

# THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
PIEDMONT GAS COMPANY FOR  
AUTHORITY TO ABANDON NATURAL  
GAS SERVICE.

CASE NO. 17-2003-GA-ABN

## FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on March 10, 2021

### I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the application filed by Piedmont Gas Company for authority to discontinue service to three premises in Harrison County, Ohio.

### II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Piedmont Gas Company (Piedmont or the Company) is a public utility as defined in R.C. 4905.02 and a natural gas company as defined in R.C. 4905.03 and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 3} R.C. 4905.20 and 4905.21 generally provide that public utilities may not abandon service, except with the approval of the Commission, following an application for abandonment. The Commission has previously found that transactions involving the transfer of service by a regulated public utility to service by a nonregulated entity are not tantamount to an abandonment of service or facilities within the meaning of R.C. 4905.20 and 4905.21. *See, e.g., In re Southeastern Natural Gas Co.*, Case No. 15-1508-GA-ATR, Finding and Order (June 1, 2016); *In re Northern Industrial Energy Development, Inc.*, Case No. 05-1267-GA-ATR, Finding and Order (Dec. 14, 2005).

{¶ 4} On September 20, 2017, Piedmont filed, pursuant to R.C. 4905.20 and 4905.21, an application for authority to abandon service to three premises in Tippecanoe, Ohio in Harrison County. Piedmont states that it has served the customers at these premises since 1993 through a farm tap or production line that is owned by another company. Piedmont further states that, over a period of many years, it has experienced various failures and problems with the deteriorating production line and, consequently, the Company has

implemented various protective measures. Piedmont explains that, despite these steps, the Company has been unable to provide reliable service and it has become economically impractical to continue to supply gas to the premises in question. Emphasizing that all three customers have acquired an alternative energy source, Piedmont requests that the Commission approve its application for abandonment of service.

{¶ 5} On September 21, 2017, Piedmont filed an amended application to correct two of the addresses for the premises in question. Piedmont clarifies that two of the customers are located in Freeport, Ohio in Harrison County.

{¶ 6} On February 19, 2021, Staff filed its review and recommendations with regard to Piedmont's application. Following its review of the application, Staff states that the application is reasonable and in the public interest and that it should, therefore, be approved.

{¶ 7} The Commission finds that Piedmont's amended application for authority to cease service to the three premises in Harrison County, as identified in the amended application, is reasonable and should be approved. Both the amended application and Staff's review and recommendations indicate that the three affected customers have acquired an alternative energy source and, therefore, have continued to receive service for lighting, power, or heating purposes. Additionally, the Commission notes that no person has filed a motion to intervene in this case or comments in response to Piedmont's application. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the amended application should be approved.

### III. ORDER

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That Piedmont's amended application be approved. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon all interested persons and parties of record.

**COMMISSIONERS:**

***Approving:***

M. Beth Trombold  
Lawrence K. Friedeman  
Daniel R. Conway  
Dennis P. Deters

SJP/kck

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**Case No(s). 17-2003-GA-ABN**

Summary: Finding & Order approving the application filed by Piedmont Gas Company for authority to discontinue service to three premises in Harrison County, Ohio. electronically filed by Ms. Mary E Fischer on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio