

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). <p style="text-align: center;">▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.</p>	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">2017</div> This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2017</u> and ending <u>12/31/2017</u>	
A	This return/report is for: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> ☐ a multiemployer plan ☒ a single-employer plan </div> <div> ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☐ a DFE (specify) ____ </div> </div>
B	This return/report is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> ☐ the first return/report ☐ an amended return/report </div> <div> ☒ the final return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months) </div> </div>
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> ☒ Form 5558 ☐ special extension (enter description) </div> <div> ☐ automatic extension </div> <div> ☐ the DFVC program </div> </div>

Part II	Basic Plan Information —enter all requested information		
1a Name of plan PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC. 401(K) PLAN 2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC. 4720 PIEDMONT ROW DRIVE CHARLOTTE, NC 28210	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>007</u>		
	1c Effective date of plan <u>11/01/1989</u>		
	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>56-0556998</u>		
	2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>704-382-4703</u>		
	2d Business code (see instructions) <u>221210</u>		

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/15/2018	THOMAS SILINSKI
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2017)
v. 170203

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☐ Same as Plan Sponsor DUKE ENERGY BENEFITS COMMITTEE 550 SOUTH TRYON STREET DEC 38A CHARLOTTE, NC 28202	3b Administrator's EIN 20-2777218 3c Administrator's telephone number 704-382-4703
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 2200
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6a(1) 1950 6a(2) 0 6b 0 6c 0 6d 0 6e 0 6f 0 6g 0 6h 0
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7
8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions: 2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2S 2T 3H b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:	

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
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10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1) ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary

b General Schedules

- (1) ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) ☐ 0 **A** (Insurance Information)
- (4) ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) ☒ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2017 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2017 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2017
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017	
A Name of plan PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC. 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 007
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-0556998

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. ☒ Yes ☐ No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
WELLS FARGO
94-1347393

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

94-1347393

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
21 99 37 63	NONE	302584	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☐ No ☒

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

SAGEVIEW ADVISORY GROUP LLC

33-0818667

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
26 27 51	NONE	107614	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☐ No ☒

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>	DFE/Participating Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2017 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

A Name of plan <u>PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC. 401(K) PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	<u>007</u>
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>56-0556998</u>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs) (Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: WELLS FARGO ENHANCED STOCK MARKET F

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): WELLS FARGO BANK NA

c EIN-PN <u>56-6288528-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: WELLS FARGO STABLE RETURN FUND N

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): WELLS FARGO BANK NA

c EIN-PN <u>41-6202499-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans)

a Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2017 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2017</u> and ending <u>12/31/2017</u>		
A Name of plan <u>PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC. 401(K) PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	<u>007</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>56-0556998</u>	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.				
	Assets			
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a			
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):				
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)			
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)			
(3) Other.....	1b(3)			
c General investments:				
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)			
(2) U.S. Government securities.....	1c(2)			
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):				
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)			
(B) All other.....	1c(3)(B)			
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):				
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)			
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)			
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)			
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)			
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)			
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	5774819		0
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts.....	1c(9)	80258531		0
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts.....	1c(10)			
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)			
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)			
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	1c(13)	170672371		0
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)			
(15) Other	1c(15)			

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d	Employer-related investments:		
(1)	Employer securities	1d(1)	
(2)	Employer real property	1d(2)	
e	Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	
f	Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	256705721 0
Liabilities			
g	Benefit claims payable	1g	
h	Operating payables	1h	
i	Acquisition indebtedness	1i	
j	Other liabilities	1j	
k	Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0 0
Net Assets			
l	Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	256705721 0

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a	Contributions:		
(1)	Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	6526952
	(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	10582167
	(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	410434
(2)	Noncash contributions	2a(2)	
(3)	Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)	17519553
b	Earnings on investments:		
(1)	Interest:		
	(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	
	(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)	
	(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)	
	(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	
	(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	314651
	(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	
	(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)	314651
(2)	Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)	
	(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	
	(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	2373159
	(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)	2373159
(3)	Rents	2b(3)	
(4)	Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	
	(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	
	(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)	0
(5)	Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)	
	(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	
	(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)	0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		8825609
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	2b(10)		32792137
c Other income	2c		1582
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		61826691

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	34382618	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3).....	2e(4)		34382618
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		315308
h Interest expense.....	2h		
i Administrative expenses: (1) Professional fees	2i(1)	410198	
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)		
(4) Other	2i(4)		
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4).....	2i(5)		410198
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		35108124

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		26718567
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		283424288

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☐ Unqualified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☒ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Did the accountant perform a limited scope audit pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and/or 103-12(d)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: MCCONNELL & JONES LLP

(2) EIN: 76-0488832

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.).....

b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)

	Yes	No	Amount
4a		X	
4b		X	

		Yes	No	Amount
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	4c		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	4d		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	4e	X		1500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	4f		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	4g		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	4h		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	4i		X	
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	4j		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	4k	X		
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	4l		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	4m		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	4n			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☒ Yes ☐ No
 If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year 0.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)
DUKE ENERGY RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN	20-2777218	002

5c If the plan is a defined benefit plan, is it covered under the PBGC insurance program (See ERISA section 4021.)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined
 If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____ . (See instructions.)

