviation Expense | (485,760) |
| 39 | Gas Technology Institute (GTI) Funding | (352,387) |
| 40 | Lobbying Expenses | (156,536) |
| 41 | Amortization of protected EDIT, net of tax | (4,954,772) |
| 42 | Rents Expense | (497,525) |
| 43 | Change in retention factor - Uncollectibles and Regulatory Fee changes | (482,492) |
| 44 | Adjust cash working capital for revenue impact of Settlement adjustments | 872,742 |
| 45 | Rounding | 929 |
| 46 | Settlement Adjustments | (34,839,098) |
| 47 | Settlement Recommended Change In Margin Revenue | \$108,796,788 |
| | Rider Impacts on Settlement Revenue Requirement: | |
| 48 | Federal Unprotected EDIT Rider, 5 year flow back | (\$23,304,269) |
| 49 | State EDIT, 3 year flow back | (20,735,154) |
| 50 | Overcollection of Revenues from Federal Tax Change, 1 year flow back | (36,699,240) |
| 51 | Settlement Recommended Change In Revenue Requirement due to Riders (Sum of Lines 48-50) | (\$80,738,663) |
| 52 | Settlement Recommended Change In Revenue Requirement for Year 1 | \$28,058,125 |
| 53 | Settlement Recommended Change in Revenue Requirement for Years 2 -3 | \$64,757,365 |
| 54 | Settlement Recommended Change in Revenue Requirement for Years 4 -5 | \$85,492,519 |
| 55 | Settlement Recommended Change in Revenue Requirement for Year 6 | \$108,796,788 |