

# Piedmont To Furnish Gas To 8 Carolina Cities

Piedmont Natural Gas Company of Spartanburg, S. C., this week promises speedy action on its program to furnish natural gas to eight Carolina cities, including Charlotte.

The Piedmont corporation received the go-ahead signal last week from the Federal Power Commission, after eight months of legal efforts. Officials now see it possible for the eight cities to have supplies of natural gas by the coming Fall season.

The seven cities the Piedmont Natural will serve, besides Charlotte, are Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Salisbury, High Point in North Carolina, and Greenville and Spartanburg in South Carolina.

The Commission's decision in favor of the company, headed by W. Priestly Conyers, Jr., of Spartanburg, also apparently brought somewhat nearer authorization, requested by two other Carolina companies, for franchises to supply natural gas to many other communities in these states.

These applicant companies are Carolina Natural Gas Corp. of Charlotte and Public Service Co. of North Carolina, Inc., of Gastonia.

**Won't Fight Ruling**  
Charles B. Zeigler, Public Service president, said today that his company will not attempt to contest in court over the FPC ruling in favor of Piedmont Natural. He explained that his company already has filed an alternate plan for natural gas distribution, excluding the communities awarded to Piedmont Natural.

Meanwhile Murrey Atkins, Carolina Natural president, said he will withhold comment regarding a possible appeal to the courts from the FPC decision. He indicated that a statement will be issued after he has studied the FPC ruling's text.

However, at Hickory, leaders in municipal and commercial affairs of Hickory, Lenoir and other communities in that section decided to continue their fight to obtain natural gas supplies for that area.

At a conference there recently, a resolution was adopted, calling upon Gov. Kerr Scott and the North Carolina Utilities Commission to withhold formal approval of the FPC award to Piedmont Natural at least until the Hickory area communities have had opportunity to formally support their demands for natural gas service.

**Hearings February 20**  
Hearings were set for February 20 by the commission on applications of these companies, which failed in their effort to obtain franchises to operate in the cities to be served by Piedmont Natural. The Power Commission indicated that it expects these companies to amend their applications to eliminate requests for authority to supply communities awarded to Piedmont Natural.

Mr. Conyers and Duke Power Company, with headquarters here, announced several months ago an agreement whereby Piedmont Natural will pay Duke \$5,000,000 for the manufactured gas plants Duke operates in eight cities. These cities, in addition to Charlotte, are Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Salisbury, High Point and Burlington, in this state and Greenville and Spartanburg, in South Carolina.

Mr. Conyers, estimated that approximately \$1,200,000 must be expended to construct lateral lines to supply natural gas. The FPC authorized Mr. Conyers to obtain gas supplies from Transcontinental Pipe Line Corp., which rapidly is completing a line extending from Texas to New York through Piedmont Carolina. Piedmont Natural plans to lay approximately 74 miles of lateral lines and install various other facilities.

Conversion of gas burning equipment in factories, stores, offices and homes and elsewhere to consumption of natural gas will be necessary before this lower cost fuel can be substituted for the presently consumed manufactured gas. Engineering sources explained that this conversion will be necessary as natural gas is much "hotter" than manufactured gas and different burners are required.

**Moderate Costs**  
Cost of this conversion will be moderate. Information was unavailable here as to whether conversion costs will be paid by Piedmont Natural or the gas consumers.

Mr. Conyers was reported in press dispatches from Washington as estimating that necessary

preliminaries can be completed in time to provide natural gas for these eight cities for the 1951-52 Fall-Winter-Spring heating season.

Much work must be done by Piedmont Natural before actual pipe laying is started. This preliminary work will include financing, survey, securing rights-of-way, and purchase of the pipe and other materials and equipment, Mr. Conyers explained.

The FPC recently authorized a substantial increase in Transcontinental Pipe Line's transport capacity, anticipating the granting of franchises for natural gas service in the Carolinas and elsewhere with Transcontinental as the supply source. The FPC also stipulated that Transcontinental should deliver 22,000,000 cubic feet daily to Piedmont Natural, with provision for subsequent increases as consumption should require.

## Blueprints For 'Iron Lung' Will Be Donated to Public

Blueprints and specifications that will make it possible for "any good mechanic" to build an iron lung for emergency polio cases are being drawn up by a manufacturer at Muncie, Ind.

The manufacturer, Jack Reichart, learned about iron lungs after a Muncie hospital called upon him to make one for the 8-year-old son of a local policeman. The hospital had 28 polio patients, and there was only one iron lung in the county.

Until that time, Mr. Reichart had never seen an iron lung. However, he took plans worked out in a similar emergency by another manufacturer at Marquette, Mich., and took the data to his plant.

Mr. Reichart went to work, and the whole town worked with him. All needed materials were donated. The dozen or more employees cooperated in the Reichart plant by toiling all night without pay.

They assembled steel barrels, industrial alcohol drums, several vacuum sweepers, and sponge rubber—all went into the job. They used crank shafts from an outboard motor and a quantity of plywood.

**Job Takes 10 Hours**  
The iron lung was assembled after 10 hours' work. It was taken to the hospital, and the policeman's son was the first to use it.

Immediately Mr. Reichart constructed two more of the respirators. Then he began work on another five. When his plans have been committed to paper, any community, he says, will be able to assemble the apparatus.

## J. B. MOONEY HEADS Albemarle C. of C.

Albemarle — At a meeting of the merchants division of the Albemarle Chamber of Commerce, J. B. Mooney, manager of the Penny store in Albemarle, was elected chairman for the year 1951. D. A. Moose served in this capacity in 1950.

Other officers chosen for the year include Sanford Davis, vice-chairman; E. M. Langley, director of the North Carolina Merchants association; and the following directors: D. A. Moose, Petzer Hartsell, Baxter Stokes, Francis Starnes, Bob Yingling, C. B. Smith, A. L. Griffith, and Bill Morrow.

The merchants voted to continue taking four regularly scheduled holidays as they have for the past few years. These are Easter Monday, July Fourth, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

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7.50	2,009.02	4,329.02	
12.50	3,348.95	7,217.20	
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