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2017 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

A Name of plan <u>PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC. 401(K) PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>007</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>56-0556998</u>

Part I	Distributions
---------------	----------------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions	1	<u>0</u>
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): <u>56-1354495</u>		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.		
3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
----------------	---

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.			
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.			
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
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9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
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Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
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10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Schedule R (Form 5500) 2017
v. 170203

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a	Name of contributing employer		
b	EIN	c	Dollar amount contributed by employer
d	Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____		
e	Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)		
	(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____		
	(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____		
a	Name of contributing employer		
b	EIN	c	Dollar amount contributed by employer
d	Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____		
e	Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)		
	(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____		
	(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____		
a	Name of contributing employer		
b	EIN	c	Dollar amount contributed by employer
d	Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____		
e	Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)		
	(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____		
	(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____		
a	Name of contributing employer		
b	EIN	c	Dollar amount contributed by employer
d	Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____		
e	Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)		
	(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____		
	(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____		
a	Name of contributing employer		
b	EIN	c	Dollar amount contributed by employer
d	Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____		
e	Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)		
	(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____		
	(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____		

- 14** Enter the number of participants on whose behalf no contributions were made by an employer as an employer of the participant for:

a The current year	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	14b	
c The second preceding plan year	14c	

- 15** Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	

- 16** Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16b	

- 17** If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment. ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

- 18** If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

- 19** If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)

- a** Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Stock: 0.0% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

- b** Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:

☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

- c** What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)?

☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify): _____

**Piedmont Natural Gas
Company, Inc. 401(k) Plan**

**Independent Auditors' Report
and Financial Statements**

December 31, 2017 and 2016

**Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.
401(k) Plan**

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December 31, 2017 and 2016**

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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Benefits Committee of Duke Energy Corporation and Participants in the
Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. 401(k) Plan
Charlotte, NC

Report on the Financial Statements

We were engaged to audit the accompanying financial statements of the Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the "Plan"), which comprise the Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2017, and the related Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the year then ended, and the related Notes to Financial Statements.

Plan Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Plan management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"); this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the 2017 financial statements based on conducting the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAS"). Because of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, however, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the 2017 financial statements.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion on the 2017 Financial Statements

As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's ("DOL") Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"), Plan management instructed us not to perform, and we did not perform, any auditing procedures with respect to the investment information summarized in Note 7, which was certified by Wells Fargo, the trustee of the Plan ("Trustee"), except for comparing such information with the related information included in the 2017 financial statements. We have been informed by Plan management that the Trustee holds the Plan's investment assets and executes investment transactions. Plan management has obtained a certification from the Trustee as of December 31, 2017 and for the year then ended, that the information provided to Plan management by the Trustee is complete and accurate.

Disclaimer of Opinion on the 2017 Financial Statements

Because of the significance of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion on the 2017 Financial Statements paragraph, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the 2017 Financial Statements. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the 2017 financial statements.

Other Matter – Report on the 2016 Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2016, and the related Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the year then ended, and in our report dated June 27, 2017, we expressed our opinion that such financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2016 and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, in accordance with GAAP.

Report on Form and Content in Compliance with DOL Rules and Regulations for the 2017 Financial Statements

The form and content of the information included in the 2017 financial statements, other than that derived from the information certified by the Trustee, has been audited by us in accordance with GAAS and, in our opinion, is presented in compliance with DOL Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

McConnell & Pomeroy LLP

Houston, Texas
September 28, 2018

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.
401(k) Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2017 and 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Assets		
Investments		
Investments, at fair value	\$ -	\$ 250,930,902
Receivables		
Notes receivable from participants	-	5,774,819
Total Receivables	-	5,774,819
Net Assets Available for Benefits	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 256,705,721</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.
401(k) Plan

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Year Ended December 31, 2017

Additions

Investment Income

Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 41,617,747
Dividends and interest	<u>2,374,740</u>

Total investment income	43,992,487
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Interest from participant notes receivable	314,651
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Contributions

Participants	10,582,167
Employer	6,526,952
Rollover	<u>410,434</u>

Total contributions	17,519,553
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Total additions	<u>61,826,691</u>
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Deductions

Benefits paid directly to participants	34,697,926
Administrative expenses	<u>410,198</u>

Total deductions	<u>35,108,124</u>
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Net Increase prior to transfer	26,718,567
---------------------------------------	------------

Transfer to Duke Energy Retirement Savings Plan	<u>(283,424,288)</u>
--	----------------------

Net Decrease	(256,705,721)
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Net Assets Available for Benefits, Beginning of Year	<u>256,705,721</u>
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Net Assets Available for Benefits, End of Year	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.
401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

Note 1. Description of the Plan

The following description of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (the “Company”) 401(k) Plan (“the Plan”) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan document for more complete information.

General: The Plan is a defined contribution plan sponsored by the Company providing benefits to participating employees or their beneficiaries upon retirement, death or termination of employment (following a break in service, as defined in the Plan).

Employees become eligible to participate in the Plan after they have completed thirty days of continuous service with the Company and have attained age 18. The Plan is administered by the Duke Energy Benefits Committee (“Benefits Committee” or “Plan Administrator”). Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. (“Wells Fargo”) serves as the trustee and recordkeeper of the Plan. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”).

On October 3, 2016, the acquisition of the Company by Duke Energy Corporation (“Duke Energy”) and its affiliates was consummated. Under the terms of the Merger Agreement, each share of Piedmont common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the closing (other than shares owned by Duke Energy or its wholly owned subsidiaries) was converted automatically into the right to receive \$60 in cash per share, without interest, less any applicable withholding taxes. As a result of the merger, the legacy Piedmont common stock outstanding was canceled, and Piedmont's common stock was delisted from the NYSE.

Contributions: Employees are able to contribute up to 50% of eligible pay to the Plan on a pre-tax basis, up to the Tax Code annual contribution limit. Employees are able to receive a company match of 100% up to the first 5% of eligible pay contributed. The Company automatically enrolls all newly eligible employees in the Plan at a 2% contribution rate unless the employee chooses not to participate by notifying the Plan trustee. For employees who are automatically enrolled in the Plan, the Company will automatically increase their contributions by 1% each year to a maximum of 5% unless the employee chooses to opt out of the automatic increase by contacting the trustee. If the employee does not make an investment election, employee contributions and matches are automatically invested in designated Qualified Default Investment Alternative (QDIA) funds. Prior to the transaction with Duke Energy, participants were able to invest in Company common stock up to a maximum of 20% of their account. Employees may change their contribution rate and investments at any time. Additional amounts may be contributed by the Company at the discretion of the Company’s Board of Directors. There were no discretionary Company contributions during the year ended December 31, 2017. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans.

Participant accounts: Individual accounts are maintained for each Plan participant. Each participant’s account is credited with the participant’s contribution, the Company’s matching contribution, and allocations of Company discretionary contributions, if applicable, and Plan earnings, and charged with any benefit payments, and allocations of Plan losses and expenses. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant’s vested account.

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.
401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

Investments: Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. Currently, the Plan offers eleven mutual funds and two collective investment trust funds as investment options for participants.

Vesting: All participant contributions and earnings thereon are fully vested and non-forfeitable upon allocation to the participants' accounts. A participant will become 100% vested in his employer matching contributions after the participant completes six months of service.

Notes receivable from participants: Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$50,000 or 50% of their account balances, whichever is less. Loans must be entirely repaid within 5 years unless the loan is for the purchase of a primary residence. Effective September 2014, the loan policy was amended to allow for only one loan to be outstanding at a time. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions. Interest rates on loans ranged from 5.25% to 6.77% at December 31, 2017.

Payment of benefits: The Plan allows distributions for retirement, long-term disability, termination of employment, age 59 ½ in-service withdrawals, hardship or death. The vested balance of a participant's account will be paid to the participant, or, in the case of death, to the spouse or beneficiary, if any, in a single, lump sum of cash or common stock as permitted by the Plan.

Plan Merger: Effective at the close of business on December 31, 2017, the Plan merged into the Duke Energy Retirement Savings Plan (Duke RSP). Prior to December 31, 2017, \$33.4 million assets and \$5.8 million loans transferred to the Duke RSP. As of December 31, 2017, \$244.2 million assets were in transit and are included as "Pending Transfers from Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. Plans" on the Duke RSP's Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting: The accompanying financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual method of accounting.

Use of estimates: The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment valuation and income recognition: Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 7 for disclosure of the Plan's fair value measurements.

The Plan utilizes market data or assumptions about risk and the risks inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique. These inputs can be readily observable, market corroborated or generally observable. The Plan primarily applies the market approach for recurring fair value measurements and endeavor to utilize the best available information. Accordingly, the Plan uses valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.
401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

The Plan is able to classify fair value balances based on the observance of those inputs into the fair value hierarchy levels as set forth in the fair value accounting guidance.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for the Plan's investments measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2017 and 2016.

Mutual funds: Valued at the NAV of shares held by the Plan at year-end.

Collective investment trust funds: Valued at NAV based on information provided by the trustee and using the audited financial statements of the collective investment trust funds at year-end.

Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) or NAVs in active markets that can be accessed as of the reporting date and consist of investments in common stock and mutual funds. Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices in active markets included in Level 1, which are either directly or indirectly corroborated or observable as of the reporting date and generally use valuation methodologies. Level 3 inputs include significant pricing inputs that are generally less observable from objective sources.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The Investment Committee determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by its investment advisor and custodian.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Management fees and operating expenses charged to the Plan for investments in the mutual funds and collective investment trust funds are deducted from income earned on a daily basis and are not separately reflected. Consequently, management fees and operating expenses are reflected as a reduction of investment return for such investments. Additionally, the Plan received revenue sharing income of \$102,502 during 2017. This income is reflected as an addition to the investment return for such investments.

Contributions: Contributions from employees of the Plan Sponsor and matching contributions from the Plan Sponsor are recorded in the year in which the employee contributions are withheld along with the applicable matching contribution. All employee and employer contributions are participant-directed.

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Notes from participants: Notes from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed as they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2017 or 2016. Delinquent notes from participants are treated as distributions based upon the terms of the plan document.

Payment of benefits: Benefit payments to participants are recorded when paid.

Expenses: As provided by the Plan document, administrative expenses of the Plan are paid by the Plan.

Plan management's review of subsequent events: In preparing the accompanying financial statements, Plan management has reviewed all known events that have occurred after December 31, 2017, and through September 28, 2018, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued, for inclusion in the financial statements and footnotes.

Note 3. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan's participants invest in various investment securities offered by the Plan. These investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the financial statements.

Note 4. Federal Income Tax Status

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Company by a letter dated November 25, 2014, that the Plan was designed in accordance with the applicable regulations of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). The Benefits Committee believes the Plan is currently designed and is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and that the Plan and related trust continue to be tax exempt.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan. Management evaluated the Plan's tax positions and concluded that the Plan had maintained its tax exempt status and had taken no uncertain tax positions that require recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. With few exceptions, the Plan is no longer subject to income tax examinations by the U.S. federal, state, or local tax authorities for years before 2014.

Note 5. Exempt Party-in-Interest Transactions

Certain plan investments are units of participation in collective investment trust funds managed by Wells Fargo. Wells Fargo is the trustee as defined by the Plan, and therefore, these transactions qualify as exempt party-in-interest transactions. Fees paid by the Plan to Wells Fargo for trustee services amounted to \$247,383 for the year ended December 31, 2017 and are included in the expenses line item in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits. Additional expenses not paid to Wells Fargo include investment advisory fees and other various expenses.

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Note 6. Investments and Related Investment Income (Certified by Trustee)

The information related to investments as of December 31, 2017, and related investment income for the year then ended was certified by Wells Fargo as permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor rules under ERISA.

Note 7. Fair Value

The investments reported in the Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits, are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The Plan's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgment and may affect the valuation of fair value assets and their consideration within the fair value hierarchy levels.

The following tables set forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the assets measured at fair value as of December 31, 2016:

	December 31, 2016				
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total	
Investments subject to the fair value hierarchy:					
Mutual funds	\$ 170,672,371	\$ -	\$ -	\$	170,672,371
Total investments subject to the fair value hierarchy	\$ 170,672,371	\$ -	\$ -		170,672,371
Investments not subject to the fair value hierarchy:					
Collective investment trust funds					80,258,531
Total investments, at fair value:				\$	250,930,902

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Note 8. Net Asset Value Per Share

The following table sets forth additional disclosures of the investments whose fair value is estimated using net asset value per share (or its equivalent) as of December 31, 2016 for the Plan:

	Fair Value Estimated Using NAV per Share December 31, 2016				
	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitment	Redemption Frequency	Other Redemption Restrictions	Redemption Notice Period
Wells Fargo Stable Return Fund	\$ 44,683,564	None	Daily	Written notice	12 months
Wells Fargo Enhanced Stock Market Fund	\$ 35,574,967	None	Daily	None	None